ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Mixed Grammar MCQ Test With Answers + PDF Exercise 079

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Explanations

1. One of the most effective ways of getting ahead in life _____.
✔ **B) is to be a trustworthy person**
The subject is **One of the most effective ways**, so the sentence needs a verb: **is**. **is to be a trustworthy person** gives the verb plus an infinitive that says what the way is. The other options have no main verb (**having invested**, **know**) or add a new clause (**you work**).

2. He _____ of Einstein before I gave him a book on relativity.
✔ **B) had not heard**
Use the past perfect (**had not heard**) for an action before another past action. The clue is **before I gave him a book**. Not **did not hear**, because the past perfect shows which action came first.

3. Although he _____ the windows, they are still dirty.
✔ **A) has cleaned**
The present perfect (**has cleaned**) links a past action to the present situation: the windows **are** still dirty now. **had cleaned** needs a past reference point, and **will clean** is future, so it doesn't fit **Although**. **was cleaned** is passive and cannot have the object **the windows**.

4. Have you heard the _____ weather forecast?
✔ **B) three-week**
A hyphenated number + noun used before a noun is an adjective and stays singular: **a three-week weather forecast**. **today's** can't follow **the**, and **two weeks** needs a hyphen and the singular **week**.

5. Carl has a _____ vacation every year.
✔ **A) two-week**
When a number + noun comes before another noun, join them with a hyphen and use the singular: **a two-week vacation**. Not **two weeks**: a compound adjective has no plural -s.

6. Had they gone to the island a day earlier, they _____ the storm.
✔ **C) would have avoided**
Had they gone is an inverted third conditional (= **If they had gone**). The result clause needs **would have** + past participle: **would have avoided**. Not **would avoid**, because the sentence is about the past.

7. They _____ a better project if they had worked harder.
✔ **D) might have had**
This is a third conditional: **if they had worked harder** (past) + **might have** + past participle. So **might have had** is correct. Not **will have**, because **will** doesn't fit an unreal past condition.

8. I would have come, _____ I been invited.
✔ **D) had**
In a third conditional, **if** can be dropped and **had** moved before the subject: **had I been invited** = **if I had been invited**. Not **if**, because **if I been invited** has no auxiliary.

9. _____ he studied more carefully, he could have improved his grade.
✔ **C) Had**
Had he studied is an inverted third conditional (= **If he had studied**). It matches the result clause **could have improved**. Not **Should have**, because it doesn't form a correct inverted condition.

10. _____ you need my help tomorrow, please call me.
✔ **A) Should**
Should at the start of a clause is a formal way to say **if**: **Should you need my help** = **If you need my help**. It is used for future possibilities, so it fits **tomorrow**. Not **Had**, which is for unreal past conditions.

11. Have you been _____ today?
✔ **C) outside**
Outside is an adverb here and needs no preposition: **Have you been outside today?** Not **to outside**: we say **go outside**, not **go to outside**.

12. Many people with spinal cord injuries can, with the help of computer implants, _____.
✔ **C) recover some of their mobility**
After the modal **can** we use the base form of the verb: **can … recover**. The phrase **with the help of computer implants** just separates **can** from its verb. Not **recovering**, because modals are never followed by the -ing form.

13. She sang _____ and was admired by everybody.
✔ **C) beautifully**
An adverb describes how someone does something: **She sang beautifully**. **Beautiful** is an adjective, so **as beautiful as a bird** and **beautiful like a bird** can't describe the verb **sang**.

14. _____ require years of hard work to develop successful software.
✔ **A) It will**
It is used as an empty subject when the real subject is the infinitive later: **It will require years … to develop successful software**. Not **That will**, because **that** points to something already mentioned.

15. _____ possible that scientists will someday release the energy stored in water.
✓ C) It is
We use **It is** + adjective + **that**-clause: **It is possible that scientists will…**. **It** stands for the **that**-clause. Not **That is**, because **that** would need something already mentioned.

16. He ate a huge supper. He _____ very hungry.
✓ C) must have been
Must have been shows a strong conclusion about the past. He ate a huge supper, so we are sure he **was** very hungry. Not **must be**, because the eating happened in the past.

17. I feel a draught. The windows _____ open.
✓ A) must be
Must be shows a strong conclusion about the present. I feel a draught now, so the windows **must be** open now. Not **must have been**, which is about the past.

18. There wasn't any milk this morning. The milkman _____ to leave it.
✓ B) must have forgotten
Must have + past participle shows a strong conclusion about the past: there was no milk, so the milkman **must have forgotten** to leave it. Not **can't have forgotten**, which means we are sure he did not forget.

19. According to some experts, if the rival company had not lowered its prices, our company _____ half of the market.
✓ C) would have conquered
This is a third conditional about an unreal past: **if** + past perfect (**had not lowered**), then **would have** + past participle. So the answer is **would have conquered**. Not **would conquer**, because the result is also in the past.

20. Alice _____ have been told about the problem because she was on vacation and could not be reached.
✓ B) couldn't
Couldn't have + past participle means something was impossible in the past. She was on vacation and **could not be reached**, so it was impossible to tell her. Not **needn't**, which would mean it was unnecessary, not impossible.

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