ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Mixed Grammar MCQ Test With Answers + PDF Exercise 087

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Explanations

1. Don’t you ever feel bored _____ the same kind of music, day after day?
✔ **B) with**
We say **bored with** something: **I'm bored with this film.** None of the other prepositions go with **bored** in this meaning.

2. The princess was dressed _____ green silk.
✔ **A) in**
We use **dressed in** + clothes, a colour or a material: **She was dressed in black.** Not **on**, because **on** is used for the person wearing something (**It looks nice on her**).

3. What is the use _____ to convince a foolish person?
✔ **A) of trying**
The fixed phrase is **What is the use of** + -ing form: **What's the use of worrying?** After a preposition like **of**, we use the -ing form, so **to try** is wrong here.

4. _____ human being had ever travelled alone to the North Pole until 1978.
✔ **A) No**
No + noun means 'not any': **No human being had ever…** = not one person had ever done it. Not **There was no**, because the sentence already has a verb (**had travelled**), so it would need **who**: **There was no human being who…**.

5. If every country _____ more money on education, the world would be a better place to live in.
✔ **B) spent**
This is the second conditional (an unreal situation): **If** + past simple, **would** + verb. The clue is **would be** in the main clause, so we need **spent**. Not **would spend**, because we don't normally use **would** in the if-clause.

6. If nobody _____ taxes, governments would have no money.
✔ **A) paid**
Second conditional: **If** + past simple, **would** + verb. The main clause has **would have**, so the if-clause needs the past simple **paid**. Not **pays**, which is for the first conditional (**will**).

7. If every child _____ his teeth every day, dentists would not be very busy.
✔ **C) brushed**
Second conditional for an imaginary present situation: **If** + past simple (**brushed**), **would** + verb (**would not be**). Not **had brushed**, which is for the third conditional with **would have** + past participle.

8. If I _____ English perfectly, I wouldn’t be studying English now.
✔ **A) spoke**
Second conditional: **If** + past simple, **would** + verb (here **would be studying**). The speaker does not speak English perfectly, so this is unreal: **If I spoke…**. Not **speak**, because that would make it a real possibility.

9. Mr. Bell’s car _____ a taxi last night if he hadn’t been driving too fast.
✔ **D) wouldn’t have hit**
Third conditional for an unreal past situation: **If** + past perfect (**hadn't been driving**), **would have** + past participle. **Last night** shows the past, so we need **wouldn't have hit**. Not **would not hit**, which talks about the present or future.

10. If they _____ to me, they wouldn't have made that mistake.
✔ **D) had listened**
Third conditional: **If** + past perfect, **would have** + past participle. The main clause has **wouldn't have made**, so the if-clause needs **had listened**. Not **listened**, which belongs to the second conditional.

11. An old lady, _____ looks younger than her years, takes care of the library.
✔ **C) who**
In a non-defining relative clause (between commas) we use **who** for people. Here it is the subject of **looks**, so **who**, not **whom**. **That** cannot be used after a comma like this.

12. Chocolate, for _____ I have a great liking, is going up in price.
✔ **C) which**
After a preposition (**for**) we use **which** for things and **whom** for people. Chocolate is a thing, so **for which**. **That** can never follow a preposition.

13. My doctor, from _____ I have few secrets, is a close friend of mine.
✔ **D) whom**
After a preposition (**from**) we use **whom** for people: **from whom**. Not **who**, because it cannot follow a preposition in formal English, and **that** is never used after a preposition.

14. Mr. Black, _____ opinion I value, told me to look for a new job.
✔ **D) whose**
Whose shows possession: **Mr. Black, whose opinion I value** = I value his opinion. **Which** and **that** cannot show possession.

15. Two tables, _____ were beautifully polished, stood in the middle of the room.
✓ C) which
In a non-defining relative clause (between commas) we use **which** for things. Not **that**, because **that** is not used after a comma, and not **who**, which is for people.

16. Mrs. Brown is almost _____ tall _____ her husband.
✓ C) as / as
To compare two equal things, we use **as** + adjective + **as**: **She is as tall as her husband. So … as** is only possible in negative sentences (**not so tall as**).

17. I saw the paintings _____ were in the living room.
✓ A) that
That is a relative pronoun for things in a defining clause: **the paintings that were in the living room**. Not **who**, which is for people.

18. We've looked _____ for the keys we lost.
✓ D) everywhere
Everywhere means 'in every place': **We've looked everywhere for the keys. In all places** and **at all places** are not natural English here, and **over all** is wrong (we say **all over**).

19. Jean has _____ paid a good salary.
✓ A) been
This is the present perfect passive: **has been** + past participle (**paid**). Jean receives the salary; someone else pays it, so the verb must be passive: **Jean has been paid a good salary.** Not **being**, because **has being** is not a correct form.

20. All repairs are _____ without charge.
✓ C) made
This is the present simple passive: **are** + past participle. **Made** is the past participle of **make**: **Repairs are made free. Did** is the past simple, not a participle, so **are did** is wrong.

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