ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Intermediate Grammar MCQ Test With Answers + PDF Exercise 26

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Explanations

1. I've often _____ at hotels.
✓ **C) stayed**
We use **stay at** a hotel to mean live there for a short time as a guest. **Remain** means 'continue to be in a place', and it is not used with hotels in this way.

2. I didn't know what to do but then an idea suddenly _____ to me.
✓ **C) occurred**
The fixed expression is **an idea occurred to me**, meaning it came into my mind. Not **hit**: we say **an idea hit me**, without **to**.

3. When they arrived at the crossroads, he went the wrong _____.
✓ **A) way**
The usual expression is **go the wrong way**, meaning take the wrong road or direction. Not **turn**: we say **take a wrong turn**, not **go the wrong turn**.

4. Your work has been _____ so we're going to give you a rise in salary.
✓ **C) satisfactory**
Satisfactory means good enough or acceptable, which is a reason for a pay rise. **Well** is an adverb, so it can't describe **work** here, and **available** doesn't fit the meaning.

5. That's the best horse in the _____.
✓ **D) race**
Horses compete in a **race**. **Run** and **rate** don't name a competition, and a **career** is a person's working life.

6. The weather _____ says it will rain tomorrow.
✓ **B) forecast**
A **weather forecast** tells us what the weather will be like. **Advise** is a verb, and **provision** and **advertisement** have different meanings.

7. There are a lot of mistakes in this exercise. I'll have to _____ it again with you.
✓ **B) go over**
The phrasal verb **go over** means check or study something carefully again: **Let's go over your answers**. **Come through** means survive or arrive, so it doesn't fit here.

8. If there are no buses, we'll have to take a taxi. We must get there _____.
✓ **A) somehow or other**
Somehow or other means 'in some way, although we don't know how yet'. **Somewhere or other** is about a place, not a way. The correct phrase is **one way or another**, without **on**.

9. _____ I read, the more I understand.
✓ **A) The more**
This is the double comparative pattern **the more …, the more …**. It shows that two things increase together: **The more I read, the more I understand.**

10. _____ he does his work, I don't mind what time he arrives at the office.
✓ **B) So long as**
So long as (= **as long as**) means 'on condition that': if he does his work, the time doesn't matter. Not **so far as**, which is about extent (**so far as I know**), not a condition.

11. _____ entering the hall, he found everyone waiting for him.
✓ **C) On**
On + -ing means 'immediately when': **On entering the hall** = as soon as he entered. **At** and **In** are not used with -ing in this meaning.

12. It's years _____ a picture.
✓ **C) since I painted**
We use **It's (time) since** + past simple to show how long ago something last happened: **It's years since I painted a picture.** Not **ago**, because **ago** follows a time phrase (**years ago**) and can't link two clauses.

13. I found the first question _____.
✓ **D) easy**
The pattern is **find** + object + adjective. It gives your opinion of something: **I found the first question easy** means I thought it was easy. Not **as easy**, because **find** is not followed by **as** here. Not **that it was easy**, because **find that** needs a subject straight after it: **I found that it was easy**.

14. _____ an empty seat at the back of the bus.
✓ **A) She happened to find**
Happen to do something means do it by chance: **She happened to find an empty seat.** We **find** a seat, not **meet** it, and **It happened her that…** is not correct English.

15. It was raining, _____ was a pity.
✓ **D) which**
After a comma, **which** can refer to the whole previous clause: **It was raining, which was a pity.** Not **what** or **that**, which can't be used after a comma in this way.

16. Your car is _____ mine.
✓ **C) similar to**
We say **similar to** something. The other options need different patterns: **the same as mine**, **like mine**, or **Our cars are alike**.

17. I'm going away for a _____.
✓ **D) week's holiday**
For length of time we use a possessive form: **a week's holiday**, **two weeks' holiday**. Not **week holiday**, because it needs **'s**.

18. Why _____? It's not very important.
✓ **B) worry**
Why + bare infinitive is used to say that something is not necessary: **Why worry?** = There's no need to worry. Not **Why you worry?**, because a normal question needs **do**: **Why do you worry?**

19. I don't like _____ at me.
✓ **A) them shouting**
The pattern is **like** + object + -ing: **I don't like them shouting at me.** We can't use **like that they shout**, and **like them shout** needs the -ing form.

20. It often snows _____ January.
✓ **B) in**
We use **in** with months: **in January**. We use **on** with days and **at** with clock times.

21. I'll meet you again _____ the weekend.
✓ **C) at**
In British English we say **at the weekend** (American English: **on the weekend**). Not **by**, which means 'not later than' and doesn't fit **meet you again**.

22. It's the first turning _____ the left after the traffic lights.
✓ **A) on**
We say **on the left** and **on the right** for position or direction. **In the left** is not correct.

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