ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

English Grammar Level Test MCQ With Answers – Lower Intermediate Part 1

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Explanations

1. _____ you give me a hand with this heavy suitcase?
✔ **C) Will**
We use **Will you…?** to ask someone politely to do something, like **Can you…?** or **Could you…?**. Not **Do**, because **Do you give me a hand?** asks about a habit, not for help now.

2. Let's change the subject, _____?
✔ **D) shall we**
After a suggestion with **Let's…**, the question tag is always **shall we?**. Example: **Let's go home, shall we?** Not **won't we**, which is used after statements, not suggestions.

3. _____ wouldn't ever need such a useful instrument?
✔ **B) Who**
Who is the subject of the question and asks about a person: **Who wouldn't ever need…?** Not **Whom**, because **whom** is an object form and cannot be the subject of the verb.

4. This is _____ exciting book I've ever read in my life!
✔ **E) the most**
Long adjectives form the superlative with **the most**: **the most exciting**. The clue is **I've ever read**, which often follows a superlative. Not **the more**, which is a comparative, used for two things.

5. This _____ look like my overcoat; it _____ yours.
✔ **B) doesn't / must be**
The first gap needs the negative present simple of **look**: **This doesn't look like my overcoat**. The second gap needs **must be** for a logical conclusion: **it must be yours** (I am almost sure). Not **mustn't**, because **mustn't** means something is not allowed.

6. Would you like _____ more tea? I'd like you to have _____ more.
✔ **D) some / some**
We use **some**, not **any**, in offers and requests, even in questions: **Would you like some more tea?** The second sentence is positive, so it also takes **some**: **I'd like you to have some more.**

7. I'd rather be a hammer _____ a nail.
✔ **E) than**
The pattern is **would rather** + A + **than** + B: **I'd rather be a hammer than a nail.** Not **then**, which is about time (first… then…).

8. He _____ read a lot when he _____ a child.
✔ **B) used to / was**
Used to + verb describes a past habit that is no longer true: **He used to read a lot**. **When he was a child** is a finished past time, so we use the past simple **was**. Not **is used to**, which means 'is accustomed to' and is followed by a noun or **-ing**.

9. By the time we got home, it _____ raining.
✔ **A) had stopped**
By the time + past simple (**we got home**) is followed by the past perfect for an action finished before that moment: **it had stopped raining**. Not **has stopped**, because the story is in the past.

10. By the time we get home, it _____ raining.
✔ **E) will have stopped**
By the time + present simple (**we get home**) talks about the future, so we use the future perfect: **it will have stopped raining** (it will be finished before we arrive). Not **had stopped**, which is for the past.

11. This place _____ certainly _____ a lot since the last time we were here.
✔ **E) has / changed**
Since the last time we were here shows a period from the past up to now, so we use the present perfect: **This place has certainly changed a lot**. Not **will change**, because the change has already happened.

12. **David**: "Tell me in earnest. Which of these two girls do you want to marry?"

John: "_____."
✔ **E) Neither one**
Neither means 'not one and not the other' and is used for two people or things. David asks about **these two girls**, so John answers **Neither one**. Not **Nobody** or **All of them**, which are used for more than two.

13. Don't make _____ noise. Your father wants to get _____ sleep.
✔ **D) any more / some more**
We use **any** in negative sentences: **Don't make any more noise.** In positive sentences we use **some**: **Your father wants to get some more sleep.** Not **some / some**, because **Don't make some noise** is wrong in a negative.

14. He _____ already left when we _____ there.
✔ **B) had / got**
The past perfect **had left** shows the earlier action; the past simple **got** shows the later one: **He had already left when we got there.** Not **has / got**, because the present perfect doesn't go with a finished past event.

15. What _____ will happen tomorrow?
✔ **D) do you think**
When **think** means 'have an opinion', we use the present simple: **What do you think will happen?** After **do you think** the normal word order continues: **will happen**. Not **are you thinking**, because the continuous form of **think** means 'considering', not 'believing'.

16. _____ front door of _____ house was left open.
✔ **E) The / the**
We use **the** when it is clear which thing we mean. A house has only one front door, and the speaker means a particular house: **The front door of the house was left open.** Not **A / the**, because there is only one front door.

17. _____ birds can fly very high in _____ sky.
✔ **B) Some / the**
Some birds means 'certain birds, not all of them'. **The sky** always takes **the** because there is only one sky. Not **_____ / _____**, because **in sky** without **the** is wrong.

18. Here _____ the suitcases. _____ one is yours?
✔ **D) are / Which**
Suitcases is plural, so we say **Here are**. We use **Which one** to choose from a known group: **Which one is yours?** Not **Whose**, because **Whose one is yours?** repeats the idea of owner and is wrong.

19. He was born _____ eleven p.m. _____ March 26th _____ the year 1987.
✔ **B) at / on / in**
Prepositions of time: **at** + clock time (**at eleven p.m.**), **on** + date or day (**on March 26th**), **in** + year, month or longer period (**in 1987**). Not **on / at / in**, because a clock time takes **at**, not **on**.

20. His brother _____ in a bank for twenty years. Then he gave it up.
✔ **D) worked**
Then he gave it up shows the job is finished, so we use the past simple: **worked … for twenty years**. Not **has worked** or **has been working**, which are used when the action continues to now.

21. **DADDY**: "Where's Ali?"

MOMMY: "He _____ out again."
✔ **E) 's gone**
Has gone out means he left and is still not here. Ali is not at home, so Mommy says **He's gone out again**. Not **'s been**, because **has been** means he went and has already come back.

22. Hello, Ali. Where _____ all day long?
✔ **D) have you been**
Ali is here now, so we ask **Where have you been?** (you went somewhere and came back). **All day long** is a period up to now, which needs the present perfect. Not **have you gone**, because he is not away any more.

23. Everybody _____ coming, aren't they?
✔ **B) is**
Everybody takes a singular verb: **Everybody is coming**. The tag uses **they** for **everybody**, so it is **aren't they?**. Not **are**, because **everybody** is never followed by **are**.

24. Everybody knows it, _____?
✔ **D) don't they**
Everybody takes a singular verb (**knows**), but the question tag uses **they**: **Everybody knows it, don't they?** Not **doesn't he**, because the tag for **everybody** is **they**.

25. Everything _____ in good order, _____?
✔ **D) is / isn't it**
Everything takes a singular verb (**is**), and its question tag uses **it**: **Everything is in good order, isn't it?** Not **aren't they**, which is the tag for **everybody**, not **everything**.

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