ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Dialogues Advanced Level Test – Quiz (Online Exercise With Answers) 3

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Explanations

1. Clara: What happened just now, Mark? You weren't very kind when you were talking with Ted. What do you have against him?

Mark: I just don't like him at all.

Clara: _____

Mark: Well, he has such a mean streak in him! I went to his office to ask him for some help, and he simply turned up his nose at me! I was so angry that I wanted to slap him! He wasn't like that before he got the job. Now he's such a snob!
✔ B) Why? Is there something in particular?
Mark says only that he doesn't like Ted, and his next line gives a specific reason (**he has such a mean streak**). So Clara must ask for that reason: **Why? Is there something in particular?** The options where Clara agrees with Mark or defends Ted don't lead to Mark starting to explain with **Well, …**.

2. Robyn: Has Alan shown up yet?

Scottie: No. I believe something could have come up.

Robyn: _____

Scottie: I don't know. I hope it's nothing serious.
✔ D) I wonder what happened.
Scottie only guesses that **something could have come up** (an unexpected problem). Robyn's line has to lead to **I don't know. I hope it's nothing serious**, so she must wonder about the cause: **I wonder what happened.** The options about his sister's accident or a promotion give facts that Scottie would not answer with **I don't know**.

3. John: _____

Becky: Well, it's just that she puts lots of make-up on her face. Actually, natural beauty comes from within.

John: Ah, I can smell jealousy in the air!

Becky: She has nothing that deserves my jealousy. I don't have to put things on my face and I still look pretty. Don't you think so?
✔ A) She's really pretty, isn't she? Her skin looks so baby smooth!
Becky's reply (**Well, it's just that she puts lots of make-up on her face**) plays down a compliment about another woman's looks, especially her skin. So John must have praised her appearance: **She's really pretty, isn't she? Her skin looks so baby smooth!** That also explains why John then teases Becky about **jealousy**.

4. Ryan: I've got an offer in upstate New York.

Adriana: Oh, that's great! But I'm going to miss you.

Ryan: Me, too. Let's keep in touch.

Adriana: _____

Ryan: I won't forget, I promise. I'll write as soon as I've found a place to live.
✔ C) Yes. Don't forget to drop me a line when you settle down.
Adriana agrees to keep in touch and asks Ryan to write: **Don't forget to drop me a line** (= send me a short letter or message) **when you settle down** (= find a home in the new place). Ryan's answer **I won't forget … as soon as I've found a place to live** matches both parts. Not **Trust me. I won't**: that answers a 'don't forget' request, but nobody has made one at that point.

5. Rosie: Sorry, I overslept. My clock didn't go off this morning.

Frankie: _____

Rosie: That's right, even though I did set the alarm last night.

Frankie: Your clock never works. Perhaps you should buy a new one.
✔ B) Again?
Rosie answers **That's right**, and Frankie later says **Your clock never works**. So Frankie's line must point out that this has happened before: **Again?** The other options don't fit **That's right, even though I did set the alarm**.

6. Gary: Oh, my God! It's really hot! I've never seen such scorching weather in my life!

Sharon: Tell me about it. It's like the whole world is broiling.

Gary: _____

Sharon: I hope it's not going to break into three digits!
✔ A) Oh, look at the thermometer! The temperature has hit 98!
Sharon's reply, **I hope it's not going to break into three digits**, means she hopes the temperature won't reach 100 (degrees Fahrenheit). So Gary must have mentioned a figure just below that: **The temperature has hit 98!** Not **I just hope it'll level off**: Sharon's line needs a number to react to.

7. Patrick: Would you ever emigrate, do you think?

Tim: No, never!

Patrick: _____

Tim: I don't think that would tempt me, no.
✓ A) No? What if you had lost your job and were offered a super one abroad?
Tim's answer, **I don't think that would tempt me**, needs a hypothetical offer for **that** to refer to, and **would** matches a conditional situation. Patrick suggests one: **What if you had lost your job and were offered a super one abroad?** Not **Doesn't it sound good?**: no specific situation has been described that could 'tempt' him.

8. Man: Excuse me.

Assistant: Yes, sir?

Man: _____

Assistant: Yes, we have actually. Over here there is our slim-fit range. I expect that's what you are looking for, is it?
✓ B) I've been looking at these shirts over here, but I see you haven't got any tighter-fitting ones, have you?
The assistant answers **Yes, we have actually** and points to the **slim-fit range**. So the man must have asked about closer-fitting shirts in a negative question that expects 'no': **I see you haven't got any tighter-fitting ones, have you?** That is why the assistant says **actually**: he corrects the man's assumption.

9. Catherine: _____

Sandy: Oh sorry, I didn't hear what you said. Could you repeat it?

Catherine: I gather you know Spanish.

