ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Intermediate Grammar MCQ Test With Answers + PDF Exercise 23

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Explanations

1. It's _____ I expected.
✓ **A) much bigger than**
For comparisons, use a comparative adjective + **than**: **bigger than**. Short adjectives like **big** take **-er**, not **more**. **Much** or **a lot** can make the comparison stronger. Not **that**, because comparisons always use **than**.

2. They'll hurt _____ if we don't stop them fighting.
✓ **D) each other**
The pronoun **each other** shows that two people do the action to one another: **They'll hurt each other.** The other options are not correct English expressions.

3. I've brought you _____ flowers for your birthday.
✓ **B) a few**
Flowers is a plural countable noun, so we use **a few** (= some, a small number). Not **few**, because **few** means 'not enough' and sounds negative. **Little** and **a little** go with uncountable nouns.

4. He didn't know _____ or stay at home.
✓ **D) whether to go**
To talk about a choice between two possibilities, we use **whether + to-infinitive**: **He didn't know whether to go or stay.** Not **if to go**, because **if** is not normally followed by a to-infinitive.

5. Would you mind _____ the window?
✓ **D) opening**
The verb **mind** is followed by the **-ing** form: **Would you mind opening the window?** Not **to open**, because **mind** never takes a to-infinitive.

6. Are you interested _____ tennis tomorrow?
✓ **A) in playing**
The adjective **interested** goes with the preposition **in**, and after a preposition we use the **-ing** form: **interested in playing**. Not **for** or **on**, which do not collocate with **interested**.

7. I wouldn't rely _____ him if I were you.
✓ **C) on**
The verb **rely** (= depend on, trust) is always followed by **on**: **I wouldn't rely on him.** The other prepositions do not go with **rely**.

8. Her father didn't let her _____ out with him.
✓ **B) go**
After **let + object**, we use the bare infinitive (without **to**): **let her go**. Not **to go**, because **let** is never followed by **to**.

9. Don't wait for me if you _____.
✓ **B) are in a hurry**
The fixed expression is **be in a hurry** (= need to do things quickly). Not **have a hurry**, which is a common mistake; English uses **be**, not **have**, here.

10. _____ beautiful flowers!
✓ **B) What**
In exclamations with a plural noun, use **What** + adjective + noun: **What beautiful flowers!** Not **What a**, because **a** is only used with a singular countable noun (**What a beautiful flower!**).

11. I'm going to the passport office _____.
✓ **D) to have my passport stamped**
When someone else does something for us, we use the causative **have + object + past participle**: **to have my passport stamped**. Not **to stamp my passport**, because that means you stamp it yourself.

12. Who is responsible _____ the arrangements?
✓ **D) for making**
The adjective **responsible** goes with **for**, and after a preposition we use the **-ing** form: **responsible for making**. Not **for make**, because a verb after a preposition must be in the **-ing** form.

13. Speak to him slowly _____ he will understand you better.
✓ **B) so that**
So that introduces a purpose clause with a subject and a verb (often **will/can**): **so that he will understand you**. Not **in order**, because it needs **to** + verb (**in order to help him**) and cannot be followed by a full clause here.

14. He wanted to know _____ there.
✓ **D) how long I had been**
In reported questions, the word order is like a normal statement (subject + verb): **how long I had been there**. Not **how long had I been**, because that is direct question word order. **How long time** is also wrong.

15. He works too hard. That is _____ is wrong with him.
✓ **C) what**
What here means 'the thing that': **That is what is wrong with him.** Not **the thing what**, because **what** already includes 'the thing'; we would say **the thing that**.

16. I know it's not important but I can't help _____ about it.
✓ **B) thinking**
The expression **can't help** (= can't stop yourself) is followed by the **-ing** form: **I can't help thinking about it.** Not **to think**, because **can't help** never takes a to-infinitive.

17. He finally _____ the driving test after failing three times.

✓ A) succeeded in passing

Succeed is followed by **in + -ing**: **succeeded in passing**. Not **could pass**, because for one specific achievement in the past we use **managed to** or **was able to**, not **could**. **Managed** needs a to-infinitive (**managed to pass**).

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