ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Intermediate Grammar MCQ Test With Answers + PDF Exercise 22

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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 went to the doctor's yesterday. I _____ for half an hour before he _____ see me.
✓ **B) had to wait**
The story is about yesterday, so we need the past of **must**, which is **had to**. **Had to wait** means it was necessary for me to wait. Not **must wait**, because **must** has no past form and cannot describe a past obligation.

2. I _____ for half an hour before he _____ see me.
✓ **D) could**
We need the past form of **can** to talk about past ability or possibility: **he could see me**. The clue is **yesterday** and **had to wait**. **Can** is present, and **may/might** express possibility, not ability.

3. "I _____ abroad next week," I said.
✓ **C) am going**
We use the present continuous for a fixed future plan or arrangement: **I am going abroad next week**. **Shall be go** and **will be go** are not correct English. Not **go**, because the present simple is used for timetables, not personal plans.

4. "I _____ to Africa on business.
✓ **B) am being sent**
This is a future arrangement made by someone else (the company), so we use the present continuous passive: **am being sent**. Not **am sent**, because the present simple passive describes something that happens regularly, not a planned trip.

5. But _____ two days.
✓ **A) I've had a pain for**
The pain started in the past and continues now, so we use the present perfect: **I've had a pain**. With a period of time (**two days**) we use **for**; **since** is used with a starting point (**since Monday**). **Have** meaning 'possess or suffer from' is not normally used in the continuous form.

6. _____ I'll be well enough to go?"
✓ **A) Do you think**
Think meaning 'have an opinion' is a state verb, so it is not used in the continuous: **Do you think ...?** Not **Does you think**, because with **you** we use **do**, not **does**.

7. "When I _____ you, I'll be able to tell you," the doctor said.
✓ **D) have examined**
After **when** in a sentence about the future, we use a present tense, not **will**. The present perfect **have examined** shows the examination will be finished first: **When I have examined you, I'll be able to tell you**. Not **will examine**, because **will** is not used after **when** for the future.

8. "I _____ in the garden when I suddenly felt the pain," I told the doctor.
✓ **C) was working**
The past continuous **was working** describes a longer action in progress when a shorter action (**suddenly felt**) interrupted it. Not **worked**, because that would mean the work was a finished action, not the background.

9. "If I _____ immediately, it would have been all right, I suppose.
✓ **A) had stopped**
This is a third conditional about an imagined past: **If** + past perfect, **would have** + past participle. So: **If I had stopped immediately, it would have been all right**. Not **would have stopped**, because **would** is not used in the **if** part.

10. But I _____ any exercise in my job so I went on working."
✓ **A) never get**
This describes a general, permanent situation, so we use the present simple: **I never get any exercise**. **Never** goes before the main verb. Not **am never getting**, because the continuous is for temporary situations.

11. After _____ me carefully, the doctor said:
✓ **C) examining**
After a preposition like **after**, we use the **-ing** form of the verb: **After examining me**. We cannot use the base form or **to** + verb after a preposition. Not **that he had examined**, because **after** is not followed by **that**.

12. "You _____ a bone in your back.
✓ **D) may have hurt**
To say something possibly happened in the past, we use **may have** + past participle: **You may have hurt a bone**. Not **can have hurt**, because **can have** is not used this way in positive sentences. **May be hurt** is passive and does not fit with **a bone** as the object.

13. I _____ you to hospital for an X-ray.”

✓ B) would like to send

Would like to + verb is a polite way to say what you want to do: **I would like to send you to hospital**. Not **would send**, because it needs a condition (**I would send you if …**). **Want** is a state verb and is not usually used in the continuous.

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