ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Advanced Grammar MCQ Test With Answers + PDF Exercise 09

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Explanations

1. Would you _____ holding this box for me while I open the door?
✓ **C) mind**
Would you mind + -ing is a polite way to ask someone to do something: **Would you mind holding this box?** Not **object**, because it needs **to**: **object to holding**. **Like** and **matter** are not used in this pattern.

2. He is _____ dark glasses to protect his eyes from the sun.
✓ **D) wearing**
We **wear** clothes, glasses, jewellery and similar items on our body: **He is wearing dark glasses. Carrying** means holding something or having it with you, not having it on your face.

3. He was told to get off the bus because he couldn't pay the _____.
✓ **D) fare**
A **fare** is the money you pay for a journey by bus, train, taxi or plane: **The bus fare is two pounds.** A **bill** is what you pay in a restaurant or for services such as electricity, so it does not fit a bus ticket.

4. They have put the bird in a cage to _____ it from flying away.
✓ **B) prevent**
Prevent somebody/something from doing something means stop it from happening: **to prevent it from flying away**. **Avoid** is followed by **-ing** with no object (**avoid flying**). **Hinder** means make something more difficult, not stop it completely.

5. He has some very _____ habits. He always has a bath with his clothes on.
✓ **A) strange**
Strange means unusual and hard to understand. Having a bath with your clothes on is a **strange habit**. **Rare** means not happening often, but it does not suggest odd behaviour, and it does not collocate naturally with **habits** here.

6. The _____ outside the house said "Private".
✓ **C) notice**
A **notice** is a written sign put up in a public place to give information or a warning: **The notice said "Private".** A **label** is fixed to a product or object, and a **signal** is a light, sound or movement, not written words.

7. If the boss sees you doing that, you'll get into _____.
✓ **A) trouble**
Get into trouble is a fixed expression meaning get into a situation where someone, e.g. your boss, will be angry with you or punish you. Not **mess**, because it needs an article (**get into a mess**) and means a difficult or confused situation, not punishment.

8. I was so _____ by the news that I didn't know what to say.
✓ **C) amazed**
Amazed (very surprised) is an adjective used in the passive pattern **be amazed by/at something**. **Marvel** and **wonder** are intransitive verbs (**marvel at**, **wonder about**), so they can't be used in the passive like this. **Admired** means respected, which does not fit the meaning.

9. He's _____ because he has won the prize.
✓ **C) excited**
Adjectives ending in **-ed** describe how a person feels, and adjectives ending in **-ing** describe what causes the feeling. He feels happy and full of energy, so he is **excited**. Not **exciting**, because that would describe him as a thrilling person, not his feelings.

10. He likes lying in bed. He still wasn't _____ when I rang him at 10 o'clock.
✓ **C) up**
Be up means be out of bed. The clue is **He likes lying in bed**, so at 10 o'clock he still **wasn't up**. **Wasn't in** would mean he was not at home, which does not follow from the first sentence.

11. If you don't know how to spell a word, look it _____ in the dictionary.
✓ **A) up**
Look something up means find information in a dictionary, a reference book or online: **look it up in the dictionary**. **Look after** means take care of, and **look for** means try to find something that is lost.

12. He carries _____ as if he were the boss.
✓ **D) on**
Carry on can mean behave in a particular way, often a silly or annoying one: **He carries on as if he were the boss. Carry out** (perform a task) and **carry through** (complete a plan) need an object, and **carry off** means succeed in doing something difficult.

13. In this series of questions, three words have the same sound but one does not. Choose the one that does not.
✓ **A) dull**
Bull, **wool** and **pull** all have the short vowel /ʊ/, as in **put**. **Dull** has /ʌ/, as in **cup**, so it is the odd one out.

14. In this series of questions, three words have the same sound but one does not. Choose the one that does not.
✓ **D) north**
Earth, **birth** and **worth** all have the long vowel /ɜː/, as in **bird**. **North** has /ɔː/, as in **four**, so it is the odd one out.

15. In this series of questions, three words have the same sound but one does not. Choose the one that does not.
✔ C) bone
Done, **none** and **son** are all pronounced with /ʌ/, as in **sun**, even though they are spelt with **o**. **Bone** has the diphthong /əʊ/, as in **phone**, so it is the odd one out.

16. In this series of questions, three words have the same sound but one does not. Choose the one that does not.
✔ D) barn
Warn, **dawn** and **scorn** all have the long vowel /ɔː/, as in **born**. **Barn** has /ɑː/, as in **car**, so it is the odd one out.

17. In this series of questions, three words have the same sound but one does not. Choose the one that does not.
✔ C) rice
All four words have the vowel /aɪ/, but **wise**, **cries** and **sighs** end in the sound /z/, so they rhyme. **Rice** ends in /s/, so it is the odd one out.

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