ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Inside Out Quick Placement Test

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Explanations

1. Section 1

Choose the best word or phrase to fill each blank.

Roberta _____ from the United States.
✔ **B) is**
Roberta is one person (**she**), so we use **is**: **She is from the United States.**

2. What's _____ name?
✔ **B) his**
Before a noun we use **his** to show that something belongs to a man: **What's his name?** Not **him** or **he**, because these are not used before a noun.

3. My friend _____ in London.
✔ **C) lives**
My friend is one person (**he/she**), so the verb in the present simple takes **-s**: **lives**.

4. Where _____?
✔ **D) does Tom work**
Present simple questions use **does** + subject + verb: **Where does Tom work?**

5. I _____ coffee.
✔ **D) don't like**
In the present simple, the negative is **don't** + verb: **I don't like coffee.**

6. '_____ to Australia, Ginny?' 'Yes, two years ago.'
✔ **C) Have you ever been**
To ask about experiences in your life up to now, use the present perfect with **ever**: **Have you ever been to Australia?** The answer can then give the exact time in the past simple (**two years ago**). Not **Do you ever go**, which asks about a habit.

7. Tokyo is _____ city I've ever lived in.
✔ **C) the biggest**
The superlative of a short adjective is **the** + adjective + **-est**: **big → the biggest**. The phrase **I've ever lived in** shows we compare it with all cities.

8. A vegetarian is someone _____ doesn't eat meat.
✔ **A) who**
We use **who** for people in a relative clause: **someone who doesn't eat meat**. Not **which**, because it is used for things.

9. _____ these days.
✔ **B) I never buy a newspaper**
Frequency words like **never** go before the main verb: **I never buy a newspaper.**

10. I _____ watch TV tonight.
✔ **D) am going to**
For plans, use **am/is/are going to** + verb: **I am going to watch TV tonight.** Not **going to** alone, because the verb **am** is needed.

11. I wish I _____ more money!
✔ **B) had**
After **I wish** for a present situation we want to be different, use the past simple: **I wish I had more money** (but I don't). Not **would have**, which is not used after **I wish I** for present states.

12. _____ be famous one day?
✔ **B) Would you like to**
Would you like to + verb asks about wishes or wants: **Would you like to be famous?** Not **Do you like to**, which asks about things you enjoy regularly.

13. Section 2

Choose the best word or phrase to fill each blank.

It's my birthday _____ Friday.
✔ **A) on**
We use **on** with days: **on Friday**, **on Monday**.

14. I _____ eighteen years old.
✔ **A) am**
In English we use **be** for age: **I am eighteen years old.** Not **have**, which some languages use for age.

15. I _____ a headache.
✔ **C) have**
We use **have** with pains and illnesses: **I have a headache**. Not **am**, because we don't say **I am a headache**.

16. Do you _____ a uniform at your school?
✔ **B) wear**
We **wear** clothes, including a **uniform**: **We wear a uniform at school.**

17. -- 'What time is it?'

-- 'I have no _____.'
✔ **A) idea**
I have no idea means **I don't know**. It is a common answer when you can't give information.

18. The meal was very expensive. Look at the _____!
✔ **D) bill**
In a restaurant, the paper that shows how much you must pay for a meal is the **bill** (American English: **check**). Not **recipe**, which tells you how to cook something.

19. How many _____ of trousers have you got?
✔ **B) pairs**
Trousers have two legs, so we count them with **pair**: **a pair of trousers**, **two pairs of trousers**.

20. Joel came back from his holiday in Brazil looking really _____.
✔ **A) tanned**
Tanned means having darker skin from the sun: **She came back from the beach looking tanned.** The other words do not collocate with skin in this way.

21. Section 3

Choose the best word or phrase to fill each blank.

Harry can _____ English.
✔ **C) speak**
After **can** we use the verb without **to** and without **-s**: **Harry can speak English.**

22. I'm not interested _____ sports.
✔ **C) in**
The adjective **interested** is followed by **in**: **I'm interested in music.**

23. She likes _____ expensive clothes.
✔ **A) wearing**
After **like** we use the **-ing** form (or **to** + verb): **She likes wearing expensive clothes.** Not **wear**, because **like** needs **-ing** or **to**.

