The end of December and the beginning of January are the (21)___times for the Japanese post offices. The Japanese have a custom of (22)_New Year's Day postcards to their friends and relatives, similar (23)____the Western custom of sending Christmas cards. Their original purpose was (24)__your faraway friends and relatives tidings of yourself and your immediate family. In other words. (25) ____custom existed for people to tell others whom they did not often meet that they were alive and well.

21. A. busiest	B. busier	C. most busy	D. more busy
22. A. send	B. sending	C. to send	D. sent
23. A. as	B. with	C. for	D. to
24. A. of giving	B. gives	C. to give	D. for giving
25. A. these	B. a	C. its	D. this

Japanese people send these postcards (26)_they arrive on 1 January. The post office guarantees to deliver the greeting postcards (27)___ 1st January if they are posted within a time limit. To deliver these cards on time, the post office usually (28)_students part-time to help deliver the letters.

It is customary not to send these postcards when one has had a death in the family (29)____the year. In this case, a family member sends a simple postcard called mochũ hagaki (mourning postcards) to inform friends and relatives they (30) send New Year's cards, out of respect for the deceased.

26. A. for	B. so	C. so that	D. to
27. A. in	B. on	C. at	D. for
28. A. hires	B. hire	C. to hire	D. hiring
29. A. during	B. since	C. for	D. from
30. A. have to	B. should	C. should not	D. must

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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