ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

English Placement Test Online With Answers

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Explanations

1. This man has dark _____
✔ **D) hair**
Hair on your head is uncountable, so it has no -s: **He has dark hair. Hairs** means single hairs.

2. and a _____
✔ **A) beard**
A **beard** is hair on a man's chin and cheeks. A **barber** is a person who cuts men's hair.

3. He is _____ a jacket
✔ **A) wearing**
We **wear** clothes: **He is wearing a jacket.**

4. and he is _____ a piece of paper.
✔ **B) holding**
Hold means have something in your hand: **holding a piece of paper.** We wear clothes, not paper.

5. He is sitting at his _____
✔ **B) desk**
You sit **at a desk**, a table for working. You sit **on** a chair, not **at** it.

6. - perhaps he is _____
✔ **B) at work**
At work means at the place where you work. We don't say **on job**.

7. You arrive at a party at 8 p.m. What do you say?
✔ **C) Good evening**
When you arrive somewhere in the evening, say **Good evening**. **Goodnight** is for leaving or going to bed.

8. Someone offers you a drink. You don’t want it. What do you say?
✔ **C) No, thank you**
To say no politely to an offer, say **No, thank you**.

9. Henderson _____ going to work.
✔ **C) doesn’t like**
With he, she or it, the negative is **doesn't** + verb: **He doesn't like going to work.**

10. _____ early in the morning?
✔ **A) Does he get up**
Present simple questions with he, she or it use **Does** + subject + verb: **Does he get up early?**

11. He _____ to drive a car.
✔ **C) is learning**
For something happening now, use **is** + -ing with he: **He is learning to drive.**

12. A train is _____ a bus.
✔ **C) quicker than**
To compare with a short adjective, add -er and use **than**: **quicker than**. **Quickly** is an adverb.

13. He _____ swim very well.
✔ **B) cannot**
The negative of **can** is **cannot** (**can't**). We never use do/does with **can**.

14. _____ the bus to work.
✔ **B) Roberts always catches**
Always goes before the main verb: **Roberts always catches the bus.**

15. Peter works in London. _____
✔ **A) He goes there by train**
After **go**, put the place first and then how you travel: **He goes there by train.**

16. _____ TV last night?
✔ **A) Did he watch**
Past simple questions use **Did** + subject + base verb: **Did he watch TV?** Not **Did he watched**, because **did** already shows the past.

17. I spoke slowly, but he _____ understand me.
✔ **D) could not**
The past of **can** is **could**. The negative is **could not** (**couldn't**).

18. He made _____ last year.
✔ **C) a lot of money**
Money is uncountable. In positive sentences we say **a lot of money**. **Many** is for countable nouns, and **much** is used mainly in negatives and questions.

19. I asked him _____.
✔ **C) not to go away**
After **ask + person**, we use **to** + verb. To make it negative, put **not** before **to**: **I asked him not to go away.** Not **not go away**, because **ask someone** needs **to** before the verb.

20. He used to live _____ London.
✓ **B) in**
Use **in** with cities and countries: **in London**.

21. James _____ to him on the phone.
✓ **C) spoke**
Speak is irregular: speak – **spoke** – spoken. The past simple is **spoke**.

22. "Quiet, please – I _____"
✓ **A) am doing a test!**
For something happening right now, use the present continuous: **I am doing a test.**

23. I won't go to Cambridge if it _____ tomorrow.
✓ **C) rains**
First conditional: **if** + present simple, and **will/won't** in the other part: **if it rains tomorrow**. Not **will rain** or **would rain** after **if**.

24. While he _____ to London he saw an accident.
✓ **A) was driving**
Use the past continuous (**was driving**) for a longer action in progress and the past simple (**saw**) for a short action that happened in the middle of it. **While** is the clue.

25. Millions of cigarettes _____ every year.
✓ **C) are smoked**
People smoke cigarettes, so we need the passive: **are** + past participle = **are smoked**. **Are smoking** would mean the cigarettes do the smoking.

26. He has a _____ experience in marketing in Europe.
✓ **B) wide**
Wide experience means experience of many different situations or kinds of work: **She has wide experience of teaching. Large**, **big** and **grand** do not go with **experience**.

27. I remember _____ him in London.
✓ **D) meeting**
Remember + -ing means you have a memory of something you did: **I remember meeting him.** Not **remember to meet**, which means not forgetting to do something in the future.

28. But I saw him in Frankfurt _____.
✓ **A) 3 years ago**
Use **ago** after a time period to say how far back in the past something happened: **3 years ago**. Not **before 3 years**.

29. Could you look _____ the blackboard and read what is on it?
✓ **D) at**
We **look at** something: **look at the blackboard**.

30. Smith went abroad last year. _____ abroad before.
✓ **A) He had never been**
Use the past perfect for an experience before another past time (**last year**): **He had never been abroad before. Never** goes between **had** and **been**.