24. Harry _____ his father's car when the accident happened.
✔ **A) was driving**
The past continuous (**was driving**) describes an action in progress when a shorter action (**the accident happened**) interrupted it. Not **drove**, which would suggest he started driving after the accident.

25. I was wondering _____ tell me when the next plane from Chicago arrives?
✔ **C) if you could**
I was wondering if you could... is a polite indirect request. In indirect questions we use normal word order: **if you could tell me**, not **if could you**.

26. If I _____ him, I would have spoken to him, wouldn't I?
✔ **B) had seen**
This is the third conditional, about an imaginary past: **If** + past perfect, **would have** + past participle. **If I had seen him, I would have spoken to him.** Not **saw**, which is used in the second conditional.

27. I like your hair. Where _____?
✔ **D) do you have it cut**
Have something done means someone else does it for you: **have + object + past participle**. **Where do you have it cut?** asks which hairdresser you use. Not **have you cut it**, which means you cut it yourself.

28. I think Joey must _____ late tonight. His office light is still on.
✔ **C) be working**
Must be + -ing is a logical deduction about something happening now. The clue **His office light is still on** shows he is working at this moment. Not **must have worked**, which is a deduction about a finished past action.

29. John tells me Jack's going out with Helen, _____ I find hard to believe.
✔ **A) which**
After a comma, **which** can refer back to a whole idea (that Jack is going out with Helen). Not **that**, which cannot be used after a comma in a non-defining clause.

30. What _____ this weekend, Lance?
✔ **B) are you doing**
We use the present continuous (**are you doing**) to ask about plans and arrangements for the future: **What are you doing this weekend?** Not **do you do**, because the present simple asks about habits, not plans for this weekend.

31. The weather has been awful. We've had very _____ sunshine this summer.
✔ **A) little**
Sunshine is uncountable, so we use **little**, not **few**. **Very little** means almost none, which matches **The weather has been awful**. Not **a little**, which has a positive meaning (some).

32. Did you hear what happened to Kate? She _____.
✔ **C) has been arrested**
The present perfect passive (**has been arrested**) gives recent news with a result now. It is passive because the police arrested her. Not **arrested**, which would mean she arrested someone.

33. Section 4

Choose the best word or phrase to fill each blank.

I usually _____ up at about 7.30.
✔ **D) get**
Get up means to leave your bed in the morning: **I get up at 7.30.**

34. I _____ football every week.
✔ **A) play**
We use **play** with ball games: **play football**, **play tennis**.

35. My sister _____ the cooking in our house.
✔ **A) does**
We say **do the cooking**, **do the shopping**, **do the washing**. Not **makes**, which does not go with **the cooking**.

36. Don't forget to _____ the light when you leave the room.
✓ **C) turn off**
Turn off means to stop a machine or light working: **turn off the light**. **Turn up** means make louder or stronger.

37. She was in _____ when she heard the tragic news.
✓ **B) tears**
In tears is a fixed phrase meaning crying: **She was in tears when she heard the news.** Not **crying**, because we say **She was crying**, without **in**.

38. He _____ that he hadn't stolen the computer, but no one believed him.
✓ **C) insisted**
Insist that… means to say something firmly, especially when others don't believe you, which matches **no one believed him**. Not **reassured** or **informed**, which need a person as the object (**reassured them that…**).

39. Could you _____ me that book for a couple of days, please?
✓ **A) lend**
Lend means to give something to someone for a short time: **Could you lend me your book?** Not **borrow**, which means to take something from someone: **Can I borrow your book?**

40. Greg is _____ a lot of time at Yvonne's house these days!
✓ **B) spending**
We **spend time** somewhere: **He spends a lot of time at her house.** Not **taking**, because **take time** means an activity needs time (**It takes time to learn**).

41. Section 5

Choose the best word or phrase to fill each blank.

Who _____ in that house?
✓ **B) lives**
When **who** is the subject of the question, we don't use **does**: **Who lives in that house?** Not **does live**, which is only used for emphasis.

42. I'll call you when I _____ home.
✓ **A) get**
After time words like **when**, **before** and **as soon as**, we use the present simple for the future: **when I get home**. Not **'ll get**, because **will** is not used after **when** in this kind of clause.

43. If you _____ me, what would you do?
✓ **C) were**
In the second conditional, we use **were** for all persons in formal and standard English, especially in **If I were you** / **If you were me**. Not **was**, which is never correct with **you**.

