ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Intermediate Grammar MCQ Test With Answers + PDF Exercise 20

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Explanations

1. There are so many cars _____ nowadays.
✓ **D) everywhere**
Everywhere means 'in all places'. It is one word and needs no preposition: **There are cars everywhere.** Not **anywhere**, which is mostly used in questions and negatives.

2. Ask him to go to the post office _____ some stamps.
✓ **A) to get**
Use the **to**-infinitive to give the purpose of an action: **go to the post office to get stamps**. Not **for getting**, because we don't use **for** + -ing to say why a person does something.

3. The reason _____ I can't come is that I have to work late.
✓ **D) why**
After **the reason** we use **why** (or **that**) to introduce the explanation: **The reason why I can't come is…** Not **because**, as **the reason… is because** repeats the same idea.

4. She cut the cloth with _____ scissors.
✓ **B) a pair of**
Scissors is a plural noun for one tool, so we count it with **a pair of**: **a pair of scissors**, like **a pair of trousers**. Not **two** or **a couple of**, which would mean two separate pairs.

5. _____ me _____.
✓ **B) Tell / where you are going**
We say **tell me**, not **say me**, because **tell** takes a person as its object. In an indirect question the word order is like a statement: **where you are going**, not **where are you going**.

6. The children _____ play with them.
✓ **C) want me to**
The pattern is **want** + object + **to**-infinitive: **They want me to play.** Not **want that I**, because **want** is not followed by a **that**-clause in English.

7. He may be able to come to the party. _____ the other hand, he may be too busy.
✓ **A) On**
The fixed phrase **on the other hand** introduces a contrasting idea. Other prepositions are not used in this expression.

8. I haven't seen him _____.
✓ **D) since last week**
With the present perfect (**haven't seen**) we use **since** + a point in time: **since last week**. Not **for**, which goes with a length of time (**for a week**).

9. I'm fond _____ good music.
✓ **D) of**
The adjective **fond** is followed by **of**: **I'm fond of music.** We speak about music in general, so no **the** is needed. Not **of the**, because it would point to one particular kind of music.

10. John is _____.
✓ **C) a friend of mine**
The structure is **a** + noun + **of** + possessive pronoun: **a friend of mine**, **a friend of hers**. Not **a friend of me**, because we need the possessive form **mine**.

11. She's the girl _____.
✓ **A) whose money was stolen**
Whose shows possession in a relative clause: **the girl whose money was stolen**. We say money is **stolen**; a person or place is **robbed**. Not **whose money was robbed**, because you cannot rob money.

12. It's the _____ film I've ever seen.
✓ **B) most interesting**
The + **most** + adjective + **I've ever seen** is a superlative pattern: **the most interesting film**. Use **interesting** for the film that causes the feeling; **interested** describes how a person feels.

13. He doesn't know the answer _____ I've told him several times.
✓ **D) although**
Although joins two clauses with a contrast: he doesn't know the answer **although** I've told him. Not **in spite**, which needs **of** and a noun or -ing form (**in spite of my telling him**).

14. _____ English?
✓ **C) How long have you been studying**
To ask about an activity that started in the past and is still going on, use the present perfect continuous: **How long have you been studying English?** Not **How long do you study**, because the present simple does not show a period up to now.

15. The little boy keeps the insect in a _____.
✓ **A) matchbox**
A **matchbox** is the small box that matches are kept in; here it means the empty box used as a container. Not **box of matches**, which means a box that is full of matches.

16. She's going to the photographer's _____.
✓ **C) to have her photograph taken**
When another person does a service for us, we use **have** + object + past participle (the causative): **to have her photograph taken**. Not **to take her photograph**, because then she would take the photo herself.

17. He looks _____.

✓ C) unhappy

Look meaning 'seem' is a linking verb, so it is followed by an adjective: **He looks unhappy.** Not **unhappily**, because an adverb would describe the way he looks at something.

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