ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Intermediate Grammar MCQ Test With Answers + PDF Exercise 27

Intermediate English Grammar Tests · 20 questions · Online test and questions PDF:
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Explanations

1. He wasn't _____ to lift the case.
✓ **C) strong enough**
Enough comes after an adjective: **strong enough**, **old enough**. Not **enough strong**, because **enough** goes before nouns (**enough money**) but after adjectives.

2. He can climb trees _____ a monkey.
✓ **B) like**
We use **like** + noun to compare how someone does something: **climb like a monkey**. Not **as**, because **as** + noun means 'in the role of' (**He worked as a teacher**).

3. He _____ lives in the house where he was born.
✓ **C) still**
Still shows that a situation continues and has not changed: he was born there and lives there now too. **Already** and **yet** are about something happening earlier or later than expected.

4. It's ten o'clock in the morning so he's still _____.
✓ **C) in bed**
The fixed phrase is **in bed**, with no article, meaning 'lying in bed, sleeping or resting'. **In the bed** refers to a particular piece of furniture, not to the state of resting.

5. He was a good swimmer so he _____ swim to the river bank when the boat sank.
✓ **D) was able to**
For one particular success in the past, we use **was able to** (or **managed to**), not **could**. **Could** is for general ability in the past: **He could swim when he was five. Succeeded** would need **in swimming**.

6. She's been very kind, _____?
✓ **B) hasn't she**
She's been is short for **she has been** (present perfect), so the question tag uses **has**: **hasn't she?** Not **isn't she**, because **'s** here means **has**, not **is**.

7. He was left alone, with _____ to look after him.
✓ **D) no one**
With no one to look after him means there was nobody to care for him, which matches **left alone**. **Anyone** needs a negative word before it (**without anyone**).

8. I pulled the handle _____ I could.
✓ **D) as hard as**
The comparison pattern is **as** + adverb + **as**: **as hard as I could**. The adverb of **hard** is **hard**; **hardly** means 'almost not', so it is wrong here. **So … as** is used only in negatives.

9. Have you got a match? I've left my _____ at home.
✓ **A) cigarette lighter**
In compound nouns the first noun works like an adjective and is usually singular: **cigarette lighter**, **toothbrush**. Not **cigarettes lighter** or **cigarette's lighter**, because we don't use a plural or possessive here.

10. That's the dog _____.
✓ **A) we've been looking after**
In a relative clause the relative pronoun can be left out, and the preposition stays at the end: **the dog (that) we've been looking after**. **Look after** is a phrasal verb, so we don't move **after** to the front (**after which**). **Take care of**, not **take care for**.

11. I made him _____ what I had told him.
✓ **C) repeat**
Make + object + bare infinitive (no **to**): **I made him repeat it.** Not **to repeat**, because **make** in the active is followed by the infinitive without **to**.

12. I was _____ tired that I had to rest.
✓ **B) so**
The pattern is **so** + adjective + **that** + result: **so tired that I had to rest**. Not **too**, because **too** is followed by **to** + infinitive (**too tired to walk**), not **that**.

13. He _____ live in the country than in the city.
✓ **D) would rather**
Would rather + bare infinitive + **than** expresses preference: **He would rather live in the country than in the city.** Not **prefers**, because **prefer** needs **to live … rather than** or **living … to**. **Had better** means 'should'.

14. He _____ his sister.
✓ **C) reminds me of**
Remind someone of someone/something means 'make you think of them because they are similar': **He reminds me of his sister.** Not **remembers**, because **remember** means to keep something in your own memory.

15. Put on your raincoat _____ it rains.
✓ **D) in case**
In case means 'as a precaution because something might happen': wear the raincoat because it may rain. Not **because**, which would mean it is already raining. **In any case** means 'anyway'.

16. In this series of questions, three words have the same sound but one does not. Choose one that does not.
✓ **C) says**
Raise, **trays** and **stays** all have the sound /eɪ/. **Says** is pronounced /sez/, with a short /e/, so it is the different one.

17. In this series of questions, three words have the same sound but one does not. Choose one that does not.
✓ **B) thrown**
Crown, **brown** and **town** all rhyme with the sound /aʊn/ (like **now**). **Thrown** is pronounced /θrəʊn/, with the vowel of **no**, so it is the different one.

18. In this series of questions, three words have the same sound but one does not. Choose one that does not.
✓ **D) love**
Prove, **move** and **groove** all have the long sound /uː/ (like **food**). **Love** has the short sound /ʌ/ (like **cup**), even though the spelling looks similar.

19. In this series of questions, three words have the same sound but one does not. Choose one that does not.
✓ **A) were**
Spare, **chair** and **pair** all have the sound /eə/ (like **air**). **Were** is pronounced /wɜː/, like **her**, so it is the different one.

20. In this series of questions, three words have the same sound but one does not. Choose one that does not.
✓ **D) laughter**
Water, **porter** and **daughter** all have the sound /ɔː/ (like **door**). **Laughter** has /ɑː/ (like **car**), as in **laugh**, so it is the different one.

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