ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Intermediate Grammar MCQ Test With Answers + PDF Exercise 21

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Explanations

1. Where have you been? I've been playing _____.
✔ **D) tennis**
We use no article and no preposition with sports and games: **play tennis**, **play football**. Not **the tennis**, because the sport is meant in general, not a specific match.

2. It's very kind _____ invite me.
✔ **B) of you to**
To describe someone's behaviour we say **It's kind/nice/silly of you to** + verb: **It's very kind of you to invite me.** Not **from you** or **by you**; the preposition with this pattern is always **of**.

3. I can't break it. It's _____ iron.
✔ **A) as hard as**
Equal comparisons in positive sentences use **as + adjective + as**: **It's as hard as iron. So … as** is only possible in negative sentences (**not so hard as**), and **than** goes with comparatives (**harder than**), not with **as**.

4. _____ of them knew about the plan because it was secret.
✔ **D) None**
None of them means 'not one of them'; it is the right choice because the plan was secret, so nobody knew. Not **No one**, because we cannot say **no one of them**; **none of** is used before **of + pronoun/noun**.

5. I didn't know _____ him or not.
✔ **A) whether to help**
Before an infinitive and with **or not**, we use **whether**: **I didn't know whether to help him or not.** Not **if to help**, because **if** cannot be followed by a **to**-infinitive.

6. Mont Blanc, _____ we visited last summer, is the highest mountain in the Alps.
✔ **B) which**
This is a non-defining relative clause, so it sits between commas. We use **which** for a thing, and here it is the object of **visited**: **Mont Blanc, which we visited last summer, …**. Not **that**, because **that** is not used in non-defining clauses. Not **where**, because **visited** already needs an object.

7. This question is _____ difficult for me.
✔ **C) too**
Too + adjective means 'more than is possible or acceptable': **too difficult for me**. Not **too much**, because **too much** goes with uncountable nouns (**too much work**), not directly before an adjective.

8. It _____ the village where we spent our holidays last summer.
✔ **A) reminds me of**
Remind somebody of something means 'make somebody think of a similar thing': **It reminds me of the village…**. **Remember** does not take a person object in this way, and **remind me to** is followed by a verb (**remind me to call her**).

9. Living here at the top of the mountain with no one else near you must be very _____.
✔ **D) lonely**
Lonely means 'sad because you are alone and have no company': **It must be very lonely living there.** Not **alone**, which only means 'without other people' and is not normally used with **very** in this way.

10. The tailor made him a new _____.
✔ **B) suit**
A **suit** is a jacket and trousers made of the same material, which a tailor makes for a man. Not **clothes**, because it is plural and cannot follow **a**; not **dress**, which is for women.

11. The clock _____ and we realized it was two o'clock.
✔ **B) struck**
When a clock makes a sound to show the hour, we say it **strikes**: **The clock struck two.** Not **rang**, which we use for bells, phones and alarm clocks, not for a clock telling the hour.

12. Good _____! I hope you win the race.
✔ **C) luck**
Good luck! is the fixed expression we use to wish someone success before an exam, race, etc. **Good wish** and **good chance** are not used as wishes.

13. My car _____ so I had to come by bus.
✔ **C) broke down**
Break down is used when a machine or car stops working: **My car broke down.** Not **broke up**, which means 'end a relationship' or 'break into pieces'.

14. Look what Father _____ me when he came home from work.
✔ **A) brought**
Bring means carry something to the place where the speaker is: Father came home and **brought** me something. Not **took**, which means carry something away from here to another place.

15. In this series of questions, three words have the same sound but one does not. Choose the one that does not.
✔ **D) worse**
Force, **sauce** and **horse** have the long sound /ɔː/ (as in **door**). **Worse** has the sound /ɜː/, as in **bird** and **work**.

16. In this series of questions, three words have the same sound but one does not. Choose the one that does not.
✔ **C) blood**
Good, **wood** and **stood** have the short sound /ʊ/ (as in **book**). **Blood** is different: it has the sound /ʌ/, as in **cup**.

17. In this series of questions, three words have the same sound but one does not. Choose the one that does not.
✔ **B) put**
But, **cut** and **shut** have the sound /ʌ/ (as in **cup**). **Put** is different: it has the sound /ʊ/, as in **foot**.

18. In this series of questions, three words have the same sound but one does not. Choose the one that does not.
✔ **A) lost**
Most, **post** and **ghost** have the sound /əʊ/ (as in **go**). **Lost** has the short sound /ɒ/, as in **hot**.

19. In this series of questions, three words have the same sound but one does not. Choose the one that does not.
✔ **D) work**
Talk, **pork** and **fork** have the long sound /ɔː/ (as in **door**). **Work** has the sound /ɜː/, as in **bird**.

20. In this series of questions, three words have the same sound but one does not. Choose the one that does not.
✔ **A) mass**
In British English, **pass**, **grass** and **class** have the long sound /ɑː/ (as in **car**). **Mass** has the short sound /æ/, as in **cat**.

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