31. The 2004 Olympic Games _____ in Athens.
✓ **C) were held**
The Games were held by someone, so we need the passive past simple: **were** + past participle. **Hold** is irregular: hold – held – **held**. **The Olympic Games** is plural, so it takes **were**.

32. He took _____ cheese.
✓ **D) all of the**
Before a noun, say **all of the cheese** (or **all the cheese**). **All of** needs **the**, **my**, etc. before the noun.

33. The committee held a _____ last week.
✓ **A) meeting**
The usual collocation is **hold a meeting**. Not **reunion**: it means a meeting of old friends or family after a long time apart.

34. I _____ the Prime Minister's speech very carefully.
✓ **C) listened to**
Listen to means pay attention on purpose, which fits **very carefully**. **Hear** just means sounds reach your ears, and **overhear** means hear by accident.

35. He would have known that, if he _____ the meeting.
✓ **A) had attended**
Third conditional: **if** + past perfect (**had attended**), **would have** + past participle in the other part. Not **would have attended**, because **would** does not go in the **if** part.

36. Would you mind _____ the door?
✓ **C) opening**
Would you mind is followed by the -ing form: **Would you mind opening the door?**

37. In August he _____ for us for 25 years.
✓ **A) will have worked**
The future perfect (**will have worked**) shows how long something will have lasted by a future time. The clues are **In August** and **for 25 years**.

38. _____ since I came back to the office?
✓ **D) Has Robinson telephoned**
Since + a past moment needs the present perfect: **Has Robinson telephoned since I came back?** Not **Did Robinson telephone**, because **since** connects the past with now.

39. He speaks English very well _____ he's only 12.
✓ **D) although**
Although + clause shows that something is surprising: **although he's only 12**. **Despite** is followed by a noun or -ing, not a clause, and **in spite** needs **of**.

40. "Don't do that," I said. I _____ him not to do that.
✓ **B) told**
To report an order, use **tell** + person + (**not**) **to** + verb: **I told him not to do that. Say** cannot be followed directly by a person.

41. He never takes risks. He's a very _____ man.
✓ **D) cautious**
Cautious means careful and avoiding risks: **a cautious driver**. Not **anxious**, which means worried.

42. I'd like to put _____ a suggestion, if I may.
✓ **A) forward**
Put forward a suggestion or idea means offer it for others to consider: **She put forward a new plan.**

43. I _____ this test for at least half an hour now.
✓ **D) have been doing**
The present perfect continuous shows an activity that started in the past and is still going on. The clue is **for at least half an hour now**. Not **have done**, which suggests the test is finished.

44. I'll speak to him when he _____.
✓ **C) arrives**
After **when** in a sentence about the future, use the present simple: **when he arrives**. Not **will arrive**.

45. "Can you come tomorrow?" He asked _____ tomorrow.

✓ **C) if I could come**
A reported yes/no question uses **if** + normal word order, and **can** moves back to **could**: **He asked if I could come tomorrow.**

46. He hasn't come again today. If he doesn't come, _____ what to do tomorrow.
✓ **D) he won't know**
First conditional: **If** + present simple (**doesn't come**), then **will/won't** + verb: **he won't know**.

47. CONVERSATION (questions 47 – 64):

Mr and Mrs Wallace want to buy a house, so they go to the office of an estate agent.

Agent: Good morning. Mr and Mrs Wallace?

Mrs Wallace: Mr Hogan?

Agent: How do you do.

Mrs Wallace: I spoke to you on the phone. _____ is my husband.
✓ **A) This**
To introduce someone, we say **This is …**: **This is my husband.**

48. **Agent**: How do you do. _____ sit down.
✓ **B) Please**
Please sit down is a polite way to invite someone to sit.

49. **Agent**: I understand from our telephone conversation that you're _____
✓ **D) interested**
People are **interested in** something (+ -ing): **interested in buying**. **Interesting** describes the thing, not the person.

50. in buying a property for about £85,000, is that _____?
✓ **D) right**
Is that right? is used to check that you have understood information correctly.

51. **Mrs Wallace**: No. Well, the price is right, but – er – well, we _____ a problem.
✓ **B) have**
We say **have a problem**: **we have a problem**.

52. **Mr Wallace**: Longer _____ that.
✓ **A) than**
A comparative adjective is followed by **than**: **longer than that**.

53. **Mrs Wallace**: Yes, I suppose it is – and we want to settle back here _____
✓ **C) but**
But shows a contrast: they want to settle here, **but** they have very different ideas.

54. we have very different ideas of the _____ of place we'd like to live in.
✓ **A) kind**
Kind of place means type of place: **What kind of place do you want?**

55. **Mr Wallace**: Yes, you see _____ prefer to live in town, in a centrally located flat.
✓ **B) I'd**
I'd prefer (= I would prefer) says what someone wants. Mr Wallace speaks only for himself, because his wife wants the country, so not **we'd**.

56. **Mrs Wallace**: And I am really keen to live in _____ country.
✓ **A) the**
The country means the area outside towns and cities, and it always takes **the**: **live in the country**.

