ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Mixed Grammar MCQ Test With Answers + PDF Exercise 030

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Explanations

1. If only _____ it, none of this would've happened.
✔ **B) I hadn't mentioned**
If only + past perfect expresses regret about the past: **If only I hadn't mentioned it** = I'm sorry I mentioned it. Not **I wouldn't have mentioned**, because **would have** is not used after **if only** about your own past actions.

2. A: I've got a terrible headache.

B: Yes, you look as if _____ an aspirin.
✔ **A) you need**
After **look as if** we use a normal tense when the situation is real and likely: B can see A really seems to need an aspirin now, so the present simple **you need** is right.

3. _____ to the market, when it started to rain.
✔ **A) I was just about to go**
Was about to + verb describes something you were going to do very soon in the past, before something interrupted it: **I was just about to go … when it started to rain.** The past tense matches **started**, so **I'm just about to go** is wrong.

4. _____ but I didn't have enough money.
✔ **C) I was going to buy it**
Was/were going to + verb describes a past plan that did not happen: **I was going to buy it, but I didn't have enough money.** Not **I would buy it**, because that needs a present situation (**but I don't have…**).

5. A: Did you see your boss at the airport yesterday?

B: Yes, _____ his family.
✔ **B) he was seeing off**
The past continuous **he was seeing off** describes an action in progress at the moment B saw him yesterday. **See someone off** means go to the airport or station to say goodbye. Not **he was seen off**: that passive means someone said goodbye to him.

6. A: What is the most serious disadvantage of living in a city?

B: The most serious one is _____ the city is too noisy.
✔ **D) that**
After **is** we need a **that**-clause as the complement: **The most serious one is that the city is too noisy. Because of the fact that** cannot follow **is** here, and **which is** / **about which** make the sentence ungrammatical.

7. How nice to be back home! _____ it so much!
✔ **A) We've missed**
The present perfect **We've missed it** connects the time away with now: we are back and we feel the result now. Not **We had missed**, because the past perfect needs another past moment as a reference.

8. A: I've been working a lot on my computer these days.

B: Oh, really? _____ you had a computer.
✔ **C) I didn't know**
I didn't know (past simple) is the normal way to react to new information: until a moment ago I did not know. **Know** is a state verb, so **I haven't known** is not used here.

9. A: Have you written to them?

B: Yes, _____ twice last month.
✔ **B) I wrote to them**
Last month is a finished past time, so we use the past simple: **I wrote to them twice last month.** Not **I've written**, because the present perfect cannot be used with **last month**.

10. A: How long has he been away?

B: Oh, _____ three weeks on Friday.
✔ **D) he will have been gone**
The future perfect **will have been gone** looks back from a future point (**on Friday**) at the period up to then: by Friday his absence will reach three weeks. **Gone** here means 'away'. Not **he will have been**, because it needs **away** or **gone** to complete the meaning, and **he'll gone** is not grammatical.

11. A: I do hope we can watch TV tonight.

B: Oh, yes. I'm sure _____ the aerial by now.
✔ **B) they'll have put up**
The future perfect **they'll have put up** expresses a confident guess that something is already finished: **by now** is the clue. An **aerial** is the antenna that a TV needs. Not **they'll put up**, because that is about the future, not about now.

12. A: What excellent French you speak!

B: So _____! I lived in Paris for twenty years.
✔ **B) I should**
So I should! is a fixed reply meaning 'that is only natural / what you'd expect', and it is usually followed by the reason: **I lived in Paris for twenty years.** Not **So I must**: **must** expresses a logical conclusion and does not form this idiom.

13. A: What was that noise?

B: Oh, don't worry; it _____ the cat.
✔ **C) must have been**
Must have + past participle is a confident guess about the past: the noise has already happened, and B is sure **it must have been the cat**. Not **should've been**, which talks about what was expected or right, not about a guess.

14. What a lovely carpet you've bought! It _____ expensive!
✓ C) must have been
Must have been is a confident deduction about the past: it is a lovely carpet, so the speaker concludes **it must have been expensive** when it was bought. **Ought to be** and **should've been** talk about what is right or expected, not deduction.

15. He is getting fatter and fatter. He _____ eating too much.
✓ A) must be
Must be + -ing is a confident guess about what is happening around now. The clue **getting fatter and fatter** is the evidence. **May** and **might** would need **be** (**may be eating**), and **can be** is not used for guesses like this.

16. It's incredible to see him in such good health after the accident.
✓ D) unbelievable
Incredible means **unbelievable**: so surprising that it is hard to believe. Not **creditable**, which means 'deserving praise'.

17. She was angry because he disregarded her feelings in this matter.
✓ C) paid no attention to
Disregard means **pay no attention to** or ignore: **He disregarded my advice. Considered** and **did not ignore** mean the opposite.

18. During the ten years he worked in Germany he accumulated a fortune.
✓ A) made
Accumulate means collect a large amount little by little. **Accumulate a fortune** means the same as **make a fortune**. Not **increased**: you increase something you already have, not a fortune you build from nothing.

19. He did his work reluctantly because he did not like the director.
✓ B) unwillingly
Reluctantly means **unwillingly**: doing something although you do not want to. Not **slowly**: a reluctant person may work slowly, but the word is about not wanting to do it.

20. A: Why haven't you told me about your problems before?

B: Well, _____ all this week.
✓ B) I've been trying to tell you all about them
The present perfect continuous **I've been trying** describes a repeated activity over a period that is still going on: **all this week**. Not **I was trying**, because the week is not finished and the effort continues up to now.

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