ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

English Grammar MCQ Test With Answers Advanced – 15

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Explanations

1. She has the good habit of recording everything in writing as much as she can lest she forget something she might need later, means:
✓ **B) She is worried that she might forget something if she did not write it down.**
Lest (formal) means 'so that ... not' or 'for fear that'. It is followed by the base form (**lest she forget**) or by **should** + verb. So she writes everything down because she is afraid she **might forget** something. Not 'Writing something down is the best way...', because that is a general claim; the sentence describes her reason, not a general truth.

2. "There must have existed a logical reason behind that land purchase." **means:**
✓ **C) I am pretty well certain that there was a logical reason behind that land purchase.**
Must have + past participle expresses a confident deduction about the past: the speaker is almost sure that something was true. **There must have existed a logical reason** = I am almost certain that there **was** a logical reason. Not 'should not have been sold', because **must have** here is about deduction, not obligation.

3. They needn't have bought that book, means:
✓ **E) They bought that book.**
Needn't have + past participle means someone did something that was not necessary. **They needn't have bought that book** tells us they **did buy** it, but it was unnecessary. Not 'They didn't buy that book': that would be **They didn't need to buy it (so they didn't)**.

4. She didn't need to worry about her husband, means:
✓ **E) There was no reason for her to worry about her husband, and she didn't anyway.**
Didn't need to + infinitive says there was no necessity, and it usually suggests the action did not happen. So there was no reason for her to worry, and she didn't. Compare **She needn't have worried**, which means she **did** worry, but it was unnecessary.

5. I'd much rather have watched TV at home, means:
✓ **B) I didn't watch TV at home.**
Would rather have + past participle expresses a preference about the past that was not fulfilled, often a regret. **I'd much rather have watched TV at home** means I wanted to stay home and watch TV, but I **didn't**. Not 'I made the mistake of watching TV at home': the speaker regrets **not** doing it.

6. "You could have done more than you did to help him wash the car." **means:**
✓ **E) You helped him, but not much.**
Could have + past participle is often used to criticise: it was possible to do more, but the person didn't. **You could have done more than you did** shows that you helped (**than you did**) but only a little. Not 'You didn't help him at all', because **than you did** tells us you did help.

7. Choose the correct sentence:
✓ **A) The man who wants to see you is outside.**
A defining relative clause comes directly after the noun it describes: **The man who wants to see you** is the subject, followed by the verb **is outside**. Use **who** (not **which**) for people. Do not repeat the subject with a pronoun (**he**) after the relative clause.

8. Choose the correct sentence:
✓ **D) The man whose wife you just saw is Greek.**
Whose + noun shows possession in a relative clause: **the man whose wife you just saw** = you just saw the man's wife. The whole phrase is the subject of **is Greek**. **Who's** means **who is** and cannot show possession. Adding **his** after the clause is also wrong, because **whose** already does that job.

9. Choose the correct sentence:
✓ **C) I don't want to ride on this bus, the windows of which are all broken.**
This bus is already identified, so we need a non-defining relative clause after a comma. With things, possession can be shown with **the windows of which** (formal) or **whose windows**. Not 'which the windows are...', because **which** cannot show possession. Not 'the windows of it', because **it** makes two main clauses joined only by a comma.

10. Choose the correct sentence:
✓ **B) Is that big table brown?**
In a yes/no question with **be**, the verb comes first, then the subject (**that big table**), then the complement (**brown**). The size adjective **big** goes before the noun, and **brown** is the predicate adjective. Not 'Is that big brown table?', which lacks an article and a complement (**Is that a big brown table?**).

11. They were wondering what _____.
✓ **D) it was that the man wanted to say**
In an indirect (embedded) question, statement word order is used: subject before verb, with no inversion and no auxiliary **did**. The cleft **it was that** emphasises **what**: **They were wondering what it was that the man wanted to say.** Not 'was it that...' or 'did the man want...', because those keep direct-question word order.

12. What did you think of the film _____?
✓ **E) you saw last week**
You saw last week is a reduced relative clause (**that/which** is omitted) describing **the film**. The film is the object of **saw**, so no extra pronoun is needed. Not 'that you saw it last week', because **it** repeats the object already referred to by the relative pronoun.

13. Next week's final between these two teams should be really fascinating.
✓ **A) I expect it will be a very good game.**
Here **should** expresses expectation or probability, not obligation: the speaker expects the final to be **really fascinating**. So it means **I expect it will be a very good game**. Not 'These two teams must practise more...', which wrongly reads **should** as advice.

14. Choose the correct sentence:
✓ **C) We erected this memorial, lest our children should forget.**
Lest (formal) means 'so that ... not', and can be followed by **should** + verb: **lest our children should forget**. The other sentences misuse linkers. A contrast like the icy wind needs **although**. **As long as** should be **whereas**. **Such ... so** should be **such ... that**. **Because of** must be followed by a noun, not a clause.

15. Choose the correct sentence:
✓ **C) The children were well looked after.**
Look after (= take care of) is an inseparable phrasal verb, so nothing can split the verb (**looked**) and its particle (**after**). In the correct passive sentence, the adverb **well** precedes the phrasal verb: **The children were well looked after**. Option 4 is incorrect because placing **well** between the verb and particle (**looked after well the children**) violates phrasal verb word order, and Option 5 is incorrect because placing the adverb at the very front (**Well the children were...**) creates an ungrammatical structure.

16. Choose the correct sentence:
✓ **D) Who was the book written by?**
In a passive question asking about the agent, the usual pattern is **Who** + auxiliary + subject + past participle + **by**: **Who was the book written by?** The formal alternative is **By whom was the book written?** Not 'By who...': after a fronted preposition, formal English requires **whom**.

17. Choose the correct sentence:
✓ **E) The injured player was being carried off the field.**
This is the past continuous passive: **was being** + past participle. It shows an action in progress that was done to the subject: **The injured player was being carried off the field.** The other options make **the field** the thing carried, or create dangling participles with an illogical meaning.

18. Choose the ***incorrect*** sentence:
✓ **A) I wish I will be able to drive a car.**
After **wish**, we do not use **will** for a present or future wish about our own situation. We use a past form: **I wish I could drive a car** or **I wish I were able to drive a car**. The others are correct. **Wish** + past simple (**knew**), the subjunctive after **suggest** (**be given**), **If only** + past perfect, and **as if** + past (**owned**) all follow the rules.

19. Choose the ***incorrect*** sentence:
✓ **D) Would you be so kind as to kept me informed?**
Be so kind as to is followed by the base form of the verb: **Would you be so kind as to keep me informed? To kept** is wrong because **to** + infinitive never takes a past form. The other sentences are correct. **You'd better not** + base form, **It's time** + past simple, and **may not** (prohibition) are all used properly.

20. Choose the ***incorrect*** sentence:
✓ **E) The switchboard is to manned at all times.**
Be to for instructions or obligations is followed by an infinitive. With a passive meaning it needs **be** + past participle: **The switchboard is to be manned at all times.** Without **be**, the sentence is ungrammatical. The other sentences are correct. **Are to report** is an order, **it remains to be seen** is a fixed phrase, and **Let's ..., shall we?** is the standard tag.

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