ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Intermediate Grammar MCQ Test With Answers + PDF Exercise 15

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Explanations

1. If you _____ help you, you only have to ask me.
✔ **A) want me to**
The verb **want** is followed by an object and **to** + infinitive: **want me to help**. English does not use **want that I…**. Not **are wanting**, because **want** is a state verb and is not normally used in the continuous form.

2. "I'm going to the theatre tonight."

"So _____."
✔ **C) am I**
To agree with a positive statement, we use **So** + auxiliary + subject, with the same auxiliary as the first sentence. **I'm going** uses **am**, so the reply is **So am I**. Not **So will I**, because the first sentence does not use **will**.

3. How _____ is it from here to New York?
✔ **C) far**
We use **How far** to ask about distance: **How far is it from here to New York?** Not **How long**, because that asks about time or length, not distance between two places.

4. I wish I _____ what to do.
✔ **A) knew**
To talk about a present situation we would like to be different, we use **wish** + past simple: **I wish I knew** (= I don't know now). Not **would know**, because **know** is a state verb and we don't use **wish … would** with our own state.

5. He likes playing _____.
✔ **B) football**
With sports and games, we use **play** + the name of the sport with no article: **play football**, **play tennis**. We don't say **the football** or **play at football** in this meaning.

6. My brother, _____ lives in Iceland, is coming to visit us.
✔ **D) who**
This is a non-defining relative clause (between commas) about a person, so we use **who**. **Who** is the subject of **lives**: **My brother, who lives in Iceland, …**. Not **that**, because it cannot be used in non-defining clauses. Not **which**, because it is for things. Not **whom**, because it is for objects, not subjects.

7. He's already about _____ his father.
✔ **C) as tall as**
To say two things are equal, we use **as** + adjective + **as**: **He's as tall as his father**. **Than** is only used with comparatives like **taller than**.

8. _____ him go out if he wants to.
✔ **C) Let**
Let is followed by an object and the infinitive without **to**: **Let him go out**. **Allow** and **permit** need **to**: **Allow him to go out**.

9. I didn't hear what he was _____.
✔ **B) saying**
We use **say** for the words someone speaks: **what he was saying**. Not **telling**, because **tell** needs a person as object (**telling me**); **talking** and **speaking** need **about** to go with **what**.

10. I _____ watching this programme because it is very interesting.
✔ **D) enjoy**
Enjoy is followed by the **-ing** form: **I enjoy watching**. **Amuse**, **please** and **delight** are about making someone else happy, so they need a person as object (**It pleases me**).

11. That student _____ his hand every time I ask a question.
✔ **D) puts up**
We say **put up your hand** (or **raise your hand**) when you want to answer a question. Not **rises**, because **rise** has no object; the verb with an object is **raise**.

12. I _____ hands with him when he came in.
✔ **C) shook**
The fixed expression is **shake hands with someone**; the past is **shook hands**. We don't say **gave hands** or **greeted hands**.

13. He wants to get a better _____ and earn more money.
✔ **A) job**
Job is a countable noun, so we can say **a better job**. **Work** and **employment** are uncountable and can't follow **a**, and **employ** is a verb.

14. _____ the children for me while I'm out.
✔ **A) Look after**
Look after means take care of someone: **Look after the children**. Not **Take care**, because it needs **of**: **Take care of the children**.

15. In this series of questions, three words have the same sound but one does not. Choose the one that does not.
✔ **D) shall**
Ball, **call** and **fall** all have the long vowel /ɔ:/, like **more**. **Shall** has the short vowel /æ/, like **cat**.

16. In this series of questions, three words have the same sound but one does not. Choose the one that does not.

✔ **B) piece**
Freeze, **please** and **trees** all end in the sound /iːz/, with a /z/ at the end. **Piece** ends in /iːs/, with an /s/ sound.

17. In this series of questions, three words have the same sound but one does not. Choose the one that does not.

✔ **A) lose**
Chose, **rose** and **nose** have the vowel /əʊ/, like **go**. **Lose** has the long vowel /uː/, like **shoes**, even though it is spelt the same way.

18. In this series of questions, three words have the same sound but one does not. Choose the one that does not.

✔ **A) what**
Cat, **sat** and **fat** have the short vowel /æ/. **What** is pronounced /wɒt/, with the vowel of **hot**.

19. In this series of questions, three words have the same sound but one does not. Choose the one that does not.
✔ **C) hear**
Fair, **wear** and **their** all have the sound /eə/, like **air**. **Hear** has the sound /ɪə/, like **ear** and **here**.

20. In this series of questions, three words have the same sound but one does not. Choose the one that does not.

✔ **B) says**
Days, **ways** and **plays** have the vowel /eɪ/, like **say**. But **says** is pronounced /sez/, with a short /e/ like **bed**.

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