57. I want a big garden. I want a new view. I want to be _____ to go for walks.
✓ **A) able**
After **be**, use **able to** + verb: **I want to be able to go for walks.** We cannot say **be can**.

58. **Mr Wallace**: Well, I'm sure you _____ teach in London, in town, just as easily.
✓ **D) could**
Could shows that something is possible: **you could teach in London just as easily.**

59. **Mrs Wallace**: Yes, _____ I think the chances of
✓ **B) but**
But introduces a different opinion: she agrees, **but** she thinks the village is better.

60. getting a job _____ probably much greater in a village school
✓ **B) are**
The subject is **the chances** (plural), so the verb is **are**.

61. and I _____ like to be part of the community again, darling.
✓ **A) would**
Would like is a polite way to say **want**: **I would like to be part of the community again.**

62. **Mr Wallace**: And I want to live in a flat _____ maintenance included.
✓ **B) with**
With means having or including: **a flat with maintenance included**.

63. You know – you pay for all the _____. I mean, I'm not a do-it-yourself man.
✓ **A) services**
Services here means work such as cleaning and repairs that you pay for. Not **servants**, which are people who work in someone's house.

64. I don't like to mend leaky _____, and that sort of thing.

✓ **C) roofs**
Leaky means letting water in. **Roofs** often leak when it rains, and mending them is typical do-it-yourself work.

65. Mr Graham has just checked into a hotel, but he is not happy with his room. He goes down to the reception desk.

Mr Graham: I'm _____ there's been a mistake. My room doesn't have a bath.
✓ **B) afraid**
I'm afraid (+ clause) is a polite way to give bad news or make a complaint: **I'm afraid there's been a mistake. Regret** and **fear** are verbs, so **I'm regret** and **I'm fear** are wrong.

66. **Hotel Clerk**: Well, I think your room is correct, sir. Room 118, _____?
✓ **B) isn't it**
The full idea is **your room is 118**, with the verb **is**, so the question tag is **isn't it?**

67. **Mr Graham**: _____, could I have a bath, please?
✓ **B) Well**
Well at the start of a reply introduces a suggestion or new idea: **Well, could I have a bath, please?**

68. **Hotel Clerk**: Er – I'm afraid we don't _____ a room with a bath and –
✓ **C) have**
Have means have available: **we don't have a room with a bath**.

69. **Mr Graham**: Look, I'm very tired. I don't want to _____ but my firm always books a room with a bath.
✓ **D) argue**
Argue means disagree with someone, often angrily: **I don't want to argue, but…**. **Discuss** needs an object, and **anger** and **denounce** do not fit.

70. **Hotel Clerk**: Er – I'll check the _____
✓ **A) correspondence**
Correspondence means letters and emails sent between people or companies. **Communicate** is a verb.

71. but I don't think you were _____ into a room with a bath. There we are, it is Mr Graham, isn't it?

Mr Graham: It is, yes.

(The clerk shows Mr Graham a letter.)
✓ **C) booked**
Book someone into a hotel or room means reserve it for them: **you were booked into a single room**. We **reserve** a room, but we don't say **reserved into**.

72. **Hotel Clerk**: Yes, one _____ room.
✓ **B) single**
A **single room** is a hotel room for one person.

73. **Mr Graham**: I'll see them when I get back. Well, I _____ that it's our mistake,
✓ **A) appreciate**
Appreciate that means understand and accept that something is true: **I appreciate that it's our mistake, but…**

74. but are you sure there's _____ with a bath?

Hotel Clerk: Well, …
✓ **D) nothing**
Are you sure there's nothing…? checks a negative fact the clerk has just given. Not **anything**, because there is no negative word in the sentence.

75. **Mr Graham**: I've just flown a very long _____ and I'm very tired and all I want is a bath and a sleep.
✓ **A) distance**
We **fly a long distance**: **I've just flown a very long distance.**

76. **Hotel Clerk**: Well, as I've said, sir, there's _____ nothing for tonight. But let's see, you're here for five days, aren't you?

Mr Graham: Oh dear!
✓ **C) absolutely**
Absolutely goes with extreme words like **nothing**, **impossible** and **perfect**: **absolutely nothing**. **Extremely** and **especially** cannot go with **nothing**.

77. **Hotel Clerk**: I'll just have a _____ with the manager.
✓ **A) word**
Have a word with someone means talk to them briefly: **I'll have a word with the manager.**

78. **Mr Graham**: I would _____ it.
✓ **B) appreciate**
I would appreciate it means I would be grateful. **Thank** needs a person as its object, not **it**.

79. I'm _____ to have a long hot bath!
✓ **C) desperate**
Desperate to + verb means wanting something very much: **I'm desperate to have a bath. Despaired** is not used this way.

80. **Hotel Clerk**: Don't worry, sir! _____ it with me.
✓ **B) Leave**
Leave it with me means 'I will deal with it for you.'

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