ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Intermediate Grammar MCQ Test With Answers + PDF Exercise 29

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Explanations

1. He's _____ his sister.
✓ **A) much taller than**
Short adjectives like **tall** form the comparative with **-er**, followed by **than**: **taller than**. **Much** makes the comparison stronger. Not **more tall**, because one-syllable adjectives don't use **more**, and **that** is never used for comparisons.

2. She had three sons, all _____ became doctors.
✓ **C) of whom**
After a quantity word like **all**, **some** or **none**, a relative clause uses **of whom** for people and **of which** for things: **all of whom became doctors**. Not **of which**, because the sons are people.

3. You _____ go now. It's getting late.
✓ **D) had better**
Had better + base verb gives strong advice: **You had better go now**. The clue is **It's getting late**. Not **would rather**, which expresses preference (**I would rather go**), not advice.

4. I'm going to spend a few days with some _____ of mine, who live in the north of Scotland.
✓ **A) relatives**
Relatives are members of your family, such as aunts, uncles and cousins. It fits **some relatives of mine who live in the north of Scotland**. Not **neighbours**, because neighbours live near you, not far away in another region.

5. The _____ outside the house said "No Parking".
✓ **D) notice**
A **notice** is a written sign or board that gives information or instructions, e.g. **a notice saying "No Parking"**. Not **label**, which is a small piece of paper stuck on a product.

6. He has no _____ of winning.
✓ **D) chance**
Chance of + -ing means the possibility that something will happen: **He has no chance of winning**. Not **opportunity**, which is a good moment to do something, and isn't used for the likelihood of winning.

7. Those people over there are speaking a language I don't understand. They must be _____.
✓ **A) foreign**
Foreign means from another country. The clue is **a language I don't understand**. Not **strange**, which means unusual and doesn't say where people come from.

8. I didn't write it. That is not my _____ on the cheque.
✓ **D) signature**
A **signature** is your name written in your own special way, e.g. on a cheque or a document. The clue is **I didn't write it**.

9. The actors have to _____ before they appear in front of the strong lights on television.
✓ **C) make up**
Make up here means to put make-up (colour, powder) on your face, as actors do before performing. Not **do up**, which means to fasten clothes or to repair a house.

10. It is a difficult problem but we must find the answer _____.
✓ **B) somehow or other**
Somehow or other is a fixed expression meaning in some way, even if we don't know how yet. The other options are not real English phrases.

11. I want _____ immediately.
✓ **D) this work done**
The pattern **want + object + past participle** means you want someone to do something: **I want this work done immediately. Want** is not followed by a that-clause, and we **do** work, not **make** it.

12. He's used to _____ in public.
✓ **C) speaking**
In **be used to** (= be accustomed to), **to** is a preposition, so it is followed by the -ing form: **He's used to speaking in public**. Not **speak**, which is used after **used to** for past habits (**He used to speak**).

13. You can fly to London this evening _____ you don't mind changing planes in Paris.
✓ **A) provided**
Provided means 'only if' and introduces a condition: you can fly **provided** you don't mind changing planes. Not **unless**, which means 'if not' and would give the opposite meaning.

14. It's ages _____ him.
✓ **D) since I saw**
The pattern is **It's (ages / two years) since** + past simple: **It's ages since I saw him**. Not **ago**, which is used without **It's**: **I saw him ages ago**.

15. He made me _____.
✓ **A) angry**
Make + object + adjective describes the effect on someone: **He made me angry**. Not **to be angry**, because **make** is not followed by **to**.

16. Do what you think is right, _____ they say.
✓ **B) whatever**
Whatever means 'it doesn't matter what': **whatever they say** = no matter what they say. Not **however**, which means 'no matter how' and is used with adjectives or adverbs.

17. He arrived late, _____ was annoying.
✓ **C) which**
Which after a comma can refer to the whole previous clause: **He arrived late, which was annoying** (= his arriving late was annoying). Not **what** or **that**, which can't be used in this kind of clause.

18. His job is _____ yours.
✓ **D) similar to**
We say **similar to** something: **His job is similar to yours**. Not **the same that**, because the correct form is **the same as**.

19. He needs a _____.
✓ **A) few days' rest**
Days is countable, so we use **a few**, and time expressions use a possessive apostrophe: **a few days' rest**. Not **few days rest**, which misses the apostrophe after the plural **days**.

20. Do you know _____ the repairs?
✓ **B) how to do**
Know how to + verb means to have the skill to do something: **Do you know how to do the repairs?** Not **to do** alone, because **know** needs **how** before the infinitive here. Not **how doing**, because **how** is followed by **to** + verb, not the -ing form.

21. We usually have fine weather _____ summer.
✓ **C) in**
We use **in** with seasons, months and years: **in summer**, **in July**. Not **on**, which is for days (**on Monday**).

22. My flat is _____ the third floor of the building.
✓ **D) on**
We use **on** with floors of a building: **on the third floor**. Not **in** or **at**.

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