ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Intermediate Grammar MCQ Test With Answers + PDF Exercise 04

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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.)**

Nowadays, _____ quite early what kind of work they would _____.
✓ **C) most people decide**
When we mean people in general, we use **most people** without **the**. **People** is plural, so the verb has no -s: **most people decide**. Not **the most people**: **the most** is used for superlatives, as in **the most interesting job**.

2. Nowadays, _____ quite early what kind of work they would _____.
✓ **A) like to do**
After **would** we use **like to** + verb to talk about what we want: **what kind of work they would like to do**. We say **do work**, not **make work**. Not **do** alone, because **what work they would do** only talks about the future, not about what people want.

3. When I was at school, we had to choose what to study when we were fifteen. I chose scientific subjects. “In the future, scientists _____ a lot of money,” my parents said.
✓ **B) will earn**
The parents are making a prediction about the future (**In the future**), so we use **will** + base verb: **scientists will earn**. Not **going to earn**, because it needs **are**: **are going to earn**.

4. _____ to learn physics and chemistry, but in the end, I decided that I would never be a scientist.
✓ **D) For three years, I tried**
We use **for** with a period of time (**for three years**), not **during**. The trying is finished and the story is in the past (**in the end, I decided**), so we need the past simple: **I tried**. Not **I’ve tried**: the present perfect doesn't fit a finished past story.

5. It was a long time _____ my parents that I wasn’t happy at school.
✓ **B) before I told**
It was a long time before I did something means a lot of time passed until I did it: **It was a long time before I told my parents**. Not **before telling**: the -ing form doesn't fit after **It was a long time**, because **it** is not the person who tells.

6. “I didn’t think you were,” said my mother. “_____,” said my father.
✓ **C) I didn’t either**
To agree with a negative sentence, we use **either** at the end: **I didn't either**. We can also say **Nor did I** or **Neither did I**, with the verb before **I**. Not **I didn't too**: **too** is only for positive sentences (**I did too**).

7. “Well, the best _____ now is to look for a job.”
✓ **C) thing to do**
The fixed phrase is **the best thing to do** (= the best idea or action): **The best thing to do now is to look for a job. The best** needs a noun here (**thing**), and then **to** + verb.

8. I talked about it with my friends Frank and Lesley. Neither of them _____ suggest anything, but they promised that they _____ their friends.
✓ **D) could**
The story is in the past (**I talked**, **they promised**), so we use the past of **can**: **Neither of them could suggest anything**. Not **can**: the present doesn't fit a past story. **May** and **might** talk about possibility, not ability.

9. Neither of them _____ suggest anything, but they promised that they _____ their friends.
✓ **B) would ask**
After a past verb like **promised**, **will** changes to **would**. Their words were **We will ask our friends**, so we report them as **they promised that they would ask their friends**. Not **should ask**: that would mean it was a good idea, not a promise.

10. A few days later, while I _____ bed, someone telephoned.
✓ **A) was still in**
In bed (in bed, sleeping or resting) has no **the**. Words like **still** go after **was**: **I was still in bed**. The past continuous (**was**) shows the longer action that was happening when the phone call came.

11. “Is that Miss Jenkins?” a man’s voice asked. “I understand your hobby is photography and I’ve got a job that might interest you in my clothes factory. My name is Mr Thomson.” He seemed pleasant on the phone so I went _____.
✓ **C) to see him**
We use **to** + verb to give the reason or purpose for an action: **I went to see him**. Not **for seeing him** or **for to see him**: we don't use **for** to talk about why a person does something.

12. I was _____ I almost forgot to say goodbye.
✓ **D) so excited that**
We use **so** + adjective + **that** to show a result: **I was so excited that I almost forgot to say goodbye**. Not **so excited as** or **than**: **as** and **than** are for comparisons.

13. “Good luck!” my mother _____ me.

✓ D) said to

With the exact words someone says, we use **say to** someone: **my mother said to me**. **Tell** needs a person right after it with no **to** (**told me**), so **told to me** is wrong. **Tell** is present, but the story is in the past.

14. I arrived a bit early and when Mr Thomson came, he asked me if _____ for a long time. “No, not long,” I replied. After talking to me for about twenty minutes, he offered me a job – not as a photographer though, as a model!

✓ A) I had been waiting

In reported questions after a past verb (**asked**), the tense moves back. **Have you been waiting long?** becomes **he asked me if I had been waiting** (past perfect continuous). Her reply **No, not long** and the fact that she arrived early show that the question is about waiting. Not **I had been waiting him**, because we say **wait for someone**. Not **I have been waiting**, because the tense moves back after **asked** in this past story.

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