ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Grammar, Word Order, Punctuation Diagnostic Test With Answers 5

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1	**A**	2	**B**	3	**B**	4	**A**	5	**A**

Explanations

1. Who came here first this morning?
✓ A) Correct
When **who** is the subject of the question, we use normal statement word order and no auxiliary **did**: **Who came here first?** The answer is a subject, e.g. **Tom came first. Who did come here first?** would only be used for strong emphasis or contrast.

2. "Why did he call you this morning?" her husband asked.
She said,

A -- "I won't tell you why did he call me."

B -- "I won't tell you why he called me." Which one is correct?
✓ B)
In an indirect (embedded) question, the word order is the same as in a statement, with no **did**: **I won't tell you why he called me.** Not A: **why did he call me** keeps direct-question word order, which is wrong after **I won't tell you**.

3. Do you really believe him -- now that you know he can't tell his arse from his elbow -- is more suitable for the job than I am?
✓ B) Incorrect
The pronoun is the subject of the clause **(that) he ... is more suitable for the job**, so it must be the subject form **he**, not the object form **him**. The long interruption between dashes hides this, but the correct sentence is: **Do you really believe (that) he -- now that you know he can't tell his arse from his elbow -- is more suitable for the job than I am?** (**can't tell his arse from his elbow** is a rude informal idiom meaning he is completely incompetent.) **Believe him** is only correct when **him** is the object of **believe**, e.g. **Do you believe him?**

4. "***What! Me accept*** a present from him! I never even speak to him!"
✓ A) Correct
This is an exclamatory construction used to express shock or indignation at an idea: object pronoun + bare infinitive, e.g. **Me accept a present from him! Him tell a lie? Never!** It is informal, verbless in the usual sense, and grammatically accepted in spoken English. The object form **me** (not **I**) and the base form **accept** (not **accepts** or **to accept**) are normal here.

5. **A** -- Who told you my name? Hey! You hear me? I'm asking you who told you my name.

B -- Who did tell you my name? Hey! Do you hear me? I'm asking you who told you my name.

Which one is correct?
✓ A)
When **who** is the subject, the question uses statement word order without **did**: **Who told you my name? Who did tell you my name?** is only used for special emphasis, so B is not the neutral correct form. **You hear me?** is acceptable informal spoken English (short for **Do you hear me?**). The final sentence, **I'm asking you who told you my name.**, is a statement containing an indirect question, so it ends with a full stop.

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