ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Mixed Grammar MCQ Test With Answers + PDF Exercise 066

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Explanations

1. _____ English people are forever complaining about _____ weather, but in fact, _____ British Isles have a reasonable climate on the whole.
✔ **C) _____ / the / the**
English people in general takes no article, because we are talking about people in general. **The weather** means the weather we all know, and **the British Isles** is a plural group of islands, which always takes **the**. Not **The English people**: here we mean English people in general, so there is no article.

2. We always stay at the Palace Court Hotel because it is _____ only one with _____ facilities for _____ disabled.
✔ **A) the / the / the**
The only one always takes **the**. **The disabled** uses **the** + adjective to mean a whole group of people. **The facilities** refers to the specific facilities this group needs. Not **a**, because **facilities** is plural.

3. _____ Swiss Alps are a good place to go if you like _____ skiing. There is usually plenty of _____ snow during the winter months.
✔ **A) The / _____ / _____**
Plural mountain ranges take **the**: **the Swiss Alps**. Activities in general take no article (**like skiing**), and so do uncountable nouns used in general (**plenty of snow**).

4. Most people in our country prefer tea _____ coffee.
✔ **C) to**
The pattern is **prefer A to B**: **I prefer tea to coffee.** Not **from** or **for**, which are not used after **prefer** in this pattern.

5. I never ask favours _____ anyone unless it is absolutely necessary.
✔ **A) of**
We **ask a favour of someone**: **May I ask a favour of you?** The preposition **of** is the standard choice in this expression.

6. The large house was made _____ two flats.
✔ **B) into**
Make A into B means change A so that it becomes B. The house was changed and became two flats. Not **out of**: **made out of** names the material something is made from.

7. I want to know what _____.
✔ **D) those boys are doing**
This is an indirect question after **I want to know**, so it uses normal statement word order (subject before verb): **what those boys are doing**. Not **what are those boys doing**, because that is the word order of a direct question.

8. You're an intelligent person and you can take care of _____.
✔ **C) yourself**
When the object is the same person as the subject, we use a reflexive pronoun. Here **you** means one person, so the answer is **yourself**. Not **yourselves**, which is plural.

9. Can't we eat _____ somewhere else?
✔ **B) _____**
No preposition is needed before **somewhere**, just as with **here** and **there**: **eat somewhere else**. Not **in** or **at**, because **somewhere** already means 'in or at some place'.

10. She only has _____ free time on the weekends.
✔ **C) a little**
Time is uncountable, so we use **a little**, which means 'some, but not much'. Not **a few** or **many**, which go with plural countable nouns, as in **a few hours**.

11. Wind power is _____ and clean.
✔ **C) both inexpensive**
Both … and joins two qualities: **both inexpensive and clean**. Not **either** or **neither**, because they go with **or** and **nor**, not with **and**.

12. _____ them went to the movies.
✔ **C) Both of**
Before an object pronoun we need **of**: **both of them** or **all of them**. Not **All**, because **all them** is wrong; we say **all of them** or **they all**.

13. _____ paragraphs in Ben's essay are short.
✔ **C) Most of the**
Before a noun with **the** we use **most of the**: **Most of the paragraphs are short.** The other options add **them** or **they** to a sentence that already has a subject, **paragraphs**.

14. A: Has Linda finished her homework yet?

B: Yes, she _____ it a little while ago.
✔ **D) finished**
A little while ago gives a finished time in the past, so we use the past simple: **finished**. Not **has finished**, because the present perfect is not used with **ago**.

15. She's doing her homework first. Then she _____ TV.
✔ **D) will watch**
Then shows something that will happen later, so we use the future: **will watch**. Not **shall**, which is used mainly with **I** and **we**.

16. The boys were playing football when we _____ the park.
✔ **A) left**
The past continuous (**were playing**) describes a longer action in progress. The past simple (**left**) describes the short action that happened during it.

17. She was making dinner when he _____ home.
✔ **A) came**
Was making is a longer action in progress. **Came** is the short past action that happened in the middle of it, so it is in the past simple.

18. Felix _____ just spoken to the landlord when I called.
✔ **B) had**
The past perfect (**had** + past participle) shows an action that happened before another past action. Felix spoke to the landlord before I called: **had just spoken**.

19. She _____ breakfast when I called.
✔ **A) had had**
The past perfect **had had** shows that breakfast was finished before I called. Not **has had**, because the present perfect cannot be used with a past time such as **when I called**.

20. Ralph hadn't _____ carefully when he broke the machine.
✔ **D) been working**
The past perfect continuous (**had been** + **-ing**) describes an activity that continued up to a moment in the past: **hadn't been working carefully**. Not **been very**, because an adverb like **carefully** needs a verb, such as **working**.

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