ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Intermediate Grammar MCQ Test With Answers + PDF Exercise 16

Intermediate English Grammar Tests · 13 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.)**

I _____ asleep while I was working because it took me a long time to realize that the telephone _____.
✓ **D) must have fallen**
We use **must have** + past participle when we are almost sure about something in the past. The clue is that it took the speaker a long time to notice the phone, so he is sure he fell asleep: **I must have fallen asleep**. **Should**, **ought to** and **had to** talk about duty or advice, not about being sure.

2. I _____ asleep while I was working because it took me a long time to realize that the telephone _____.
✓ **B) was ringing**
The past continuous (**was ringing**) describes an action that was in progress at a moment in the past. The phone kept ringing for some time before he realized it. Not **rang**, because that suggests one short, finished ring. The present perfect forms don't fit a past story.

3. When I answered it, my girlfriend _____ "_____ that we _____ to the cinema tonight?
✓ **A) said**
Said is used before direct speech without a person as the object. **Told** needs a person after it (**she told me**). The continuous forms are not used here, because this is one complete statement in the story.

4. When I answered it, my girlfriend _____ "_____ that we _____ to the cinema tonight?
✓ **D) Don't you remember**
Remember is a state verb, so it is not normally used in the continuous form. The present simple negative question with **you** is **Don't you remember...?** Not **Doesn't you**, because **doesn't** is only used with he, she and it.

5. When I answered it, my girlfriend _____ "_____ that we _____ to the cinema tonight?
✓ **C) are going**
We use the present continuous for fixed future plans and arrangements: **we are going to the cinema tonight**. The time word **tonight** shows it is a plan already made. Not **would go**, because this is a real plan, not an imagined situation.

6. _____.
✓ **C) I've been waiting here for half an hour**
The present perfect continuous (**have been waiting**) shows an action that started in the past and is still going on. We use **for** with a length of time (**for half an hour**) and **since** with a starting point (**since six o'clock**). Not **since half an hour**, because half an hour is a length of time.

7. If you _____ soon, we'll miss the film."
✓ **B) don't come**
In the first conditional we use the present simple after **if** and **will** in the main clause: **If you don't come soon, we'll miss the film.** Not **won't come**, because we don't normally use **will** in the **if** clause.

8. I suddenly remembered that _____ for the first performance of a new film.
✓ **A) Sarah had been given some tickets**
In a passive sentence with two objects, the person usually becomes the subject: **Sarah had been given some tickets**. This is the past perfect passive, because the tickets were given before he remembered. The other options have the wrong word order.

9. If I _____ so much work to do, I would have taken her out to dinner before _____ to the cinema.
✓ **C) had not had**
This is the third conditional, for an imagined past: **If** + past perfect, **would have** + past participle. So the **if** clause needs **had not had**: **If I had not had so much work to do, I would have taken her out.** Not **did not have**, because the past simple is used in the second conditional, not the third.

10. If I _____ so much work to do, I would have taken her out to dinner before _____ to the cinema.
✓ **C) going**
After prepositions such as **before**, **after** and **without**, we use the **-ing** form of the verb: **before going to the cinema**. Not **to go**, because an infinitive cannot follow a preposition.

11. I said: "By the time I get there, the film _____.
✓ **A) will have started**
The future perfect (**will have started**) shows that an action will be finished before a time in the future. The clue is **By the time I get there**. Not **shall have started**, because **shall** is used only with **I** and **we**, not with **the film**.

12. _____ out to dinner instead."
✓ **B) Let's go**
Let's is followed by the base form of the verb, without **to** or **-ing**: **Let's go out to dinner.** Not **Let's going**, because **-ing** is never used after **let's**.

13. “You are a nuisance,” she said. “I _____ the tickets. Anyway, I’ve already had dinner.”
✓ D) needn’t have accepted
Needn't have + past participle means someone did something that was not necessary. She accepted the tickets, but now they are useless: **I needn't have accepted the tickets.** Not **didn't need to accept**, because that usually means the action was not necessary and probably did not happen.

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