ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Inside Out Full Placement Test: Free Practice Version with Answers

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Explanations

1. ___ name is Anna. She's my best friend.
✔ **B) Her**
We use her before a noun to show something belongs to a woman or girl: Her name is Anna.

2. I ___ from Spain.
✔ **C) am**
With I, the verb be is am: I am (I'm) from Spain.

3. How old ___ your brother?
✔ **D) is**
In English we use be for age: How old is your brother? He is ten.

4. I've got two ___, Tom and Sam.
✔ **C) brothers**
After two we need a plural noun. Most nouns add -s: one brother, two brothers.

5. He ___ play the guitar, but he can sing.
✔ **A) can't**
The negative of can is can't (cannot), and it is followed by the verb without to: He can't play the guitar, but he can sing.

6. We don't go to school ___ Sundays.
✔ **C) on**
We use on with days of the week: on Sunday, on Sundays.

7. I'm hungry. Can I have ___ sandwich, please?
✔ **B) a**
Sandwich starts with a consonant sound, so we use a: a sandwich. We use an before a vowel sound: an apple.

8. My sister ___ to work by bus.
✔ **B) usually goes**
Words like usually go before the main verb, and we add -es after she: She usually goes to work by bus.

9. It's hot and sunny today. Wear a ___ on your head.
✔ **A) hat**
A hat goes on your head and keeps the sun off. Gloves go on your hands and boots go on your feet.

10. ___ do you live? In a small town near the sea.
✔ **B) Where**
We ask about a place with where: Where do you live?

11. Tuesday comes after ___.
✔ **C) Monday**
The days of the week are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Tuesday comes after Monday.

12. A: "Nice to meet you." B: "___"
✔ **C) Nice to meet you too.**
When someone says Nice to meet you, we answer Nice to meet you too. I'm fine, thanks answers How are you?

13. When I called her, she didn't answer because she ___ to music with her headphones on.
✔ **D) was listening**
The music was already playing when I called, so we use the past continuous for the action in progress: She was listening to music.

14. Notice in a shop window: "Closed for lunch 1–2 p.m. Open again at 2." What does the notice mean?
✔ **A) The shop is closed for one hour in the middle of the day.**
The shop closes at 1 p.m. for lunch and opens again at 2 p.m., so it is closed for one hour.

15. We ___ go to the beach tomorrow. It depends on the weather.
✔ **D) might**
Might shows that something is possible but not certain: We might go to the beach. It depends on the weather.

16. The exam was ___ difficult that nobody finished it.
✔ **A) so**
We use so + adjective + that to show a result: The exam was so difficult that nobody finished it. Such is used before a noun: such a difficult exam.

17. How ___ does the train take to London?
✔ **D) long**
We ask about time with How long: How long does the train take? It takes two hours.

18. Text message: "Hi Sam, I'm stuck in traffic. Start the meeting without me. I'll be there by 10. Jo" What does Jo want Sam to do?
✔ **C) Begin the meeting before Jo arrives.**
Jo writes Start the meeting without me, so Sam should begin before Jo gets there.

19. I need ___ some food for the party.
✔ **C) to buy**
Need is followed by to + verb: I need to buy some food.

20. I ___ my keys yesterday and I still can't find them.
✔ **B) lost**
If you lose something, you cannot find it. Lose is irregular: lose, lost.

21. There's ___ milk in the fridge. We need to buy some.
✔ **D) no**
There's no milk means there isn't any milk. We use no before a noun; none is used without a noun.

22. This is ___ beach in the whole country.
✔ **D) the most beautiful**
For the superlative of a long adjective, we use the most: the most beautiful beach in the country.

23. Email: "Dear Mr Lee, Thank you for your order. Your desk will arrive on Thursday between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. Someone must be at home to sign for it." What must Mr Lee do?
✔ **C) Make sure someone is at home on Thursday morning.**
The email says the desk arrives on Thursday between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. and someone must be at home to sign for it.

24. A: "Shall we go for a walk?" B: "___"
✔ **A) That's a good idea.**
To accept a suggestion, we can say That's a good idea. We say I agree, not I'm agree, and Let's go, not Let's to go.

25. If it ___ this afternoon, the match will be cancelled.
✔ **C) rains**
In the first conditional, we use if + present simple + will: If it rains, the match will be cancelled. We don't use will after if here.

26. Paper ___ from wood.
✔ **B) is spoken**
People make paper, so paper is made from wood. We use the passive (be + past participle) when the action is more important than who does it.

27. I'm not very good ___ remembering names.
✔ **A) at**
We say good at something: She's good at maths. I'm not good at remembering names.

28. Notice at a swimming pool: "Children under 8 must be with an adult at all times." Which sentence is true?
✔ **C) A six-year-old can swim only if an adult is with them.**
Young children may use the pool, but an adult must be with them all the time.

29. She asked me how old ___.
✔ **A) I was**
In a reported question, the word order is like a normal sentence (subject + verb), and the tense usually moves back: She asked me how old I was.

30. He's been working here ___ last summer.
✔ **D) since**
We use since with a starting point (since last summer) and for with a length of time (for six months).

31. I'm going to ___ for a job at the new hotel.
✔ **A) apply**
We apply for a job when we send a letter or form to ask for it: apply for a job.

32. You'd better ___ now, or you'll miss the bus.
✔ **A) leave**
Had better ('d better) is followed by the verb without to: You'd better leave now.

