ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Intermediate Grammar MCQ Test With Answers + PDF Exercise 28

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1	C	2	D	3	A	4	B	5	D	6	A	7	A	8	C				

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.)**

My wife's mother was taken ill two days ago so my wife had to go and look after her. Before _____, my wife said, "I had better tell you where everything is or you _____ know what to do.
✔ **C) leaving**
After **before** we can use a verb with **-ing**: **Before leaving** means 'before she left'. Not **she was leaving**, because the past continuous sounds unnatural here; **before she left** would be the normal full form.

2. Before _____, my wife said, "I had better tell you where everything is or you _____ know what to do.
✔ **D) won't**
Or introduces the result if you don't follow the advice, and we use **will** for a future result: **or you won't know what to do**. Not **shan't**, because today **shan't** is used mainly with **I** and **we**, and with **you** it sounds like a threat or a promise.

3. But my train is leaving in half an hour's time and I must get to my mother's house as soon as I _____."
✔ **A) can**
The fixed phrase **as soon as I can** means 'as quickly as possible'. The wife is talking about now and the near future, so we use **can**. Not **could**, which would refer to the past here.

4. "_____," I said. "I can look after myself."
✔ **B) Don't worry**
Don't worry is what we say to tell someone not to be anxious: **Don't worry, I can look after myself.** Not **Don't matter**, because the correct phrase is **It doesn't matter**.

5. Now I realize that I _____ for a map of the house.
✔ **D) should have asked**
Should have + past participle expresses regret about something we didn't do in the past: **I should have asked** = it was a good idea, but I didn't do it. Not **must have asked**, which is a guess about the past, not a regret.

6. If I _____, I would have found all the food I needed.
✔ **A) had**
This is a third conditional about an unreal past: **If** + past perfect, **would have** + past participle. **If I had** is short for **If I had asked for a map**. Not **did**, because the third conditional needs **had**.

7. But when my wife _____ back tomorrow, she won't have any dirty dishes to wash up because I _____ in restaurants since she went away.
✔ **A) comes**
After time words like **when**, we use the present simple for the future: **when my wife comes back tomorrow**. Not **will come**, because we don't use **will** after **when** in a time clause.

8. But when my wife _____ back tomorrow, she won't have any dirty dishes to wash up because I _____ in restaurants since she went away.
✔ **C) have been eating**
The present perfect continuous describes a repeated action from a past time until now. The clue is **since she went away**: **I have been eating in restaurants**. Not **ate**, because the past simple can't be used with **since** for a period that continues to the present.

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