ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Mixed Grammar MCQ Test With Answers + PDF Exercise 085

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Explanations

1. Crocodiles are different from alligators _____ they have pointed snouts.
✔ **C) in that**
In that means 'because' or 'in the way that'. It introduces the reason for a difference: **They are different in that they have pointed snouts.** Not **in which**, because that needs a noun before it to refer back to.

2. How long _____ here by the time she’s sixty-five?
✔ **D) will she have worked**
By the time + a future point needs the future perfect (**will have** + past participle) for an action that continues up to that point. In a question the word order is **will she have worked**.

3. We _____ several possibilities before we made the decision.
✔ **D) had been considering**
The past perfect continuous (**had been** + -ing) shows an action that went on for some time before another past action (**before we made the decision**). Not **had been**, because 'had been several possibilities' makes no sense.

4. The lower the stock market falls, _____.
✔ **B) the higher the price of gold rises**
The pattern **the + comparative ..., the + comparative ...** shows that two things change together: **The lower it falls, the higher it rises.** Both parts must start with **the** + comparative.

5. Rafts _____ the trunks of trees may have been the earliest vehicles.
✔ **B) made from**
Made from is a reduced relative clause (= **which were made from**). The sentence already has a main verb (**may have been**), so you can't add another one like **are made**.

6. For the past ten minutes, I _____ for my friend to come. He hasn’t arrived yet.
✔ **C) have been waiting**
For the past ten minutes and **He hasn't arrived yet** show an action that started in the past and is still going on. This needs the present perfect continuous: **have been waiting**. Not **am waiting**, because the present continuous isn't used with **for** + a period of time.

7. He _____ better as soon as he had eaten dinner last night.
✔ **C) felt**
Last night shows one finished event in the past, so we use the past simple **felt**. The past perfect **had eaten** shows that dinner came first. Not **would feel**: **would** for past habits needs a repeated action, and **last night** is a single event.

8. They took a rest after they _____ the yard.
✔ **A) had cleaned up**
The past perfect **had cleaned up** shows the action that was finished before the other past action (**took a rest**). Not **have cleaned up**, because the present perfect doesn't fit a past-tense sentence.

9. For three days we _____ the living room, and still haven’t finished.
✔ **D) have been painting**
For three days and **still haven't finished** show an activity that started in the past and is still going on. This needs the present perfect continuous: **have been painting**.

10. When she left the building, she had the feeling she _____.
✔ **C) was being watched**
The main verb is in the past (**had the feeling**), and someone was watching her at that moment. So we use the past continuous passive: **was being watched**. Not **is watched**, because the tense must stay in the past.

11. I expect him _____ the job by four o’clock.
✔ **D) to have completed**
Expect is followed by object + **to**-infinitive. **By four o'clock** shows the job will be finished before that time, so we use the perfect infinitive: **to have completed**.

12. I would like _____ to the concert last night.
✔ **C) to have gone**
Would like + perfect infinitive (**to have gone**) expresses a wish about the past that didn't happen. **Last night** is the clue. Not **to go**, because that refers to the present or future.

13. A chameleon is a tree lizard _____ can change colours in order to conceal itself in the vegetation.
✔ **B) that**
That is the subject of the relative clause (**that can change colours**), so no extra subject is needed. Not **that it**, because **it** would repeat the subject.

14. He imagined the man _____ him.
✔ **A) to be following**
Imagine can take object + infinitive. The continuous infinitive **to be following** shows an action in progress: **He imagined the man to be following him.** Not **were following**, because a full verb can't come straight after **the man** here.

15. They were looking for a good _____ car.
✔ **B) used**
Used is an adjective here and means 'second-hand, not new'. Example: **a good used car**.

16. They had their car _____ at Nick’s Garage.
✓ **C) repaired**
Have + object + past participle (the causative) means someone else did the job for you: **They had their car repaired** means the garage repaired it.

17. She was late to work. She _____ a taxi instead of waiting for the bus.
✓ **D) should have taken**
Should have + past participle shows that something was the right thing to do in the past, but she didn't do it: she waited for the bus and was late. Not **must have taken**, because that is a guess that she did take a taxi, which doesn't match her being late. Not **should take**, because that gives advice about now, not the past.

18. A new employee had _____ after Mr Ferguson fired Oscar.
✓ **C) to be hired**
Had to + passive infinitive (**to be hired**) means it was necessary for someone to hire a new employee. The employee doesn't hire anyone, so the passive is needed.

19. Hundreds of workers had _____ to build the pipeline.
✓ **B) to be hired**
Had to be hired is a passive of necessity: someone needed to hire the workers. Not **been hiring**, because the workers didn't do the hiring.

20. No one realized that the document was important. It _____ thrown out.
✓ **D) might have been**
Might have been + past participle is a passive form. It expresses a possibility about the past. No one knew the document was important, so it is possible that it was thrown out. Not **should have been**, because that would mean throwing it out was the right thing to do. Not **would have**, because without **been** the sentence is active and says the document threw something out.

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