ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Mixed Grammar MCQ Test With Answers + PDF Exercise 005

English Grammar Tests · 20 questions · Online test and questions PDF: https://englishtestsonline.com/grammar-test-5/

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Explanations

1. The children want me to _____ them a story now.
✔ **C) tell**
We say **tell someone a story**. **Say** is not followed by a person and a story (**say something**). **Talk** and **speak** are not used with **a story** in this way.

2. He _____ hard because he answered all the questions in the exam.
✔ **A) must have studied**
Must have + past participle is a logical conclusion about the past. The clue is that he answered all the questions, so we are sure he **must have studied** hard. Not **should have studied**, because that means he didn't study but it was a good idea.

3. His aunt died three months ago. Since then he _____ to Ankara twice.
✔ **B) has gone**
Since then links a past moment to now, so we use the present perfect: **has gone**. Not **went**, because the past simple does not go with **since then**. (**Has been** is also common for completed visits.)

4. She got married _____ an Englishman.
✔ **C) to**
We say **get married to** someone or **be married to** someone. With the verb alone there is no preposition: **She married an Englishman.** Not **with**, a common mistake.

5. They met some people _____ sons were all football players.
✔ **D) whose**
Whose shows possession in a relative clause: the people's sons became **whose sons**. Not **who's**, which means **who is**.

6. They really don’t know _____.
✔ **D) when the football game begins**
In an indirect question, we use normal statement word order (subject + verb): **when the football game begins**. Not **when does the football game begin**, because indirect questions don't use **do/does**.

7. He _____ difficulty on the last test he took.
✔ **A) had**
The last test he took is a finished action in the past, so we use the past simple: **had**.

8. After _____ his coffee, he left the restaurant.
✔ **A) drinking**
After a preposition such as **after**, we use the **-ing** form: **After drinking his coffee**. Not **to drink**, because a preposition is not followed by **to** + verb.

9. She only takes _____ sugar in her tea.
✔ **C) a little**
Sugar is uncountable, so we use **a little** (a small amount). **A few** and **few** go with plural countable nouns, and **a lot** needs **of**: **a lot of sugar**.

10. The teacher’s book, _____ lives of great men and women, has 500 pages.
✔ **B) which contains**
For things we use **which**, and the verb agrees with **book**: **which contains**. Not **who**, which is for people, and not **which is contain**, which is not a correct verb form.

11. They _____ earlier than the others, but they arrived later.
✔ **D) left**
Both actions are finished past events told in order, so we use the past simple: **left** ... **arrived**. Not **leave**, because the clue **arrived** shows that we are talking about the past.

12. You can travel _____.
✔ **B) either by train or by bus**
The pair is **either ... or** (one or the other). **Neither** goes with **nor**, so **either ... nor** and **neither ... or** are wrong.

13. They will leave the house as soon as they _____ lunch.
✔ **A) finish eating**
After time words like **as soon as**, we use the present simple for the future, not **will**. Also, **finish** is followed by the **-ing** form: **finish eating**.

14. _____ all her efforts, she could not please her family.
✔ **A) In spite of**
In spite of is followed by a noun phrase (**all her efforts**). Not **Although**, because it needs a full clause (subject + verb). **However** and **Nevertheless** link two sentences.

15. We _____ helped you even if we had wanted to because we did not know how to do it.
✔ **D) couldn’t have**
Couldn't have + past participle means it was impossible in the past. The clue is **we did not know how to do it**. Not **can't have**, which is a guess about the past (**He can't have seen us**).

16. I would have called him right away if I _____ his telephone number.
✔ **C) had known**
This is the third conditional (an unreal past): **if** + past perfect, **would have** + past participle. So we need **had known**. Not **would know**, because **would** is not used in the **if** clause.

17. _____ coffee after dinner.
✓ A) I'm used to drinking
Be used to + **-ing** means something is normal for you: **I'm used to drinking coffee**. Not **I used to drinking**, because **used to** (a past habit) is followed by the base verb: **I used to drink**.

18. They were speaking so loudly that I couldn't help _____ what they said.
✓ B) overhearing
Can't help + **-ing** means you can't stop yourself doing something: **I couldn't help overhearing**. Another correct pattern is **couldn't help but overhear** (with no **to**), so **but to overhear** is wrong.

19. He seems to be the director. I remember _____ in school.
✓ B) seeing him
Remember + **-ing** is for a memory of something you did earlier: **I remember seeing him in school**. Not **to see him**, because **remember to** do something means not forgetting a task.

20. To travel in the European Community, Dutch people _____ a passport.
✓ B) don't need
Don't need means it isn't necessary. Dutch people can travel in Europe without a passport. Not **mustn't get**, because **mustn't** means it is not allowed.

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