ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Intermediate Grammar MCQ Test With Answers + PDF Exercise 03

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Explanations

1. We expected about 20 girls but there were _____ people there.
✓ **D) more**
The sentence compares the number we expected with the real number, so we need the comparative **more** (= a bigger number than 20). **Another** is used with one singular noun, and **others** is a pronoun, so it can't come before **people**.

2. Your bicycle shouldn't be in the house!
✓ **A) Take it out!**
Take something out means remove it from a place, here the house. With a phrasal verb and a pronoun, the pronoun goes in the middle: **take it out**, not **take away it**. **Put it off** means postpone.

3. What time does the bus _____ Bradford?
✓ **D) leave for**
We say **leave for** a place to mean start a journey to it: **The bus leaves for Bradford at 9.** Not **leave to**: **leave** is used with **for** when it means 'start a journey to'.

4. She _____ be Canadian because she's got a British passport.
✓ **A) can't**
Can't is used for a logical conclusion that something is impossible. The clue is her British passport. Not **mustn't**, because **mustn't** means it is not allowed, not that it is impossible.

5. "Our daughter _____," they said.
✓ **C) was born three years ago**
Be born is a finished event at a past time, so we use the past simple **was born**. With **ago** we use the past simple: **three years ago**. **Since** and **for** are not used with **ago**.

6. When _____ English?
✓ **C) did he begin to study**
Questions with **When** ask about a finished past time, so we use the past simple: **When did he begin…?** After **begin** we use **to** + verb or the **-ing** form: **begin to study**. Not **has he begun**, because the present perfect is not used with **When**.

7. Do you want some cheese?

No, _____.
✓ **C) I don't want any**
In negative sentences we use **any** instead of **some**: **I don't want any**. **Cheese** is uncountable, so **a few** and **many** are wrong.

8. Brenda likes going to the theatre and _____.
✓ **A) so do I**
To agree with a positive sentence, we use **so** + auxiliary + subject. **Likes** is present simple, so the auxiliary is **do**: **so do I**. Not **so I am**: the verb is **like**, not **be**, and the word order after **so** is auxiliary + subject.

9. _____ from London to Edinburgh!
✓ **B) What a long way it is**
Exclamations with a noun use **What a/an** + adjective + noun: **What a long way it is! How** is followed by an adjective alone, and in an exclamation the word order is subject + verb, so **How long is** is wrong here.

10. He's a good guitarist, but he plays the piano _____.
✓ **D) much better**
The comparative adverb **better** (with **much** to make it stronger) compares his piano playing with his guitar playing. Not **very good**: we need an adverb after **plays**, and **good** is an adjective.

11. When you go to the shops, bring me _____.
✓ **C) a tin of fruit**
We use container + **of** + noun: **a tin of fruit**, **a bottle of milk**. **Fruit** is normally uncountable, so we don't say **fruits** here.

12. Molly doesn't eat fish.
✓ **B) Neither does John.**
To agree with a negative sentence we use **Neither** + auxiliary + subject: **Neither does John.** You could also say **John doesn't either**. Not **So doesn't John**: **so** is used only to agree with positive sentences.

13. The airport is five miles _____.
✓ **A) away from here**
With an exact distance we say **five miles away (from here)**. We don't use **far** with a number: not **five miles far from here**.

14. Please ask _____ and see me.
✓ **B) Bill to come**
The pattern is **ask** + person + **to** + verb: **ask Bill to come**. No preposition comes before the person, so **ask to Bill** and **ask for Bill come** are wrong.

15. She always buys _____ my birthday.
✓ **D) something awful for**
In positive sentences we use **something**, not **anything**. We buy something **for** an occasion: **for my birthday**. Not **to**, because **to** doesn't go with an occasion like a birthday.

16. Aren't they friends _____?
✓ **A) of yours**
The pattern is **a friend / friends of** + possessive pronoun: **friends of yours**, **a friend of mine**. Not **of you**: after **of** we use the possessive pronoun **yours**.

17. She hardly ever eats _____ potatoes.
✓ **B) bread or**
Hardly ever already has a negative meaning, so we use **or**, not **neither … nor**: **She hardly ever eats bread or potatoes. Neither … nor** would make a double negative.

18. This is the record we _____.
✓ **A) like so much**
Like is a state verb, so it is not usually used in the continuous form. In a relative clause the object is not repeated: **the record (that) we like**, not **like it**.

19. She's going to buy _____ new trousers.
✓ **B) some**
Trousers is a plural noun, so we can say **some trousers** or **a pair of trousers**. Not **a couple of**, because that would mean two separate items, not one pair of trousers.

20. - Is she going to school?

- No, _____.
✓ **D) to the shops**
The question asks where she is going, so the short answer gives another place: **No, (she's going) to the shops.** Not **she doesn't**: the question uses **is**, so the short answer would be **she isn't**.

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