ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Intermediate Grammar MCQ Test With Answers + PDF Exercise 01

Intermediate English Grammar Tests · 14 questions · Online test and questions PDF:
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Explanations

1. **(Please note: The following questions are part of a cloze test. They are interrelated, meaning that the information provided in each question is connected to the others.)**

Last June, my brother _____ a car.
✓ **A) wanted to buy**
We use **want** + **to**-infinitive for a wish or plan: **wanted to buy**. **Want** is not followed by an -ing form. **Liked to buy** or **liked buying** means he enjoyed buying cars, which doesn't fit the story.

2. He had had an old scooter before, but it _____ several times during the spring.
✓ **C) had broken down**
The breakdowns happened before last June, so we use the past perfect: **had broken down**. **Break down** means 'stop working' (for machines). **Break up** means 'end a relationship' or 'break into pieces'.

3. "What you want is a second-hand Mini," I suggested. "If you give me the money," he said, "_____ one tomorrow."
✓ **D) I'll get**
This is a first conditional (**If** + present simple, **will** + verb). He is making a promise about the future, so we use **I'll get**. Not **I'd get**, because **would** goes with **If you gave me…**, not **If you give me…**. **I got** is past and **I get** is present, so neither fits **tomorrow**.

4. "I can't give you the money," I replied, "but what about Aunt Myra? She must have enough. We _____ her since Christmas but she always hints that we _____ go and see her more often."
✓ **B) haven't seen**
Since Christmas shows a period from the past until now, so we use the present perfect: **haven't seen**. Not **didn't see**, because the past simple can't be used with **since**.

5. We _____ her since Christmas but she always hints that we _____ go and see her more often."
✓ **A) should**
Aunt Myra hints that it is a good idea for us to visit more, so we use **should** for advice. **Shall**, **would** and **will** don't give this meaning of advice.

6. We told our parents where we were going. They weren't very happy about it and asked us not to go. So, _____.
✓ **D) we didn't**
The short answer repeats the past auxiliary: **So, we didn't** (= we didn't go). The story is in the past, so not **we haven't**. We don't add **that** in this short reply.

7. But later that same day, something strange _____.
✓ **A) occurred**
Occur means 'happen': **something strange occurred**. The correct phrase is **take place**, not **take the place**, and **passed** or **was there** don't mean 'happened'.

8. A doctor _____ us that Aunt Myra _____ into hospital for an operation.
✓ **B) rang to tell**
We use the **to**-infinitive to show purpose: he **rang to tell** us. The past simple of **ring** is **rang**; **rung** is the past participle. **For** + -ing is not used for a person's purpose.

9. A doctor _____ us that Aunt Myra _____ into hospital for an operation.
✓ **A) had gone**
She went into hospital before the doctor rang, so we use the past perfect: **had gone**. Not **had been**, because that suggests she went and came back, but she is still in hospital. **Had went** is wrong; the past participle is **gone**.

10. "_____ go and see her at the same time," said my mother.
✓ **B) We can't all**
We can't all means it is not possible for everyone to go together, so two of them go today. **All** comes after the auxiliary verb: **We can't all go**, not **All we can't**. **May not** usually expresses possibility, which doesn't fit here.

11. "You two go today, but don't mention the money." When we _____, Aunt Myra _____.
✓ **C) got there**
Get there means 'arrive', and the story is in the past simple: **When we got there**. We say **came there** or **got there**, never **came to there**.

12. When we _____, Aunt Myra _____.
✓ **D) seemed quite happy**
Seem is a state verb, so it is not used in the continuous form. It is followed by an adjective, not an adverb: **seemed quite happy**. Not **happily**.

13. "I'm not seriously ill," she said, "but the doctor insists that _____ to drive my car.
✓ **B) I'm getting too old**
We use **too** + adjective + **to**-infinitive to say something is not possible: **I'm getting too old to drive**. **So old** would need **that**: **so old that I can't drive**. **Getting older** is a change happening now, so we use the present continuous.

14. You can have it if you promise _____ me to the seaside now and again." We agreed, and now we quite enjoy our monthly trips to the coast with Aunt Myra.
✓ C) to take
Promise is followed by the **to**-infinitive: **promise to take**. We use **take** for moving someone away from where the speaker is, to the seaside. Not **bring**, which means moving towards the speaker.

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