33. Message: "Tom, the dentist phoned. Your appointment on Friday has been moved to Monday at the same time. Call them if that's a problem. Mum" What has changed?
✔ **C) The day of Tom's appointment**
The appointment moves from Friday to Monday at the same time, so only the day has changed.

34. The book ___ I borrowed from you is really good.
✔ **B) that**
We use that (or which) for things in a relative clause: the book that I borrowed. Who is for people, and what cannot follow a noun like this.

35. When I got home, I found that someone ___ the window.
✔ **B) had broken**
For an action that happened before another past action, we use the past perfect: Someone had broken the window before I got home.

36. A: "Could you help me carry these boxes?" B: "___"
✔ **D) Sure, no problem.**
Could you...? is a request, so we answer Sure or Of course. Yes, I could sounds like we are only talking about ability.

37. If we had left home earlier, we ___ the start of yesterday's match.
✔ **C) wouldn't have missed**
This is about an imaginary past, so we use if + past perfect + would have + past participle: we wouldn't have missed the start.

38. Jane isn't here yet, and she's never late. She ___ have got stuck in traffic.
✔ **C) must**
Must have + past participle shows we are almost sure about something in the past. Ought needs to (ought to have).

39. Notice in an office kitchen: "Please do not leave dirty cups in the sink. The dishwasher is there for a reason." What is the writer asking people to do?
✔ **B) Put their dirty cups in the dishwasher.**
The writer says the dishwasher is there for a reason, meaning people should use it instead of leaving cups in the sink.

40. The house ___ when we arrived, so we couldn't go in.
✔ **C) was being painted**
Someone was painting the house at that time, so we use the past continuous passive: was being painted.

41. You ___ have brought a present, but it's very kind of you.
✔ **C) needn't**
Needn't have + past participle means someone did something that was not necessary: You brought a present, but it wasn't necessary.

42. The fire alarm ___ in the middle of the night and woke everyone up.
✔ **B) went off**
When an alarm goes off, it suddenly starts ringing. Go out is for a light or fire that stops burning.

43. ___ how difficult the exam was, she did very well.
✔ **B) Considering**
Considering means when you think about: Considering how difficult it was, she did well. Despite and although don't fit before how.

44. Email: "Hi all, the training session planned for Wednesday has been cancelled due to illness. We'll let you know the new date as soon as possible. Apologies for any inconvenience. Karen" Which sentence is true?
✔ **D) A new date has not been decided yet.**
Karen says she will tell everyone the new date as soon as possible, so it has not been decided. The reason was illness.

45. No one was hurt in the accident, ___?
✔ **A) were they**
No one is negative in meaning, so the question tag is positive. We use they to refer back to no one: were they?

46. It's not worth ___ the car. It's going to rain later.
✔ **A) washing**
It's not worth is followed by -ing: It's not worth washing the car.

47. Make sure you read the ___ print before you sign the contract.
✔ **D) small**
The small print is the part of a contract in small letters with important details that people often miss.

48. The older he gets, ___ he becomes.
✔ **A) the more patient**
We use the + comparative, the + comparative to show that two things change together: The older he gets, the more patient he becomes.

49. Rarely ___ such a beautiful sunset.
✔ **A) have I seen**
After rarely at the start of a sentence, the auxiliary comes before the subject: Rarely have I seen...

50. ___ you to win the competition, what would you do with the prize money?
✔ **C) Were**
Were + subject + to + verb is a formal way to talk about an imaginary future: Were you to win... means If you won...

51. Paragraph: "Although the new library has been widely praised for its design, several residents have complained that it is difficult to find the entrance." What does the writer say?
✔ **B) People admire the design, but the entrance is hard to find.**
Although links two ideas: people praise the design, but some residents find it hard to find the entrance.

52. What surprised me most ___ how friendly everyone was.
✔ **B) was**
In a sentence starting with What..., the what-clause is the subject, so the verb is singular: What surprised me most was how friendly everyone was.

53. She's ___ to be one of the best surgeons in the country.
✔ **C) said**
Be said to + verb means people say this: She is said to be one of the best surgeons.

54. It isn't easy to ___ a balance between work and family life.
✔ **B) strike**
Strike a balance means find a good middle point between two things: strike a balance between work and family.

55. Notice in a gallery: "Visitors are reminded that photography is permitted, provided that no flash is used." What does the notice mean?
✔ **D) You may take photos, but not with a flash.**
Provided that means only if. Photos are allowed only if you don't use a flash.

56. But for the doctor's quick action, the patient ___.
✔ **C) would have died**
But for means if it had not been for. It talks about an imaginary past, so we use would have + past participle.

57. His story didn't really ___ water; nobody believed him.
✔ **D) hold**
If an explanation or story doesn't hold water, it is not believable or logical.

58. She suddenly left the company, ___ surprised everyone.
✔ **B) which**
We use which to refer back to a whole idea in the sentence before: She left, which surprised everyone. That can't be used after a comma like this.

59. Email: "While I appreciate your offer, I'm afraid the timing simply doesn't work for us at the moment. Perhaps we could revisit this in the new year." What is the writer doing?
✔ **D) Politely turning down the offer for now.**
I'm afraid the timing doesn't work is a polite refusal, and revisit this in the new year means talk about it again later.

60. Her comments ___ a heated debate among the students.
✔ **A) sparked**
Spark a debate means cause it to start suddenly. We don't say lit or burned a debate.