ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Intermediate Grammar MCQ Test With Answers + PDF Exercise 18

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Explanations

1. He wanted to know the reason _____ I was late.
✓ **C) why**
After **the reason**, we use **why** to start the clause: **the reason why I was late**. **Because** gives the reason itself. It cannot follow the noun **reason** like this.

2. I'm bad _____ remembering faces.
✓ **A) at**
The adjectives **good** and **bad** take the preposition **at** when we talk about skills: **bad at remembering faces**, **good at maths**. After **at**, the verb takes the -ing form.

3. She _____ read her a story.
✓ **D) wants me to**
The pattern is **want + object + to + infinitive**: **She wants me to read her a story.** English does not use **want that I…**. **Want** is a state verb, so it is not normally used in the continuous form.

4. He hasn't been here _____.
✓ **D) for three weeks**
With the present perfect, use **for** + a period of time (**for three weeks**) and **since** + a point in time (**since Monday**). Not **since three weeks**, because **three weeks** is a period, not a starting point.

5. He is _____ a horse.
✓ **B) as strong as**
To say two things are equal, use **as + adjective + as**: **as strong as a horse**. **So … as** is only used in negative sentences (**not so strong as**), and it never goes with **than**.

6. "Which is your sister?"

"She's the girl _____ is wearing the green dress."
✓ **A) who**
For people, the relative pronoun is **who** (or **that**): **the girl who is wearing…** Not **who's**, because that means **who is**, and the sentence already has **is**. **Which** is used for things.

7. There's no one to _____.
✓ **B) look after the children**
Look after means take care of. It is an inseparable phrasal verb, so the object comes after it: **look after the children**. **Take care** and **care** need the preposition **of**: **take care of the children**.

8. I wanted to go there by plane but I hadn't enough money to pay for the _____.
✓ **A) journey**
A **journey** is one trip from one place to another, and it is a countable noun: **pay for the journey**. **Travel** is the general activity and is usually uncountable. A **voyage** is a long trip by sea or in space. **Fly** is a verb, and the noun would be **flight**.

9. He failed the examination three times but _____ he passed.
✓ **C) at last**
At last means finally, after a long wait or many problems: **he failed three times but at last he passed**. To mean 'finally' you can also say **in the end**, but not **at the end**, which means at the final point of something (**at the end of the film**). **At finish** and **at final** are not English expressions.

10. She _____ the cups and some of them broke.
✓ **A) dropped**
Drop means let something fall by accident, and it takes an object: **She dropped the cups. Fall** has no object (**The cups fell**), so it cannot be used with **the cups** after it.

11. Tennis is a _____ invented in England in the 19th century.
✓ **A) game**
A **game** is a sport or activity with rules, such as tennis or chess. A **match** is one single contest (**a tennis match**), not the sport itself. A **play** is a story performed in a theatre.

12. He got a job in a furniture _____.
✓ **D) factory**
A **factory** is a building where things are made: **a furniture factory**. **Fabric** is a false friend: in English it means cloth. **Industry** would need **the**: **in the furniture industry**.

13. He has spent a large _____ of money on his new house.
✓ **B) amount**
With uncountable nouns like **money**, we say **a large amount of**. **A large number of** is used with plural countable nouns (**a large number of books**). **Deal** goes with **great**, not **large**: **a great deal of money**.

14. His parents died when he was young so he was _____ by his aunt.
✓ **C) brought up**
Bring up means raise and care for a child until he or she is an adult: **he was brought up by his aunt**. **Grow up** has no object and no passive form. You grow up, but you cannot **be grown up** by someone.

15. In this series of questions, three words have the same sound but one does not. Choose the one that does not.
✓ **B) lord**
Word, **heard** and **bird** all have the vowel /ɜː/. **Lord** has a different vowel, /ɔː/, as in **door**.

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

✓ D) gone
Run, **done** and **none** all have the vowel /ʌ/, as in **cup**. **Gone** has a different vowel, /ɒ/, as in **hot**. Be careful: **won** also sounds like **run** (/wʌn/).

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

✓ A) great
Beat, **treat** and **seat** all have the long vowel /i:/. **Great** is an exception to the spelling: it is pronounced /greɪt/, like **plate**.

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

✓ C) twice
All four words have the vowel /aɪ/, but they end differently. **Tries**, **wise** and **buys** end in a /z/ sound. **Twice** ends in an /s/ sound, so it does not rhyme with the others.

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

✓ A) town
Grown, **shown** and **known** all have the sound /əʊ/, as in **phone**. **Town** has the sound /aʊ/, as in **now**, although the spelling **-own** looks the same.

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

✓ D) paid
Head, **bed** and **said** all have the short vowel /e/. **Said** is pronounced /sed/, not like **paid**. **Paid** has the sound /eɪ/, as in **day**.

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