ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Mixed Grammar MCQ Test With Answers + PDF Exercise 031

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Explanations

1. A: I've eaten far too much!

B: Oh, _____ all that exercise.
✔ **B) it must be**
B is making a logical guess: the exercise has probably made A hungry. We use **must** for a confident deduction about the present: **It must be all that exercise. Ought to** and **should** express advice or expectation, not deduction.

2. A: There was a lot of noise in this building last night.

B: Well, _____. I was out at a party all night.
✔ **C) it couldn't have been me**
B is sure it was not him, because he was out all night. For a confident negative deduction about the past we use **couldn't have** + past participle: **It couldn't have been me.** Not **mustn't have been**: **mustn't** is not used for deductions about the past in British English.

3. A: I'm surprised your husband didn't stay longer.

B: Well, _____, had the weather been better.
✔ **B) he might've done**
Might have done talks about a past possibility that did not happen. The clue is **had the weather been better**, an inverted third conditional (= if the weather had been better). Not **must have done**, because that is a deduction about something that really happened.

4. A: Must I always pay my rent by cheque?

B: No, _____. Pay it however you want to.
✔ **A) you needn't**
Needn't means there is no obligation: you can choose. The clue is **Pay it however you want to.** Not **mustn't**, which means it is forbidden.

5. A: I hate all this polite chat at cocktail parties.

B: Oh, you _____ polite in my house. Say whatever you want!
✔ **C) needn't be**
Needn't be means it isn't necessary. The clue is **Say whatever you want!** B is telling A that politeness is not required. Not **mustn't be**, which would mean politeness is forbidden.

6. I'm sorry but I can't _____ anybody at the moment because the bedrooms are being redecorated.
✔ **A) put up**
Put somebody up means to let someone stay in your home for a short time. The clue is the bedrooms: guests can't sleep there at the moment. Not **put up with**, which means to tolerate.

7. I must say I wouldn't buy it, but don't be _____ by me.
✔ **C) put off**
Be put off means to be discouraged from doing something. The speaker means: don't let my opinion stop you from buying it. Example: **Don't be put off by the price.**

8. If he hadn't been so drunk, he would have _____ his ideas more convincingly.
✔ **A) put across**
Put across ideas means to communicate them clearly so that people understand. It goes well with **convincingly**. Not **put through**, which is used for phone calls or for making someone experience something difficult.

9. The noise in the classroom is getting unbearable. I simply won't _____ it!
✔ **B) put up with**
Put up with means to tolerate or accept something unpleasant. The clue is **unbearable**: the speaker refuses to tolerate the noise any longer.

10. I'll never go to that grocer's again. He seems to _____ his prices every day.
✔ **A) put up**
Put up prices means to raise or increase them. That explains why the speaker won't go back to the shop. Not **put up with**, which means to tolerate.

11. A: How do you find your new colleague?

B: I'm told he's difficult to _____.
✔ **B) get along with**
Get along with someone means to have a friendly relationship with them. **Difficult to get along with** describes someone people find it hard to be friends with. Not **get away with**, which means to avoid punishment for something.

12. They say he'll never _____ his dismissal.
✔ **C) get over**
Get over something means to recover from a shock, an illness or a disappointment. Losing his job (**his dismissal**) was a shock he may never recover from.

13. I tried to telephone Istanbul yesterday, but I just couldn't _____.
✔ **C) get through**
Get through means to succeed in making a phone connection with someone. Example: **I called three times but couldn't get through.**

14. Mr. Brown is so old now he just can't _____ as he used to.
✔ **A) get about**
Get about means to move or travel from place to place. Old age makes this harder for Mr Brown. Not **get away**, which means to escape or go on holiday.

15. There's no doubt that he's guilty and I'm sure he won't _____.
✓ C) get off
Get off means to escape punishment, especially to be found not guilty in court. The clue is **he's guilty**: the speaker is sure he will be punished. Not **get across**, which means to communicate an idea.

16. I'll have so much spare time, I'll probably _____ some kind of hobby.
✓ A) take up
Take up means to start a new hobby or activity. Example: **She took up painting after she retired.** Not **take in**, which means to understand, or to deceive.

17. Have you any idea which son of his will _____ when he retires?
✓ C) take over
Take over means to take control of something, such as a business, from someone else. The clue is **when he retires**: one of his sons will take control. Not **take up**, which means to start a hobby or activity.

18. He's very funny when he _____ his grandfather.
✓ A) takes off
Take off someone means to copy their voice or behaviour to make people laugh. The clue is **very funny**. Not **takes after**, which means to look or behave like an older relative naturally, and is not described as a performance.

19. She _____ her friends for advice on investing her money.
✓ C) looks to
Look to someone **for** something means to rely on them to give you help or advice. Example: **Students look to their teachers for guidance.** Not **looks into**, which means to investigate.

20. It's very difficult to _____ a person who has so many prejudices.
✓ A) take to
Take to someone means to start liking them. A person with many prejudices is hard to like. Not **take in**, which means to deceive someone or to give them a place to live.

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