ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Mixed Grammar MCQ Test With Answers + PDF Exercise 059

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Explanations

1. Professor Perkins _____ teach at your school.
✓ **D) used to**
Used to + base verb describes a past habit or state that is no longer true: **He used to teach here** (but not now). Not **is used to**, which means 'be accustomed to' and is followed by a noun or **-ing** form.

2. _____ to drive a bulldozer?
✓ **B) Did you use**
In questions, **used to** becomes **Did you use to** + base verb, without the final **-d**: **Did you use to drive a bulldozer?** There is no present or perfect form of this structure.

3. He _____ to go to college in his own hometown.
✓ **C) used**
Used to + base verb describes a past habit or situation: **He used to go to college in his hometown.** The form is always **used to** in affirmative sentences, never **uses to** or **had used to**.

4. Our suitcases _____ examined before anybody said anything.
✓ **D) had been**
The past perfect passive (**had been** + past participle) shows an action finished before another past action: the suitcases were examined first, then somebody **said** something. Not **have been**, because the sentence is about the past (**said**).

5. Let's drive _____, shall we?
✓ **D) downtown**
Downtown works as an adverb here, so no preposition is needed: **drive downtown**, **go downtown**. Not **to downtown**, because we don't put **to** before this adverb, just as we say **go home**.

6. The theater is located _____.
✓ **A) downtown**
Downtown is an adverb meaning 'in the city centre', so it needs no preposition: **The theater is located downtown.** Not **in downtown**: without a city name after it (e.g. **in downtown Chicago**), this is not standard.

7. The guests are _____.
✓ **D) downstairs**
Downstairs is an adverb of place, so it needs no preposition: **The guests are downstairs.** Not **in upstairs** or **to downstairs**, because **upstairs** and **downstairs** are never used with **in** or **to** here.

8. You can find many stores _____ of town.
✓ **C) in the center**
We say **in the center of** + place, with the preposition **in** and the article **the**: **in the center of town**. Without **in** or **the**, the phrase is incomplete.

9. The fish moved _____ and silently through the water.
✓ **D) quickly**
An adverb is needed to describe how the fish moved, and it must match **silently**: **moved quickly and silently**. Not **rapid**, which is an adjective (the adverb is **rapidly**).

10. _____ countries waged a war against poverty.
✓ **B) Both**
Both can go directly before a plural noun: **Both countries**. **Both of** needs **the** or a possessive (**both of the countries**). **None** cannot go directly before a noun at all.

11. The whale _____ as a fish, but it is actually a mammal.
✓ **B) is regarded**
The whale doesn't regard anything; people regard it, so we need the present simple passive: **is regarded as a fish**. Not **regarded**, because the active form needs an object after it.

12. The Empire State Building is different _____ the Parliament Building in Brasilia.
✓ **B) from**
The standard preposition after **different** is **from**: **X is different from Y**. **Between** is used with two things together (**the difference between X and Y**), not after **different** + one object.

13. The American pyramids are in some ways similar _____ the Egyptian pyramids.
✓ **C) to**
The adjective **similar** is always followed by **to**: **similar to the Egyptian pyramids**. Not **from**, which goes with **different**.

14. He was _____ than I was at playing chess.
✓ **B) better**
The word **than** shows we need a comparative adjective. The comparative of **good** is irregular: **good – better – the best**. Not **best**, which is the superlative and isn't used with **than**.

15. Martha has been watching television, and _____.
✓ **A) Ralph has too**
To agree with a positive sentence, use **too** with the same auxiliary: **Martha has been watching TV, and Ralph has too.** Not **so does Ralph**, because the auxiliary must be **has**, not **does**. **Either** and **neither** are for negative sentences.

16. Jack finished the assignment quickly and _____.
✓ **A) correctly**
Two adverbs joined by **and** describe how Jack finished: **quickly and correctly**. Not **correct**, which is an adjective. **Hardly** means 'almost not', so it doesn't fit the meaning.

17. Frank likes singing and _____.
✔ **D) dancing**
Words joined by **and** should have the same form (parallel structure): **singing and dancing**. Not **to dance**, because it doesn't match **singing**.

18. Harvey’s new story is both short _____ interesting.
✔ **C) and**
Both always pairs with **and**: **both short and interesting**. Other pairs are **either … or** and **neither … nor**, so **but**, **nor** and **or** don't fit.

19. A: Why don’t you call Rita?

B: I _____ call her a few minutes ago, but her phone was busy.
✔ **D) did**
Did + base verb in a positive sentence adds emphasis: **I did call her** means 'I really called her'. The past auxiliary **did** matches **a few minutes ago**.

20. Neither Jake _____ Diana can speak Japanese.
✔ **C) nor**
Neither always pairs with **nor**: **Neither Jake nor Diana can speak Japanese** (both of them can't). Not **or**, which goes with **either**.

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