Sandy: Oh, yes. A little bit. I attended a language school when I was in Spain last year.
✓ E) They tell me you speak Spanish. Is that right?
Sandy didn't hear Catherine, so Catherine repeats her first line in different words: **I gather you know Spanish.** The original line must have the same meaning: **They tell me you speak Spanish. Is that right?** (**They tell me** and **I gather** both mean 'I have heard that'.) Not **Can you speak Spanish like a native?**: the repeated line only checks whether she knows the language at all.

10. Mrs Wetson: Come in, please, Dr Johnson. What is the matter?

Dr Johnson: _____

Mrs Wetson: This seems to be impossible these days, Dr Johnson, because we have been experiencing hard times owing to the recent economic crisis in the country.

Dr Johnson: Oh, I see. But I will be very pleased if you keep my request in mind, Mrs Wetson. I am in terrible need of money.
✓ D) Excuse me, Mrs Wetson, I'd like to ask you if I could possibly have a wage rise.
Mrs Wetson rejects a request because of the economic crisis, and Dr Johnson then says he is **in terrible need of money**. So his request must be for more pay, made politely to his boss: **I'd like to ask you if I could possibly have a wage rise.** Not **Hey, boss! How about some more money then?**: it asks for the same thing, but it is far too informal for this polite exchange.

11. Reporter: You've been elected the chairman of the biggest party in history. Isn't it going to be a bit of a job keeping the backbenchers all happy?

Soley: Well, I hope not. What we've got to do is to reform the Parliamentary process to make sure backbenchers really do play an active part.

Reporter: But Mr Beest has told us how he expects them to behave. They are there to do what they are told by the leaders.

Soley: _____
✓ C) Well, what he's actually said is he wants to be an inclusive leader.
The reporter claims that the leader wants backbenchers simply **to do what they are told**. Soley challenges this by correcting the reporter's version of Mr Beest's words: **Well, what he's actually said is he wants to be an inclusive leader.** The word **actually** signals the correction, and **inclusive** (= involving everyone) contrasts directly with the reporter's claim. The other options don't respond to the reporter's point.

12. Jack: _____

Roger: Well, yes. But writing accurately in any foreign language is difficult, isn't it?

Jack: I don't think so. I can write easily in Turkish. It's an easy language to write and read.

Roger: Don't forget that you had great difficulties in learning Turkish.
✓ C) It's difficult to write faultlessly in English, isn't it?
Roger agrees (**Well, yes**) and then widens the point: **writing accurately in any foreign language is difficult, isn't it?** So Jack must first have said something about writing accurately in one particular language: **It's difficult to write faultlessly in English, isn't it?** (**faultlessly** = without mistakes). Not **the writing process is very difficult to learn in all languages**: that already says 'any language', so Roger's **But …** would make no sense.

13. Doctor: How are you feeling today?

Patient: I am OK, I just feel a little tired, also stressed.

Doctor: _____

Patient: I am not so sure, it may be a lot of things, I can't quite get to the bottom of it, although what I have found, the more I watch the news the more depressed I become.
✓ A) What do you think is causing you to become stressed?
The patient answers **I am not so sure, it may be a lot of things, I can't quite get to the bottom of it** (= find the real cause). So the doctor must have asked about the cause of the stress: **What do you think is causing you to become stressed?** Not **What is depressing you on the news?**: the news is mentioned only at the end, as one possible cause the patient has noticed.

14. Dr Mazlen: Can you tell us about the new parasite you've found in a patient with Chronic Fatigue Syndrome? How did you find it?

Dr Klapow: I found it deep in his lung cells by chance, and I gave the new parasite a provisional name, "the hidden lungworm".

Dr Mazlen: _____

Dr Klapow: It definitely is, Roger. It's very difficult to find.
✓ C) This parasite is less than a millimetre long.
It definitely is must repeat the verb **is** from a statement about the parasite, and **It's very difficult to find** must follow from it. **This parasite is less than a millimetre long. → It definitely is [less than a millimetre long]. It's very difficult to find**: something so tiny is naturally hard to find. The other options either don't contain **is** or don't lead to the idea of being hard to find.

15. Sam: _____

Tonny: I tried to get a hold of you, but I couldn't get through.

Sam: What time did you call?

Tonny: I tried all morning.
✓ A) Why didn't you call me yesterday?
Tonny defends himself: **I tried to get a hold of you, but I couldn't get through** (= the call didn't connect). So Sam must have complained that Tonny didn't call: **Why didn't you call me yesterday?** Not **You gave me a ring at a late time yesterday**: Tonny says he **tried all morning**, not late in the day.

16. William: What are we eating for lunch?

Laila: I'm going to fix some lamb chops.

William: _____

Laila: That's really strange! I just purchased it a few days ago.
✓ C) I'm afraid the meat is already rotten.
Laila is surprised: **That's really strange! I just purchased it a few days ago.** So William must have said there is a problem with the meat she bought: **I'm afraid the meat is already rotten** (= gone bad). Not **I forgot to put it in the refrigerator**: that would have to be Laila's line, not William's.

17. Father: _____

Son: Is that why I can't have the car except on weekends?

Father: It certainly is! You'd never do your homework otherwise.

