ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

English Level Test Intermediate B1

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Explanations

1. I _____ outside the cinema when suddenly a police car arrived.
✔ **B) was standing**
Use the **past continuous** (**was standing**) for a longer action that was in progress when a shorter action (**arrived**, past simple) happened. Not **stood**, because that suggests a finished action, not the background.

2. A: Shall we go to The Riceboat for dinner?

B: It _____ be fully booked. They're sometimes busy on a Monday.
✔ **B) may**
May expresses possibility: B isn't sure. The clue is **sometimes busy**. Not **must**, because that shows certainty. Not **can**, because we don't use **can** for a possibility in one particular situation.

3. We've _____ come back from a trip to India. It was amazing.
✔ **C) just**
Just with the present perfect means 'a very short time ago': **We've just come back**. Not **already**, which means 'sooner than expected' and doesn't fit the news of a recent return.

4. A: I've got to be at work in five minutes.

B: Don't worry, I _____ you a lift if you want.
✔ **C) 'll give**
Use **will** (**'ll give**) for an offer or decision made at the moment of speaking. Not **'m going to give**, because **going to** is for plans made before speaking.

5. My doctor advised me _____ more exercise.
✔ **D) to take**
The pattern is **advise someone to do something**: **My doctor advised me to take more exercise.** Not **taking**, because the **-ing** form is used only without an object (**advised taking**).

6. I couldn't _____ up with the noise in the city, so we moved to the countryside.
✔ **A) put**
Put up with means 'accept something unpleasant without complaining': **I can't put up with the noise.** The other verbs don't form this phrasal verb.

7. A: There's no name on this dictionary.

B: It _____ be mine then. Mine's got my name on the front.
✔ **D) can't**
Use **can't** when you are sure something is not true. The clue is **Mine's got my name on the front**, so B is certain the dictionary is not his. Not **mustn't**, because it means 'it is not allowed', not 'it is impossible'. Not **might not**, because that only shows a possibility, not certainty.

8. Julia _____ married since she was 20.
✔ **C) has been**
Use the **present perfect** (**has been**) with **since** for a state that started in the past and continues now. Not **is**, because a present tense can't be used with **since** like this.

9. Don't worry if I _____ late tonight. I'm going to the gym after work.
✔ **A) am**
After **if** talking about the future, we use the **present simple**: **if I am late**. Not **will be**, because we don't normally use **will** after **if** in this kind of sentence.

10. A: I've got a terrible headache, and it won't go away.

B: Have you tried _____ some aspirin?
✔ **D) taking**
Try + -ing means 'do something to see if it helps', so it is used for suggestions: **Have you tried taking some aspirin?** Not **to take**, because **try to do** means 'make an effort to do something difficult'.

11. Boxing is a sport _____ requires a lot of speed and fitness.
✔ **B) that**
That (or **which**) starts a relative clause about a thing: **a sport that requires…** Not **what**, because **what** can't follow a noun like this. Not **it**, because that makes two sentences without a link.

12. Jon _____ working on this project for a couple of months so he hasn't made much progress yet.
✔ **B) has only been**
Use the **present perfect continuous** (**has only been working**) for an activity that started in the past and is still going on. The clue is **hasn't made much progress yet**, which is about now. Not **had only been**, because that refers to a time before another past moment.

13. A: I was wondering _____ I could ask you some questions.

B: Sure, go ahead.
✔ **B) if**
I was wondering if... is a polite way to ask for something. **If** introduces a yes/no question inside a sentence. Not **what**, because the question is 'Could I ask you...?', which is a yes/no question.

14. A: What clothes should I pack for a trip to Boston?

B: Well, it depends _____ the time of year that you go.
✔ **A) on**
The verb **depend** is always followed by **on**: **It depends on the weather.** Other prepositions are not used with it.

15. I've finished this salad and I'm still hungry. I _____ ordered something more filling.
✔ **C) should have**
Should have + past participle expresses regret about the past: it was a good idea, but I didn't do it. The clue is **I'm still hungry**. Not **must have**, because that is for a logical conclusion, not regret.

16. Do you ever ask your neighbours to do favours _____ you?
✔ **A) for**
The phrase is **do a favour for someone** (or **do someone a favour**): **Can you do a favour for me?** Not **to**, because **do a favour** is not followed by **to**.

17. Some married couples seem to get more _____ over time.
✔ **A) alike**
Alike means 'similar to each other' and can come after verbs like **get**, **look** and **be**: **The twins look alike.** Not **same**, because it needs **the** (**the same**), and not **like**, because it needs an object (**like each other**).

18. I don't know how much this card costs. The price label's _____ off.
✔ **D) come**
Come off means 'become separated from something': **The label has come off.** Not **taken off**, because that would need someone to remove it (**Someone has taken it off**).

19. Ben got the job because he _____ a very good impression at his interview.
✔ **A) made**
The collocation is **make an impression**: **She made a good impression on everyone.** We don't say **do** or **take an impression**.

20. Salsa music always _____ me of my trip to Cuba.
✔ **D) reminds**
Remind someone of something means 'make someone think of something': **This song reminds me of summer.** Not **remembers**, because a person remembers; something else **reminds** you.

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