44. I don't know where _____ last night.
✓ **D) he went**
In indirect questions (after **I don't know**, **Can you tell me**), we use normal word order without **did**: **where he went**. Not **did he go**, which is direct question order.

45. John and Betty are coming to visit us tomorrow but I wish _____.
✓ **D) they weren't**
After **I wish**, we use a past form for a present or arranged situation we want to be different. The full idea is **I wish they weren't (coming)**, matching **are coming**. Not **they won't**, because **will** is not used after **wish** in this way.

46. I'm so hungry! If only Bill _____ all the food in the fridge!
✓ **C) hadn't eaten**
If only + past perfect expresses regret about the past: Bill already ate the food, so **If only Bill hadn't eaten all the food!** Not **didn't eat**, which refers to the present.

47. I regret _____ harder in school.
✓ **A) not studying**
Regret + **-ing** is used for being sorry about something in the past: **I regret not studying harder.** Not **not to study**, because **regret to** is used for announcing bad news (**We regret to inform you…**).

48. Surely Sue _____ you if she was unhappy with your work.
✓ **B) would have told**
Would have told describes what Sue would have done in the past in an imaginary situation. **Surely** shows the speaker is sure she didn't tell you, so she probably isn't unhappy. Not **must have told**, which says she did tell you.

49. Our neighbours aren't very polite, and _____ particularly quiet!
✓ **C) nor are they**
To add another negative idea, we use **nor/neither** + auxiliary + subject (inverted order): **and nor are they quiet**. Not **neither they aren't**, because **neither/nor** already makes it negative and needs inversion.

50. We had expected that they _____ fluent English, but in fact they didn't.
✓ **B) would speak**
Would + verb is the future in the past: it shows what we expected at an earlier time. **We had expected that they would speak fluent English.** Not **spoke**, which only reports a past fact and doesn't show expectation.

51. I'd rather I _____ next weekend, but I do!
✓ **B) didn't have to work**
I'd rather + subject + past simple talks about a present or future situation we would prefer to be different: **I'd rather I didn't have to work**. The clue **but I do** matches **have to**. Not **don't have to work**, because a past form is needed after **I'd rather I**.

52. Harriet is so knowledgeable. She can talk about _____ subject that comes up.
✓ **A) whatever**
Whatever + noun means **any … at all**: **whatever subject that comes up** = any subject. **Whenever** is for time, **wherever** for place and **whoever** for people.

53. Section 6

Choose the best word or phrase to fill each blank.

I always _____ milk in my coffee.
✔ **A) have**
We say **have milk in coffee** or **take milk in coffee**: **I always have milk in my coffee.** Not **drink**, because you drink the coffee, not the milk in it.

54. I _____ TV every evening.
✔ **A) watch**
We **watch TV**. **Watch** means to look at something that moves or changes for some time.

55. Can you give me a _____ with my bag?
✔ **C) hand**
Give someone a hand means to help them: **Can you give me a hand with my bag?** = Can you help me carry it?

56. Before you enter the triathlon, please bear in _____ that you're not as young as you used to be!
✔ **C) mind**
Bear in mind is a fixed phrase meaning **remember** or **consider**: **Bear in mind that the shop closes at six.**

57. The breath test showed he had consumed more than three times the legal limit of alcohol, so the police arrested him for _____.
✔ **D) drunk driving**
Drunk driving (British English also **drink-driving**) means driving after drinking too much alcohol. The clue is **breath test** and **legal limit of alcohol**. **Speeding** is driving too fast, **trespassing** is entering private land and **mugging** is robbing someone in the street.

58. The meeting was _____ and not very interesting.
✔ **B) time-consuming**
Time-consuming means taking a lot of time: **Writing reports is very time-consuming.** The meeting was long and boring. **Time-spending** and **time-using** are not English words.

59. After the movie was released, the main _____ point was its excessive use of violence.
✔ **D) talking**
A **talking point** is a subject that many people discuss, often in the media: **The ending of the film became a major talking point.** The other words do not form this fixed compound with **point**.

60. There have been several big _____ against the use of GM foods recently.
✔ **A) campaigns**
A **campaign against** something is an organised effort to stop it: **a campaign against smoking**. Not **boycotts**, which are refusals to buy something and usually go with **of** (**a boycott of GM foods**), not **against the use of**.

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