ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

# Mixed Grammar MCQ Test With Answers + PDF Exercise 040

English Grammar Tests · 20 questions · Online test and questions PDF: https://englishtestsonline.com/grammar-test-40/

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

## Explanations

**1.** The detective asked the gangster where _____.
✔ **A) the gun was**
This is a ***reported (indirect) question. After** asked ... where**, use normal statement order: subject + verb, so** where the gun was**. Not** was the gun **or** did he hide the gun*, because these keep direct-question word order.

**2.** After Jack _____ his poem, he decided not to show it to anybody.
✔ **B) had finished**
Use the ***past perfect (**had finished**) for the earlier of two past actions. Jack finished the poem first, and then he decided. Not** has finished**, because the story is in the past (**decided*).

**3.** He thought he _____ able to find more information on British imperialism.
✔ **B) would be**
After a past reporting verb (**thought**), **will** changes to **would**. This is the ***future in the past:** He thought he would be able to... **Not** will be*, because the main verb is in the past.

**4.** If it _____ so expensive, Linda would often eat out.
✔ **A) weren't**
This is a ***second conditional about an unreal present situation:** If + past simple, ... would + verb**. With** be**, the standard form is** were **for all subjects:** If it weren't so expensive... **Not** wouldn't be**, because** would **goes in the result clause, not after** if*.

**5.** The workers _____ feel so unhappy if they were treated fairly.
✔ **D) would not**
This is a ***second conditional:** if + past simple **(**were treated**) goes with** would + verb **in the main clause. So the answer is** would not feel**. Not** won't**, because** will/won't **belongs to the first conditional, used with a present verb after** if*.

**6.** It is easy to develop bad study habits, but it is extremely difficult for us to rid _____ of them.
✔ **A) ourselves**
The phrase is **rid oneself of something** (= get free of it). The reflexive pronoun must match the person: **for us → ourselves**. Not **themselves** or **yourselves**, because they refer to different people.

**7.** We will probably have to work _____ midnight today because the report should be ready tomorrow.
✔ **B) until**
Use **until** for an action that continues up to a point in time: **work until midnight**. Not **by**, because **by midnight** means 'not later than midnight' and goes with a finished action, e.g. **finish by midnight**.

**8.** _____ cause extensive damage to our city each year.
✔ **B) The winds of hurricanes**
The sentence needs a ***subject for the verb** cause**.** The winds of hurricanes **is a complete noun phrase. Not** Because of the winds...*, because a prepositional phrase cannot be the subject.

**9.** Malaria _____ by the female mosquito.
✔ **C) is transmitted**
Malaria does not transmit anything; it is carried by the mosquito. So we need the ***passive (**is + past participle**):** is transmitted**. Not** transmitted **alone, because the passive needs the verb** be*.

**10.** Water, _____, is also one of the most abundant compounds on earth.
✔ **B) one of the most critical elements for human survival**
The gap is between commas, so it needs an ***appositive: a noun phrase that describes** Water**.** One of the most critical elements for human survival **does this. Not** is necessary... **or** it is necessary...*, because a second verb or clause here would break the sentence.

**11.** The Social Security Act of 1935 was _____.
✔ **A) written to insure workers against unemployment**
After **was**, use a past participle to make the ***passive:** was written**, followed by an infinitive of purpose:** to insure workers... **Not** it insured...*, because the sentence already has a subject and cannot take a second clause here.

**12.** Philosophers are not sure _____.
✔ **C) precisely how universal peace can be secured**
After **not sure**, use an ***indirect question with statement word order:** how universal peace can be secured**. Not** how can universal peace be secured*, because that is direct-question order.

**13.** Overexposure to the sun _____.
✔ **C) can produce damage to the skin**
The sentence has a subject (**Overexposure to the sun**) but no main verb. Only **can produce damage to the skin** gives it a verb. The other options are noun phrases without a verb.

**14.** Antarctica is larger _____, but it has no native human population.
✔ **D) than Europe or Australia**
A ***comparative adjective (**larger**) is followed by** than**:** larger than Europe or Australia**. Not** from **or** with**, and not** Europe and Australia put together **either, because that option has no** than*.

**15.** _____ paper was first used by the Chinese.
✓ **D) It is believed that**
**It is believed that + clause** is an impersonal passive used to report general beliefs. Not **The belief that**, because it leaves the sentence without a main verb.

**16.** Gold is the preferred choice of jewelry makers _____ indestructible.
✓ **A) since it is**
The gap needs a linking word plus a subject and verb, to give a reason: **since it is indestructible** (**since** = because). Not **because of**, because it must be followed by a noun, not an adjective.

**17.** _____ growing awareness of social ills, the philosophers wrote increasingly more to warn people.
✓ **D) Due to their**
**Due to** (= because of) is followed by a noun phrase: **Due to their growing awareness of social ills**. **Their** refers to **the philosophers**. Not **Because their**, because **because** needs a full clause with a verb.

**18.** _____ categorized as lipids.
✓ **C) Fats and oils are**
**Categorized** is a past participle, so the sentence needs a subject and the verb **be** to form the *__passive:__ Fats and oils are categorized__. Not__ Fats and oils*, because then there is no main verb.

**19.** The overwhelming majority of people who _____ in the rescue operations were volunteers.
✓ **D) served**
In a *__relative clause,__ who __is already the subject, so it is followed directly by a verb:__ who served__. Not__ they served*, because that adds a second subject.

**20.** _____ is found in many kinds of fruits and vegetables.
✓ **A) Vitamin C**
The sentence needs a simple subject for the verb **is found**: **Vitamin C is found in many kinds of fruits and vegetables.** Not **That vitamin C** or **Because vitamin C**, because they start a clause that needs its own verb. Not **It is vitamin C**, because the sentence would then have two main verbs (**is** … **is found**).

**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