ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Mixed Grammar MCQ Test With Answers + PDF Exercise 086

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Explanations

1. _____ such as dogs and cats can teach children lessons in responsibility.
✓ **A) Taking care of pets**
The sentence needs a subject before the verb **can teach**. A gerund phrase can be a subject: **Taking care of pets** can teach children lessons. Not **If they take care of pets**, because then the main clause has no subject.

2. Many of the health problems are found to result from _____ an unbalanced diet.
✓ **B) eating**
After a preposition such as **from**, use the -ing form (gerund): **result from eating**. Not **people eat**, because a full clause cannot follow a preposition directly.

3. Styles _____ in the 1940s have recently reappeared in high-fashion boutiques.
✓ **C) that were popular**
The sentence already has a main verb (**have reappeared**), so the gap needs a relative clause describing **Styles**: **Styles that were popular in the 1940s**. Not **were popular**, because that would give the sentence two main verbs.

4. The idea of a set _____ the most fundamental concept in mathematics.
✓ **D) is**
The subject is **The idea of a set**, and the sentence needs a main verb: **is**. Not **which is**, because that makes a relative clause and leaves the sentence without a main verb.

5. It's easier to talk about a problem _____ to resolve it.
✓ **B) than**
A comparative adjective (**easier**) is followed by **than**: **easier to talk about a problem than to resolve it**.

6. Nancy had imagined life on the campus _____ different.
✓ **D) to be**
The pattern is **imagine something to be** + adjective: **She had imagined life on the campus to be different**. Not **is** or **will be**, because a main verb cannot follow the object directly here.

7. Wine _____ its flavour when it has not been properly sealed.
✓ **B) loses**
The sentence needs a main verb in the present simple for a general fact: **Wine loses its flavour**. Not **is lost**, because the passive cannot take the object **its flavour**.

8. Don't forget _____ your lessons before you get to bed.
✓ **B) to study**
Forget to do means not remembering to do something you should do: **Don't forget to study**. **Forget doing** is about not remembering a past action, so it does not fit here.

9. I promise _____ after movies, no matter how sleepy I feel.
✓ **B) to study**
The verb **promise** is followed by **to** + infinitive: **I promise to study**.

10. Please go on _____ until you know all these words by heart.
✓ **C) studying**
Go on doing means continue the same activity: **go on studying until you know the words**. Not **to study**, because **go on to do** means start something new after finishing something else.

11. Where is the key to the _____ door?
✓ **C) locked**
A past participle can be used as an adjective with a passive meaning: a **locked** door is a door that someone has locked. Not **locking**, because the door does not lock anything itself.

12. Mr Tanner can't walk because he has a _____ leg.
✓ **D) broken**
The past participle **broken** works as an adjective: a **broken leg** is a leg that has been broken. Not **broke**, which is the past simple form.

13. Have you ever seen a _____ fish?
✓ **D) flying**
The -ing form can describe what something does: a **flying fish** is a fish that flies (jumps and glides above the water).

14. I expected _____ last night, but I couldn't find my book.
✓ **C) to study**
The verb **expect** is followed by **to** + infinitive: **I expected to study**.

15. Why did you decide _____ before breakfast instead of after dinner?
✓ **B) to study**
The verb **decide** is followed by **to** + infinitive: **decide to study**. Not **studying**, because **decide** never takes the -ing form.

16. Can you finish _____ before the guests arrive?
✓ **C) studying**
The verb **finish** is followed by the -ing form: **finish studying**. Not **to study**, because **finish** does not take **to** + infinitive.

17. I'd like to exchange this shirt _____ a large one.
✔ **C) for**
We say **exchange something for something else**: **exchange this shirt for a large one**. Not **with**, because **exchange with** is used for people (**exchange ideas with a friend**).

18. The prisoners were forced to work outside _____ the danger from wild animals and snakes.
✔ **A) in spite of**
In spite of + noun shows a contrast: they worked outside although there was danger. Not **because**, which needs **of** before a noun and gives a reason, not a contrast.

19. The train arrived late _____ bad weather.
✔ **A) due to**
Due to + noun gives a reason: **late due to bad weather**. Not **because**, which needs **of** before a noun (**because of bad weather**).

20. His prices are too high; let's bargain _____ him.
✔ **C) with**
We **bargain with** a person to get a lower price: **let's bargain with him**. Not **for**, because **bargain for** is followed by the thing you want (**bargain for a better price**).

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