ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Mixed Grammar MCQ Test With Answers + PDF Exercise 074

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

Explanations

1. _____ he seems today, the old man was once a dangerous criminal.
✓ **B) As peaceful as**
As + adjective + as + subject + verb can show contrast, like **although**: **As peaceful as he seems today** = 'Although he seems very peaceful today'. **Although peaceful he seems** and **No matter peaceful** are not correct English.

2. She _____ taken another course. She can use the computer well.
✓ **D) must have**
Must have + past participle shows a strong guess about the past. The clue is **She can use the computer well**, so we are sure she **must have taken** another course. **Has been taken** would be passive and does not make sense here.

3. When Jack was a child, he _____ to live on a farm with his family.
✓ **C) used**
Used to + verb describes a past habit or situation that is no longer true: **he used to live on a farm**. The clue is **When Jack was a child**. **Likes** and **wishes** are in the wrong tense.

4. _____ speak to Felix?
✓ **A) Would you like to**
Would you like to + verb is a polite way to offer something or ask what someone wants: **Would you like to speak to Felix?** The other options cannot be followed by the base form **speak**.

5. You would like to see a good movie, _____ you?
✓ **A) wouldn't**
In a question tag we repeat the auxiliary verb from the sentence and make it negative. The sentence uses **would**, so the tag is **wouldn't you?**

6. The instructor wants us _____ for the test.
✓ **C) to prepare**
The pattern is **want + object + to + verb**: **wants us to prepare**. Not **study hard**, because **to** is missing.

7. _____ being useful, glass is also ornamental.
✓ **A) Besides**
Besides + -ing means 'in addition to': **Besides being useful, glass is also ornamental.** The word **also** is the clue. **Aside** would need **from** (**aside from being**).

8. Parents should always put medicine away after _____ it. Otherwise, children might take it and harm themselves.
✓ **D) taking**
After a preposition like **after**, we use the **-ing** form: **after taking it**. Not **you took**, because the sentence gives general advice in the present, not a past action.

9. You should always check your tires before _____ your car.
✓ **B) driving**
After **before** used as a preposition, we use the **-ing** form: **before driving your car**. Not **you're driving**, because the present continuous does not fit general advice.

10. She made him _____ the kitchen.
✓ **D) paint**
The pattern is **make + object + base verb** (no **to**): **She made him paint the kitchen.** Not **to paint**, because **make** in the active voice is never followed by **to**.

11. She has a very important report _____.
✓ **B) to prepare**
Have + noun + to-infinitive shows something you need to do: **She has a very important report to prepare** (= she must prepare it). **Typing** and **prepare** cannot follow the noun like this.

12. Would you mind _____ home early?
✓ **B) coming**
Would you mind is followed by the **-ing** form: **Would you mind coming home early?** Not **to come**, because **mind** never takes a to-infinitive.

13. I can't stand _____ in a long line.
✓ **B) waiting**
Can't stand (= hate) is usually followed by the **-ing** form: **I can't stand waiting in a long line. Wait**, **waits** and **waited** are not possible after **stand**.

14. We couldn't help _____ when she fell off the horse.
✓ **B) laughing**
Can't/couldn't help + -ing means you could not stop yourself doing something: **We couldn't help laughing.** Not **to laugh**, because **help** in this meaning takes the **-ing** form.

15. Do you know the beautiful lady _____?
✓ **C) sitting in the car**
Sitting in the car is a short form of **who is sitting in the car**; the **-ing** phrase describes the lady. Not **she is sitting in the car**, because we cannot add a new subject **she** after **the lady**.

16. If you don't _____ smoking, you'll never regain your health.
✓ **C) give up**
Give up means 'stop doing something', often a habit: **give up smoking**. **Give away** means 'give something for free', and **give off** means 'send out' (smoke, heat, a smell).

17. The children _____ play with them.
✓ **B) want me to**
The pattern is **want + object + to + verb**: **The children want me to play with them.** Not **want that I**, because **want** is not followed by a **that**-clause.

18. Send him to the baker's _____ some bread.
✓ **A) to buy**
We use the **to-infinitive** to show purpose (why someone does something): **Send him to the baker's to buy some bread.** Not **for buying**, because **for + -ing** is not used for the purpose of one specific action.

19. I was very happy _____ him that he had won the prize.
✓ **A) to tell**
After adjectives of feeling like **happy**, **glad** or **sad**, we use the **to-infinitive** to give the reason for the feeling: **I was very happy to tell him**. Not **telling**: **happy + -ing** describes an ongoing situation (**I'm happy living here**), not the reason for a feeling about one action.

20. It was a waste of time _____ him to keep quiet. He simply could not stop talking.
✓ **B) asking**
It's a waste of time + -ing is a common pattern: **It was a waste of time asking him to keep quiet.** Not **to asking**, because **to** is not used before the **-ing** form here.

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