ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Mixed Grammar MCQ Test With Answers + PDF Exercise 028

English Grammar Tests · 20 questions · Online test and questions PDF: https://englishtestsonline.com/grammar-test-28/

1	**D**	2	**B**	3	**D**	4	**D**	5	**A**	6	**A**	7	**C**	8	**C**	9	**C**	10	**A**
11	**B**	12	**C**	13	**A**	14	**C**	15	**A**	16	**D**	17	**C**	18	**B**	19	**C**	20	**C**

Explanations

1. _____ clever, he would not have passed.
✔ **D) If he had not been**
This is a third conditional about the past: **If + past perfect**, **would have + past participle**. So we need **If he had not been** clever. **Was he not** is wrong because the inverted form would be **Had he not been**.

2. The policeman _____ that man if he doesn't stop disturbing neighbours.
✔ **B) will arrest**
This is a first conditional about a real future possibility: **if + present simple** (**doesn't stop**), then **will + verb**. So the answer is **will arrest**. Not **would arrest**, because **would** goes with a past tense in the if-clause (**if he didn't stop**).

3. He would never have found such a good job _____ his uncle's help.
✔ **D) but for**
But for means "if it hadn't been for" and is followed by a noun: **But for his uncle's help** = without his uncle's help. Not **with**, because that gives the opposite meaning: he did get the job thanks to the help.

4. If only _____, this wouldn't have happened.
✔ **D) we had been careful**
If only + past perfect expresses regret about the past: **If only we had been careful**. The result clause **wouldn't have happened** shows we are talking about the past. Not **had we been careful**, because **if only** is not followed by inversion.

5. John: I'm tired. Jerry: Yes, you look as if _____ a good night's sleep.
✔ **A) you need**
After **look as if** we use a normal present tense when the situation is probably true: **You look as if you need a good night's sleep.** John really is tired, so **you need** is right. **Would need** and **would be needed** do not fit after **as if** here.

6. Would he have gone to London if _____ how expensive it is?
✔ **A) he had known**
This is a third conditional question: **Would he have gone…** needs **if + past perfect**, so **if he had known**. Not **had he known**, because inversion replaces **if**; we cannot use both (**if had he known** is wrong).

7. No matter what he said to his girlfriend, she _____ listen to him.
✔ **C) wouldn't**
Wouldn't in the past can show refusal: she refused to listen. **No matter what he said** suggests she didn't want to listen. Not **couldn't**, which would mean she was not able to listen.

8. Mary: Why didn't you call me? Jane: Well, _____ all this week.
✔ **C) I've been trying to call you**
The present perfect continuous (**I've been trying**) describes a repeated action over a period up to now. The clue is **all this week**: the week is not finished. Not **I tried**, because the simple past suggests a finished time.

9. Tony: What a surprise to see you at the airport yesterday!

Bill: Yes, _____ some friends.
✔ **C) I was seeing off**
The past continuous (**I was seeing off**) describes an action in progress at a past moment: when Tony saw Bill at the airport **yesterday**. Not **I've been seeing off**, because **yesterday** is a finished time and needs a past tense.

10. We're delighted to see you back! _____ you so much!
✔ **A) We've missed**
The present perfect (**We've missed you**) links the past to now: you were away, and now you are back. Not **We were missing**, because the past continuous does not connect the feeling to the present moment of meeting.

11. Tom: I've been reading Turkish books.

Ann: Oh, really? _____ you knew Turkish.
✔ **B) I didn't know**
We say **I didn't know (that) you knew…** when we learn something new just now: I didn't know before this moment. Not **I haven't known**, because **know** in this meaning does not take the present perfect here.

12. Dan: Have you ever seen her secret house?

Bob: Yes, _____ last year.
✔ **C) I saw it**
Last year is a finished past time, so we use the simple past: **I saw it last year.** Not **I've seen it**, because the present perfect cannot be used with a finished time like **last year**.

13. I think you _____ this work yesterday evening.
✔ **A) should have done**
Should have + past participle criticises a past action that didn't happen: you didn't do it **yesterday evening**, but it was the right thing to do. Not **should do**, because that refers to the present or future.

14. They discovered that the files _____ stolen while they were in the other room.
✓ C) had been
The stealing happened before they discovered it, so we use the past perfect passive: **had been stolen**. Not **was been**, which is not a correct form (it would be **were stolen** for plural **files**).

15. I asked you to get some white cheese! You _____ bought this!
✓ A) shouldn’t have
Shouldn't have + past participle criticises something someone did in the past: you bought the wrong cheese, which was a mistake. Not **mustn't have**, because **mustn't have** is not used to criticise past actions.

16. I always enjoyed _____ in that lake in summer.
✓ D) swimming
The verb **enjoy** is followed by the **-ing** form: **I enjoyed swimming.** Not **to have swum**, because **enjoy** is never followed by **to + verb**.

17. The boy told his teacher a lie to avoid _____.
✓ C) being punished
Avoid is followed by the **-ing** form. The boy receives the punishment, so we need the passive **-ing** form: **being punished**. Not **punishing**, which would mean he punishes someone else.

18. The two children _____ to look forward _____ to their grandparents' house at Christmas.
✓ B) used / to going
Used to + verb describes a past habit: **They used to look forward…** In **look forward to**, **to** is a preposition, so it is followed by **-ing**: **to going**. Not **to go**, a very common mistake.

19. Having worked hard for three months, he succeeded _____ his exam.
✓ C) in passing
We say **succeed in + -ing**: **He succeeded in passing his exam.** Not **to pass**, because **succeed** is not followed by **to + verb**.

20. They accused him _____ a thief.
✓ C) of being
The verb **accuse** is used with **of + -ing**: **They accused him of being a thief.** Not **for being**, which is used with **blame** (**blame someone for**).

Practise more on englishtestsonline.com
Take this test online, download its questions PDF, and find thousands of free English tests:
englishtestsonline.com · scan the code for this test
englishtestsonline.com