Son: Oh, Dad. That's just not true. You know I'd study no matter what.
✓ E) I still think teenagers should spend more time studying and less time driving around.
The son asks **Is that why I can't have the car except on weekends?**, and the father adds **You'd never do your homework otherwise**. So the father's first line must be a general view linking studying and driving: **I still think teenagers should spend more time studying and less time driving around.** Not **I have taken the car to the mechanic**: the father's next line is about homework, not the car being repaired.

18. Operator: Pacific Bell. May I help you?

David: Yes. I'd like to set up a telephone service as soon as possible, please.

Operator: _____

David: No. This is new.
✓ C) Do you presently have service?
David answers **No. This is new**, so the operator must have asked a yes/no question about whether he already has a phone line: **Do you presently have service?** (**presently** = at the moment, in American English). Not **Have you been using this line for a long time?**: it starts with **Really? How interesting!**, which is a strange reaction to a simple request.

19. Jack: George, may I talk with you for a minute?

George: Sure. What's on your mind?

Jack: _____

George: Come on. Don't beat about the bush. Just tell me what's on your mind.
✔ A) Well, there is a matter that has occupied my mind for a long time.
To **beat about the bush** means to avoid saying something directly. George's reply shows that Jack has been vague, so Jack's line must hint at a problem without stating it: **Well, there is a matter that has occupied my mind for a long time.** Not **your behaviour towards the employees really annoys me**: that already says exactly what the problem is, so George would have no reason to ask Jack to get to the point.

20. Donald: Let's eat out, shall we?

Debra: _____

Donald: Don't worry about it. It's my treat.

Debra: You're sure? You're so generous!
✔ C) I'm broke. I've gone through my paycheck for the week already.
Donald answers **Don't worry about it. It's my treat** (= I will pay). So Debra must have given money as a reason not to go: **I'm broke** (= I have no money). **I've gone through my paycheck** means she has already spent her weekly pay. The options about time, a project or neighbours visiting would not be solved by Donald paying.

21. Man: Can I help you?

Woman: I would like to open an account in your bank.

Man: Well, we have several different kinds of accounts: checking accounts, savings accounts and money market accounts.

Woman: _____

Man: I can help you with that. First, you need to fill out a form, and then I need to see some identification. That's all.

Woman: That sounds easy enough. Thanks for your help.
✔ C) The type I am interested in is a checking account.
The man lists several kinds of accounts, so the woman must choose one. His answer, **I can help you with that**, followed by how to open it, confirms this: **The type I am interested in is a checking account.** Not **Could you give me an application form?**: he then explains that she must fill out a form, which would repeat her request.

22. Jack: What did you think of Mike when I first introduced him to you?

Jane: _____

Jack: Well, I don't think so. He does everything in his power to be kind to those around him.

Jane: Right! I may have misunderstood him.
✔ B) He couldn't have been more unfriendly.
Jack disagrees with Jane and says Mike is very **kind**, and Jane then admits she **may have misunderstood him**. So her first impression was negative: **He couldn't have been more unfriendly** (= he was extremely unfriendly). **couldn't have been more + adjective** expresses the strongest possible degree. Not **he was a smart person**: Jack's **I don't think so** would make no sense after a compliment.

23. Mary: Tell me, what was the reason which caused that giant quarrel between you and Sally?

Philip: _____

Mary: Why is that?

Philip: Because I always need to warn her not to poke her nose into whatever I do. Yet, she is constantly doing that.
✔ A) Well, she has become unbearable lately.
Mary asks **Why is that?**, and Philip explains that Sally keeps **poking her nose** (= interfering) into everything he does. So his first line must be a general complaint that needs this explanation: **Well, she has become unbearable lately.** Not **Because she gave my car to our son**: that already gives a reason, so Mary wouldn't ask **Why is that?**, and lending the car has nothing to do with interfering.

24. Derek: I have been told that there are several good restaurants around here. Can you recommend any?

Marcia: There used to be two, yet one of them has just been closed down.

Derek: What about the other?

Marcia: _____
✔ C) Just at the end of this street. Go and enjoy the service.
Only one of the two restaurants is still open, and Derek asks about **the other** one. Marcia should say where it is and recommend it: **Just at the end of this street. Go and enjoy the service.** Not **You can also go to that one**: **also** suggests there are other open places to choose from, but only one is left.

25. Joseph: No sooner had you left the office than you had a telephone call, but she didn't leave any message.

Bolivia: _____

Joseph: Well, it may have been Mrs Jane, but I am not sure anyway. Now I blame myself for not having asked her name.

Bolivia: No need to be sorry! That is all right.

✓ D) It was an important call for me. Who did she sound like?

Joseph replies with a guess about who called (**it may have been Mrs Jane**) and regrets not asking her name. So Bolivia must have asked him to guess the caller from her voice: **Who did she sound like?** Not **Didn't she leave any message for me?**: Joseph has already said she didn't, and his reply is about the caller's identity.

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