ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

English Level Test Pre-Intermediate A2

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Explanations

1. A: Is Ottawa the capital of Canada?

B: I think _____.
✓ **C) so**
We say **I think so** to mean "I think yes". Not **I think yes**, because this is not correct English.

2. We never _____ a television when I was a child.
✓ **C) had**
Never is already negative, so we use the positive past form: **We never had**. Not **didn't have**, because that makes two negatives.

3. We paid the restaurant bill _____ credit card.
✓ **D) by**
We use **by** for the way we pay: **pay by credit card**, **pay by cheque**. Not **with**, because we say **with a credit card** or **with my card**, not **with credit card**.

4. The last time I _____ Joanna was in Paris.
✓ **B) saw**
The last time talks about a finished moment in the past, so we use the past simple: **saw**. Not **have seen**, because we don't use the present perfect for a finished time.

5. If you _____ money from a friend, you should always pay it back promptly.
✓ **A) borrow**
Borrow means to take something and give it back later: **borrow money from a friend**. Not **lend**, because you lend money **to** someone.

6. A: Can I make myself a cup of coffee?

B: Of course. You _____ to ask.
✓ **D) don't have**
Don't have to means it is not necessary: **You don't have to ask**. Not **needn't**, because we say **needn't ask** without **to**.

7. I _____ a lot of sport in my free time.
✓ **A) do**
We say **do sport**: **I do a lot of sport**. Not **make**, because we don't say **make sport**.

8. _____ anywhere interesting recently?
✓ **B) Have you been**
Recently goes with the present perfect: **Have you been anywhere interesting recently?**

9. It's Walter's birthday on Friday. He _____ be 30, I think.
✓ **C) will**
We use **will** for facts about the future, like age: **He will be 30 on Friday**.

10. Learning the piano isn't as difficult _____ learning the violin.
✓ **D) as**
We compare with **as … as**: **not as difficult as**. Not **than**, because **than** goes with words like **more difficult**.

11. If the weather _____ bad tomorrow, we can go to a museum.
✓ **C) is**
After **if** we use the present simple for the future: **If the weather is bad tomorrow**. Not **will be**, because we don't use **will** after **if** here.

12. About a billion cans of Coca-Cola _____ drunk around the world every day.
✓ **B) are**
Cans is plural and **every day** shows the present, so we use **are drunk**. Not **is**, because the subject is plural.

13. A: My mum's not very well.

B: Oh, _____.
✓ **C) sorry to hear that**
When someone tells you bad news, you say **(I'm) sorry to hear that**. Not **I do apologise**, because that is for when you did something wrong.

14. Hans isn't here. He _____ to see his grandmother. He'll be back tomorrow.
✓ **A) has gone**
Has gone means he went and is still there now: **He isn't here**. Not **has been**, because that means he went and came back.

15. Would you mind changing my appointment? _____ time on Friday is fine.
✓ **D) Any**
Any time means it doesn't matter which time: **Any time on Friday is fine**. Not **every time**, because that means all the times, again and again.

16. When I was a child, I _____ climb the wall and jump into our neighbours' garden.
✓ **A) would**
We use **would** + verb for things we did often in the past: **I would climb the wall**. Not **used**, because we need **used to climb**.

17. Have you finished _____ the wall yet?
✓ **C) painting**
After **finish** we use the **-ing** form: **finished painting**. Not **to paint**, because **finish** is not followed by **to**.

18. Can you help me? I've tried _____ hotel in the city and can't find a room.
✓ **C) every**
Every goes with a singular noun: **every hotel**. Not **all** or **many**, because they need a plural: **all the hotels**, **many hotels**.

19. Lena used to find work boring _____ she became a nurse.
✓ **B) until**
Until means up to the time when something changed: she found work boring, then she became a nurse. Not **since**, because that means from that time to now.

20. If I _____ closer to my office, I could walk to work.
✓ **A) lived**
For an imagined situation now, we use **If** + past simple, then **could/would**: **If I lived closer, I could walk**. Not **live**, because that is for real situations.

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