ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Mixed Grammar MCQ Test With Answers + PDF Exercise 081

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Explanations

1. Neither of the men gave _____ approval.
✔ **B) his**
Neither of means 'not one and not the other', so it takes a singular verb and pronoun. The men are male, so we use the possessive **his**: **Neither of the men gave his approval.** Not **its**, because **its** is for things and animals, not people.

2. Most of the women sent _____ applications to the director of the program.
✔ **A) their**
Most of the women is plural, so we need the plural possessive **their**: **their applications**. Not **her**, because **her** refers to only one woman.

3. Gold _____ to be the most malleable metal of all.
✔ **C) is known**
This is the passive **be known to be**: people know this fact about gold, so gold **is known** to be the most malleable metal. It is a general fact, so we use the present simple passive. **Malleable** means easy to bend or press into a new shape.

4. _____ enjoyed their meals but a lot were cold by the time they eventually received them.
✔ **D) Some guests**
Some guests is plural, which matches **their meals**. The word **but** shows a contrast: some people enjoyed their food, but many meals were cold. Not **Every guest** or **Each of the guests**, because they are singular, and they say that all guests enjoyed their meals, which doesn't fit the contrast with **but**.

5. The cause of the series of disasters _____ not yet known, but an enquiry has been set up to find out what happened.
✔ **B) is**
The subject is **the cause**, which is singular. **of the series of disasters** only describes it, so the verb is singular: **The cause ... is not yet known.** Not **are**: don't let the noun **disasters** confuse you.

6. Each team has received _____ new uniforms.
✔ **D) its**
Each team is singular, so the possessive is **its**: **Each team has received its new uniforms.** Not **it's**, because **it's** means **it is** or **it has**, not possession.

7. It was _____ Dave to quit his job.
✔ **B) stupid of**
We use **It was + adjective + of + person + to-infinitive** to judge someone's action: **It was stupid of Dave to quit his job.** Not **foolish by**: the preposition in this pattern is always **of**.

8. Robert didn't study for the test; _____ he did very well.
✔ **B) nevertheless**
The second part is a surprise compared with the first: he didn't study, but he did well. **Nevertheless** means 'in spite of this'. Not **consequently** or **therefore**, because they show a result, not a contrast.

9. The sheep _____ to be brought down from the hills in bad weather, or some might die.
✔ **D) have**
Sheep has the same form in the singular and plural. Here **or some might die** shows we mean many sheep, so we use the plural **have to**. Not **must**, because **must** is followed by the bare infinitive, never **to**.

10. I'll go to the station and _____ for you.
✔ **A) wait**
and joins two verbs of the same form after **I'll**: **I'll go ... and (I'll) wait**. So we use the bare infinitive **wait**. Not **to wait**, because **will** is never followed by **to**.

11. Their ship was designed to make several trips and _____ equipment.
✔ **B) to carry**
Designed is followed by a to-infinitive: **designed to make**. The two verbs are joined by **and**, so the second one has the same form: **to make several trips and to carry equipment**. Not **carrying**, because it breaks this parallel structure.

12. _____ of measurement has ever equalled the metric system in simplicity.
✔ **C) No other system**
No other system means 'not any other system', so the sentence says the metric system is the simplest of all. The verb **has** is singular and the sentence needs a negative meaning. Not **Another system**, because it would say some system did equal it, which is the opposite meaning.

13. _____ to hear that Charles is doing well at his job.
✔ **B) It is good**
We use **It** as an empty subject before **adjective + to-infinitive**: **It is good to hear that ...** The real subject comes later in the sentence. Not **That is good**, because **that** cannot be used as an empty subject in this pattern.

14. I don't care if we go to the beach or not. _____.
✔ **A) It's up to you**
The speaker doesn't mind either way, so they let the other person choose. **It's up to you** means 'you decide'. The other options are rude or don't match the meaning.

15. She lost her job yesterday. _____.
✓ **D) I feel sorry for her**
Losing your job is bad news, so we show sympathy. **I feel sorry for her** means I feel sad about her problem. The other options don't fit this situation.

16. Susie said, “I’ll wash the dishes.”

She said she _____ the dishes.
✓ **A) would wash**
In reported speech after a past reporting verb (**said**), **will** usually changes to **would**: “I'll wash” → **she said she would wash**. Not **had washed**, because that means the washing was already finished, but Susie was talking about the future. Not **could wash**, because **could** talks about ability and changes the meaning.

17. People respect Dr Play. They _____ him because of his great knowledge.
✓ **A) look up to**
The phrasal verb **look up to** someone means to respect and admire them: **Many students look up to their teacher.** Not **look up**, which means to search for information, e.g. a word in a dictionary.

18. It’s high time _____ measures to protect our environment.
✓ **B) we took**
After **It's (high) time + subject**, we use the past simple to talk about the present: something should happen now and is already late. So we say **It's high time we took measures.** Not **we take**, because this pattern needs the past form.

19. The Food and Drug Administration makes grocers and restaurant owners _____ all milk before selling it.
✓ **C) pasteurize**
The causative **make + object + bare infinitive** means 'force someone to do something': **makes grocers ... pasteurize all milk**. Not **pasteurized**: that form would be used with **have/get something done**, not with **make** + person.

20. She has always wanted other people _____ slowly.
✓ **B) to speak**
The verb **want** follows the pattern **want + object + to-infinitive**: **She wants other people to speak slowly.** Not **that they speak**, because **want** is not followed by a **that**-clause in English.

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