ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Intermediate Grammar MCQ Test With Answers + PDF Exercise 17

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Explanations

1. Take hold of it firmly _____ it falls.
✔ **C) in case**
We use **in case** to talk about a precaution: you do something now because something bad might happen later. Here you hold it firmly because it might fall. Not **in any case**, which means 'anyway' and does not introduce a possible risk.

2. He looks _____.
✔ **B) sad**
Look meaning 'seem' is a linking verb, so it is followed by an adjective, not an adverb: **He looks sad**. Not **sadly**, because the word describes the person, not the way he looks at something.

3. Would you like some more coffee? There's still _____ left.
✔ **A) a little**
Coffee is uncountable, so we use **little**, not **few**. **A little** means 'some, enough', which fits the offer of more coffee. Not **little**, which means 'almost none' and sounds negative.

4. I gave her _____ stockings for her birthday.
✔ **A) a pair of**
Things that come in twos, such as stockings, socks, shoes and gloves, are counted with **a pair of**: **a pair of stockings**. **A** cannot go before a plural noun, and **any** is used in questions and negatives, not here.

5. Frank plays _____ Alex.
✔ **C) a lot better than**
The comparative of **well** is **better**, followed by **than**. We can make it stronger with **a lot** or **much**: **a lot better than**. Not **more better**, because **better** is already a comparative, and **that** is wrong after a comparative.

6. How _____ is your house from here?
✔ **B) far**
We ask about distance with **How far**: **How far is your house from here?** Not **How long**, which asks about time or length.

7. You can't rely _____ him to do the job properly.
✔ **D) on**
The verb **rely** is always followed by **on**: **rely on someone to do something**. It means to trust or depend on someone.

8. I'd never allow my children _____ like that.
✔ **C) to behave**
The pattern is **allow + person + to-infinitive**: **allow my children to behave**. Not **behaving**, because **allow** takes **-ing** only without an object (**They don't allow smoking**).

9. I can't stop. I _____.
✔ **C) am in a hurry**
The fixed expression is **be in a hurry**, meaning you must go or do something quickly. Not **have a hurry**, because English uses **be**, not **have**, in this expression.

10. He asked me _____ stay.
✔ **A) how long I was going to**
In reported questions the word order is like a statement: subject before verb, so **how long I was going to stay**. Not **was I going to**, which is direct-question order. We say **how long**, not **how long time**.

11. _____ he worked all day, he couldn't finish the job.
✔ **A) Although**
Although joins two contrasting clauses: he worked all day, but he still couldn't finish. Not **In spite**, which needs **of** and a noun or **-ing** form (**In spite of working all day**).

12. That's the hotel _____ last year.
✔ **D) where we stayed**
Where already means 'at which', so we say **the hotel where we stayed**. Not **where we stayed at**, because that repeats the preposition. **Which we stayed** needs **at** (**which we stayed at**).

13. I'll leave him a note _____ he'll know where we are.
✔ **A) so that**
So that introduces a purpose clause with a subject and verb: **so that he'll know where we are**. Not **in order**, which needs **to** + infinitive (**in order to help him**).

14. You _____ drive carefully. The roads are wet.
✔ **C) had better**
Had better + infinitive without **to** gives strong advice about a present situation: **You had better drive carefully.** Not **would rather**, which expresses preference, not advice.

15. She broke a _____ while she was washing up.
✔ **B) wine glass**
A **wine glass** is a glass made for wine; the first noun tells us the type or purpose. A **glass of wine** means a glass full of wine, which does not fit washing up.

16. I'm going to the hairdresser's to _____.
✔ **B) have my hair cut**
We use **have + object + past participle** when someone else does a job for us: **have my hair cut**. Not **cut my hair**, because that means you cut it yourself.

17. He couldn’t help _____ that his wife was worried.
✓ **D) noticing**
Can't help is followed by the **-ing** form and means 'can't avoid': **He couldn't help noticing**. Not **to notice**, because **help** in this expression never takes the infinitive.

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