ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Pronouns – Adverbs – Adjectives – Determiners (Elementary / Pre-Intermediate) Test 19

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Explanations

1. His father is _____ architect; quite _____ expert.
✔ **C) an / an**
Use **an** before a singular job or noun that starts with a vowel sound: **an architect**, **an expert**. After **quite** we still need the article: **quite an expert**.

2. We'd booked the table for eight, and we got there fifteen minutes _____.
✔ **D) late**
Late is both an adjective and an adverb: **We got there fifteen minutes late.** Not **lately**, which means 'recently'.

3. The food looked perfectly _____ to me.
✔ **D) good**
After **look** meaning 'seem', use an adjective, not an adverb: **The food looked good.** Not **nicely** or **deliciously**, because these are adverbs.

4. He works so hard that there are _____ minutes in the day when he's not busy doing something.
✔ **B) few**
Few means 'not many', which fits a person who is almost always busy. Not **a few**, which means 'some' and sounds positive.

5. _____ way is acceptable.
✔ **A) Either**
Either + singular noun means 'one or the other of two': **Either way is acceptable. Both** and **All** need a plural noun.

6. There was _____ anyone could do to help.
✔ **D) little**
Little means 'not much, almost nothing': **There was little anyone could do.** