ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Mixed Grammar MCQ Test With Answers + PDF Exercise 078

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Explanations

1. Never _____ a museum with as many paintings as this one.
✔ **C) had they visited**
When a sentence starts with a negative word like **Never**, the subject and auxiliary swap places, as in a question: **Never had they visited…** Not **they had visited**, because there is no inversion after **Never**.

2. _____ but he must also avoid any evidence of partiality.
✔ **C) Not only must a judge be unbiased**
Not only … but (also) at the start of a sentence needs inversion: **Not only must a judge be unbiased, but he must also…** The other options do not fit the pattern **not only … but also**.

3. _____ was obvious when she was caught with the stolen diamonds.
✔ **D) That she was involved in the robbery**
A **that**-clause can be the subject of a sentence: **That she was involved in the robbery** was obvious. Without **that** (**She was involved…**) the sentence has two verbs and no link, so it is wrong.

4. The world would be a better place _____ we could abolish wars.
✔ **A) if**
This is a second conditional (an imaginary situation): **would be … if we could… If** introduces the condition. **Unless** (= if not) gives the opposite meaning.

5. _____ sanitary conditions are so primitive, disease may be rampant all throughout the poverty-stricken country.
✔ **C) Because**
Because introduces a reason and is followed by a full clause (subject + verb: **sanitary conditions are**). Not **Due to**, because it must be followed by a noun phrase, not a clause.

6. They told their friends that they _____ a vacation in August and would visit them on their way to Ankara.
✔ **A) would take**
In reported speech, **will** becomes **would**: "We will take a vacation" → they said they **would take** a vacation. It also matches **would visit** later in the sentence. Not **took**, because the vacation was still in the future.

7. Some people think it’s time we all _____ a single international language.
✔ **A) learned**
After **It's time + subject**, we use the past simple to talk about the present or future: **It's time we learned…** Not **should learn** or **learn**, because this fixed pattern needs the past form.

8. It’s no use _____ to learn a language just by studying a dictionary.
✔ **C) trying**
It's no use is always followed by the -ing form: **It's no use trying…** Not **to try**, because this expression doesn't take the infinitive.

9. _____ with a foreign family can be a good way to learn a language.
✔ **B) Living**
The subject of the sentence is an activity, so we use the -ing form (gerund): **Living with a foreign family** can be a good way... **Life** is a noun and doesn't fit with **with a foreign family**.

10. She turned off the tape recorder _____ pushing the stop button.
✔ **A) by**
By + -ing shows how something is done: She turned it off **by pushing** the button. Not **with**, because **with** is used before a tool (a noun), not an -ing action.

11. Low-income families have a hard time _____.
✔ **C) buying enough meat**
Have a hard time is followed by the -ing form: **have a hard time buying** enough meat. Not **to buy**, because this expression doesn't take the infinitive.

12. He said that he _____ the film the day before.
✔ **C) had seen**
In reported speech after **He said**, a past action is usually moved back to the past perfect: "I saw the film yesterday" → he said he **had seen** the film **the day before**. Not **has seen**, because the present perfect doesn't fit after a past reporting verb and a finished past time (**the day before**).

13. After Muhammad Ali _____ an Olympic gold medal, he became a professional boxer.
✔ **B) had won**
The past perfect **had won** shows the earlier of two past actions: first he won the medal, then he became a professional. Not **has won**, because the present perfect cannot be used with a finished past story (**he became**).

14. A: It’s too bad she’s never worked in a real estate office.

B: She _____ worked in one, but it was just a summer job.
✔ **A) has**
B disagrees with A's **she's never worked** by using the auxiliary from the present perfect: **She has worked in one.** Not **did**, because **did** is followed by the base form (**did work**), not by **worked**.

15. A: I'm sorry that Sam hasn't learned to drive yet.

B: He _____ learned, but he doesn't like to drive.
✔ **D) has**
B corrects A's **hasn't learned** with the same tense, the present perfect: **He has learned.** Not **have**, because the subject **he** needs **has**.

16. If we don't hurry, the wedding _____ before our arrival.
✔ **B) will take place**
This is a first conditional: **If + present simple** (**don't hurry**), then **will + verb** for the result: the wedding **will take place**. Not **takes place**, because the result clause needs **will**.

17. In three years' time, I _____ my studies.
✔ **A) will have finished**
The future perfect (**will have + past participle**) shows that an action will be complete before a time in the future: **In three years' time, I will have finished my studies.** Not **have finished**, because the present perfect cannot refer to a future time.

18. They never _____ the packages that they _____.
✔ **C) received / had ordered**
The ordering happened before the (non-)receiving, so we use the past simple for the later action and the past perfect for the earlier one: they never **received** what they **had ordered**. Not **has ordered**, because **they** needs **have**, and the present perfect doesn't fit a past story.

19. The secretary _____ the office after she _____ the letters.
✔ **A) left / had typed**
The typing happened first, so it takes the past perfect (**had typed**). The later action takes the past simple (**left**). Not **had left / had typed**, because using the past perfect for both actions hides which one came first.

20. For the past three days she _____ in a bad mood.
✔ **D) has been**
For the past three days describes a situation from the past up to now, so we use the present perfect: she **has been** in a bad mood. Not **have been**, because the subject **she** needs **has**.

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