ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Mixed Grammar MCQ Test With Answers + PDF Exercise 032

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Explanations

1. The line’s very bad. It’s difficult to _____ what he’s saying.
✔ **B) make out**
Make out means to hear, see or understand something with difficulty. The clue is **the line's very bad**: it is hard to hear him. Not **make up**, which means to invent a story.

2. I don’t really like his being absent so much, but he does _____ the most amusing excuses.
✔ **B) make up**
Make up means to invent something, often a story or an excuse that is not true: **He made up an excuse.** Not **make out**, which means to understand or see with difficulty.

3. They attacked the poor man and _____ every penny he had.
✔ **D) robbed him of**
The pattern is **rob someone of something**: the person comes first, then **of** and the thing taken. **Steal** works the other way: **steal something from someone**. Not **robbed him**, because **every penny** needs **of** before it.

4. To avoid paying death duties, he’ll _____ his whole estate to his son this year.
✔ **A) make over**
Make over means to transfer the legal ownership of money or property to someone: **He made over the house to his daughter.** The clue is **his whole estate to his son**.

5. No, the burglar didn’t take too much, but he did manage to _____ some of my best carpets.
✔ **C) make off with**
Make off with means to steal something and leave quickly: **The thief made off with my bag.** Not **make out with**, which has a completely different meaning.

6. Helen served tea _____ them.
✔ **B) to**
We say **serve something to someone**: **She served tea to them.** You can also say **She served them tea**, with no preposition.

7. I want to pay _____ the book.
✔ **B) for**
We say **pay for** the thing we buy: **I paid for the book.** Not **pay to**, which is used for the person who gets the money.

8. She takes _____ her shoes when she enters the house.
✔ **C) off**
Take off means to remove clothes or shoes: **She takes off her shoes.** The opposite is **put on**.

9. Put _____ your sweater before you go out.
✔ **A) on**
Put on means to start wearing clothes: **Put on your coat.** The opposite is **take off**.

10. The tourist asked _____ some information.
✔ **B) for**
We **ask for** something we want to get: **He asked for some information.** Not **ask of** or **ask from**, which are not used this way.

11. I don’t like _____ hot drinks.
✔ **D) being served**
After **like** we can use a verb with **-ing**. Here the subject receives the action, so we need the passive **-ing** form **being served**: someone else gives me hot drinks. Not **serve**, because **like** is not followed by the bare verb.

12. They continued _____ songs.
✔ **B) to sing**
Continue can be followed by **to** + verb or by the **-ing** form: **They continued to sing** / **They continued singing**. Of the options, only **to sing** is correct. **To singing** mixes the two forms.

13. The customer insists on _____, so hurry up.
✔ **B) being served**
After the preposition **on** we use the **-ing** form. The customer wants someone to serve him, so we need the passive **being served**. Not **serving**, because that would mean the customer serves other people.

14. She didn’t finish _____ coffee.
✔ **B) having**
Finish is always followed by the **-ing** form: **She didn't finish having her coffee.** Not **to have**, because **finish** does not take **to** + verb.

15. This desk was _____ for him by his grandfather.
✔ **A) made**
This is the passive: **was** + past participle. The past participle of **make** is **made**: **This desk was made by his grandfather.** Not **did**, which is the past simple of **do**, not a past participle.

16. The _____ we climbed, the thinner the air became.
✔ **B) higher**
The pattern **the** + comparative, **the** + comparative shows that two things change together: **The higher we climbed, the thinner the air became.** So we need the comparative **higher**, not the superlative **highest**.

17. They never _____ plans for the work.
✔ **A) make**
The usual phrase is **make plans**: **We made plans for the weekend.** Not **do**, because **do plans** is not used in English.

18. His brother was here _____ Saturday.
✔ **C) on**
We use **on** with days of the week: **on Saturday**, **on Monday**.

19. Ali always goes to school _____ bus.
✔ **B) by**
We use **by** for ways of travelling, with no article: **by bus**, **by car**, **by train**. We say **on the bus** only with **the**.

20. She is still in school, _____?
✔ **C) isn’t she**
After a positive sentence we use a negative question tag with the same verb and subject: **She is ..., isn't she?** Not **isn't it**, because the subject is **she**.

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