ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Mixed Grammar MCQ Test With Answers + PDF Exercise 002

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Explanations

1. Peter can’t speak Italian, _____?
✔ **D) can he**
A question tag uses the same auxiliary verb as the sentence. A negative sentence takes a positive tag: **can't → can he?** Not **can't he**, because a negative sentence needs a positive tag.

2. Jack _____ Turkish soon.
✔ **C) is going to learn**
We use **be going to** + verb for plans and intentions. The clue is **soon**: **Jack is going to learn Turkish soon.** The present simple **learns** is not used for personal future plans, and **has learnt** is about the past, not the future.

3. He asked her friend to speak _____ on the telephone.
✔ **B) more clearly**
Speak is a verb, so it needs an adverb (**clearly**), not an adjective (**clear**). **More clearly** means he wanted the friend to speak in a clearer way than before. Not **too clearly**, because nobody asks someone to speak too clearly.

4. “What _____ this evening?” Mary asked.
✔ **D) are you doing**
We use the present continuous for plans and arrangements: **What are you doing this evening?** Questions need the word order **are you**, so **you are doing** and **you will do** are wrong.

5. She enjoys _____ to parties.
✔ **C) going**
The verb **enjoy** is followed by the **-ing** form: **She enjoys going to parties.** Not **to go**, because **enjoy** never takes **to** + verb.

6. His girlfriend _____ while he was still having a bath.
✔ **C) arrived**
A short finished action (past simple: **arrived**) happened in the middle of a longer action (past continuous: **was having a bath**). Not **was arriving**, because arriving is the short action that interrupts the bath.

7. “If I _____ quickly, we won't be late for the party,” said Peter.
✔ **A) drive**
This is the first conditional: **If** + present simple, **will/won't** + verb. **If I drive quickly, we won't be late.** Not **will drive**, because we don't use **will** in the **if** part.

8. She asked him where _____.
✔ **B) the party was**
In a reported question, we use normal statement word order (subject + verb): **where the party was**. After the past reporting verb **asked**, the verb normally shifts back to the past (**was**), though present tense (**where the party is**) can also be used if the party is still in the future. Here, **was the party** and **is the party** are wrong because they use direct question word order, and **the party were** is wrong because the singular noun **party** takes **was**, not **were**.

9. “If I _____ the way to the house, we wouldn’t be so late,” he replied.
✔ **A) knew**
This is the second conditional, for an unreal present situation: **If** + past simple, **would** + verb. **If I knew the way, we wouldn't be so late** (but I don't know it). Not **would know**, because **would** is not used in the **if** part.

10. Peter wanted _____ a policeman.
✔ **D) Mary to ask**
The pattern is **want** + person + **to** + verb: **Peter wanted Mary to ask a policeman.** We don't use a **that** clause or **-ing** after **want**.

11. Mary said she _____ him driving fast, and asked him to slow down.
✔ **C) didn’t like**
This is reported speech after a past verb (**said**), so the present **don't like** moves back to the past: **didn't like**. Not **don't like**, because **she** needs **doesn't**, not **don't**. Also, **like** is a state verb and is not normally used in the continuous form (**isn't liking**).

12. When they finally arrived, they _____ the car and went in.
✔ **C) parked**
We use the past simple for actions that happen one after another in the past: they arrived, **parked** the car and went in. Not **had parked**, because parking happened after arriving, not before.

13. They were _____ that they didn’t get anything to eat.
✔ **B) so late**
We use **so** + adjective + **that** to show a result: **They were so late that they didn't get anything to eat.** Not **such late**, because **such** is used before a noun (**such a late hour**), and **too** is not followed by **that**.

14. Peter made Mary _____ all night.
✔ **C) dance**
The pattern is **make** + person + verb without **to**: **Peter made Mary dance all night.** Not **to dance**, because **make** (active) is followed by the bare infinitive.

15. When you _____ him tomorrow, you will think he is ten years older.
✓ A) see
After time words like **when**, **before** and **after**, we use the present simple for the future, not **will**: **When you see him tomorrow, …** Not **will be** or **are going to see**, because future forms are not used after **when** here.

16. He promised his wife they _____ here earlier next time.
✓ D) would get
This is reported speech after a past verb (**promised**), so **will** becomes **would**: **He promised they would get here earlier next time.** Not **would have got**, because that refers to the past, but **next time** is in the future.

17. _____ Peter nor I was able to drive home.
✓ D) Neither
The pair **neither … nor** means 'not one and not the other': **Neither Peter nor I was able to drive home.** Not **Either**, because **either** goes with **or**, not **nor**.

18. Helen found a good job, and _____ Peter.
✓ C) so did
To say 'the same is true for another person' after a positive sentence, we use **so** + auxiliary + subject. The first verb is past simple (**found**), so the auxiliary is **did**: **and so did Peter**. Not **so** alone, because it needs the auxiliary **did**.

19. The milk _____ at 8 o'clock the following morning.
✓ C) was delivered
The milk doesn't deliver itself, so we need the passive (**be** + past participle). **The following morning** shows the past: **was delivered**. Not **is delivered**, because the story is in the past.

20. "If I'd known I'd feel so ill, I _____ to the party," Peter moaned.
✓ B) wouldn't have gone
This is the third conditional, for an unreal past situation: **If** + past perfect (**I'd known**), **would have** + past participle. He feels ill, so he regrets going: **I wouldn't have gone**. Not **would have gone**, because he did go and wishes he hadn't.

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