ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Intermediate Grammar MCQ Test With Answers + PDF Exercise 05

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Explanations

1. Is her _____ than mine?
✓ **B) hair shorter**
Here **shorter** describes **hair** after the noun: **Is her hair shorter than mine?** The comparative of a short adjective takes **-er**, so **more short** is wrong.

2. Phone me when you get _____.
✓ **D) home**
With verbs of movement like **get**, **go** and **come**, we say **home** with no preposition: **get home**. Not **to home**; we only say **at home** when there is no movement (**I'm at home**).

3. When _____ a game of football?
✓ **B) did you last have**
Past simple questions use **did** + subject + base verb. Adverbs like **last** go before the main verb: **When did you last have…?** Not **did you have last**, because **last** cannot come between the verb and its object.

4. I can't find the book _____.
✓ **C) anywhere**
In negative sentences we use **any-** words: **I can't find it anywhere.** Not **nowhere**, because **can't** is already negative, and we don't use two negatives together.

5. There's not much news in today's paper, _____?
✓ **C) is there**
The tag repeats **there** and the verb **is** (**news** is uncountable, so it is singular). The sentence is negative (**not much**), so the tag is positive: **is there?** Not **isn't it**, because the subject is **there**, not **it**.

6. Fred doesn't like babies. _____ Jill.
✓ **A) Nor does**
To agree with a negative sentence we use **Nor/Neither** + auxiliary + subject: **Nor does Jill.** The auxiliary is positive because **nor** already makes it negative. Not **So does**, which agrees with a positive sentence.

7. He often tells stories _____.
✓ **C) that people laugh at**
The relative pronoun **that** introduces the clause, and the verb keeps its preposition at the end: **stories that people laugh at**. Not **which people laugh**, because **laugh at** needs **at**; and **what** cannot follow a noun.

8. Let's not _____ tonight. There's a good film on television.
✓ **D) go anywhere**
Let's not is already negative, so we use **anywhere**: **Let's not go anywhere.** Not **go nowhere**, because that makes a double negative, and **go to somewhere** is wrong because **somewhere/anywhere** take no **to**.

9. The baby is crying! Will you _____ while I prepare his milk?
✓ **B) look after him**
Look after someone means to take care of them: **Can you look after the baby?** Not **care him**, because **care** needs **for** (**care for him**).

10. A secretary's job isn't always easy _____.
✓ **D) to do**
After adjectives like **easy**, **difficult** and **hard** we use the **to**-infinitive: **The job isn't easy to do.** Not **for doing**; **for** is used before a person (**easy for me to do**), not before an **-ing** form here.

11. _____ was fine, I sat out in the garden.
✓ **A) As it**
As can mean **because**, and it can begin a sentence. We use **it** to talk about the weather: **As it was fine, I sat out in the garden.** Not **As there**, because the weather takes **it**, not **there**. **For there** is wrong too: **for** meaning **because** cannot begin a sentence.

12. While we were traveling _____, it started to rain.
✓ **A) towards London in my car**
Towards shows direction (**towards London**), and we travel **in my car**. We say **by car** with no word before **car**, so **by my car** is wrong; **against** means touching or opposing, not direction.

13. Jack brought us _____ cheese.
✓ **C) some more**
Some more means an extra amount and works with uncountable nouns like **cheese**. Not **a lot**, which needs **of** (**a lot of cheese**), and not **too many**, which is for countable nouns.

14. _____ draw very well.
✓ **D) Both these girls**
Both comes before **these/the** + noun: **Both these girls draw well.** With a pronoun we need **of** and an object pronoun: **Both of them**, so **Both them** and **Both of they** are wrong.

15. To travel from England to Scotland you _____ a passport.
✓ **C) don't need**
Don't need + noun means something is not necessary: **You don't need a passport.** Not **needn't**, because **needn't** must be followed by a verb (**you needn't take a passport**).

16. Your pen's on the floor.
✓ **A) Pick it up!**
Pick up means to lift something from the floor. With a pronoun, it goes between the verb and the particle: **Pick it up!** Not **Pick up it**, because pronouns cannot come after the particle.