ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Advanced Grammar MCQ Test With Answers + PDF Exercise 18

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Explanations

1. She chose some very pretty _____ paper for the present.
✔ **D) wrapping**
Wrapping paper is the fixed phrase for the decorative paper used to cover presents. **Packing paper** is plain paper for protecting things in boxes, not pretty paper for gifts. **Covering paper** and **involving paper** are not used.

2. Everyone else was killed in the accident. I was the only one to _____.
✔ **B) survive**
Survive means to stay alive after an accident or a disaster when others die. **Outlive** means to live longer than someone, usually in ordinary life (**She outlived her husband by ten years**). **Alive** is an adjective, so it cannot follow **to**.

3. That's a nice dress. It _____ you perfectly.
✔ **A) suits**
Clothes or colours **suit** a person when they make that person look good: **It suits you perfectly**. **Match** is used for things that look good together (**The bag matches your shoes**). **Go** needs **with** and is also used for things, not people.

4. The _____ stuck on the outside of the envelope said "By Air".
✔ **A) label**
A **label** is a small piece of paper stuck on something to give information about it, such as **By Air** on a letter. A **ticket** gives you the right to travel or to enter a place. A **signal** is a sign or a sound that gives a message.

5. She died after a long _____.
✔ **C) illness**
Illness is the usual word for a period of being ill: **a long illness**, **a serious illness**. **Disease** names a particular medical condition (**heart disease**) and does not collocate with **long** in this way. **Sickness** is used mostly for nausea or in set phrases such as **sickness benefit**.

6. I _____ to inform you that there's nothing we can do to help you.
✔ **D) regret**
I regret to inform you that… is a fixed formal phrase used to give bad news politely. **Sorry** is an adjective and would need **I'm sorry to…**. **Resent** means to feel angry about something unfair, which does not fit here.

7. I'll put the flowers in this _____. They'll look nice there.
✔ **B) vase**
A **vase** is a decorative container made for holding cut flowers. A **mug** is for hot drinks and a **bucket** is for carrying water. **Crystal** is a type of glass, not a container.

8. _____ I didn't understand the job but now I'm making progress.
✔ **B) At first**
At first describes how things were at the beginning, in contrast with how they are later. Here the clue is **but now I'm making progress**. **For a start** introduces the first of several points in an argument. The correct form of the first option would be **In the beginning**, not **On the beginning**.

9. Would you mind paying for the tickets _____?
✔ **A) in advance**
In advance means before the event or before the time something is needed: **pay in advance**, **book in advance**. **Forward** does not mean 'beforehand' here, and **now and then** means 'occasionally'.

10. How long did it take you to realize he was dishonest? I _____ from the start.
✔ **B) saw through him**
See through someone means to realise that someone is trying to deceive you: **I saw through him from the start**. Not **saw him through**, which means to help or support someone through a difficult period.

11. We're going to have our house _____. The decorators are coming next week.
✔ **A) done up**
Do up a house means to repair and decorate it so that it looks better. With **have**, it becomes **have our house done up**, meaning someone else (the decorators) will do it for us. **Done in** means 'exhausted' or 'killed', and **made away with** means 'stole'.

12. He asked me what was _____ in the street outside.
✔ **D) going on**
Go on means 'happen': **What's going on?** In reported speech this becomes **what was going on**. **Make out** means 'see or understand with difficulty', and **do up** means 'fasten' or 'renovate'.

13. In this series of questions, three words have the same sound but one does not. Choose the one that does not.

✔ **D) lease**
Freeze, **ease** and **seize** all end in the sound /i:z/, with a voiced **z** sound. **Lease** ends in /i:s/, with an unvoiced **s** sound.

14. In this series of questions, three words have the same sound but one does not. Choose the one that does not.

✓ C) wheat
Weight, **great** and **freight** all have the sound /eɪt/, as in **eight**. **Wheat** has the long sound /iːt/, as in **eat**.

15. In this series of questions, three words have the same sound but one does not. Choose the one that does not.

✓ C) warm
Palm, **calm** and **harm** all have the vowel /ɑː/, as in **car**. The **l** in **palm** and **calm** is silent. **Warm** has the vowel /ɔː/, as in **storm**.

16. In this series of questions, three words have the same sound but one does not. Choose the one that does not.

✓ D) pint
Hint, **mint** and **print** all have the short vowel /ɪ/, as in **sit**. **Pint** is an exception and is pronounced /paɪnt/, with the vowel of **fine**.

17. In this series of questions, three words have the same sound but one does not. Choose the one that does not.

✓ B) cough
Stuff, **rough** and **enough** all end in /ʌf/, as in **cuff**. **Cough** is pronounced /kɒf/, with the vowel of **off**.

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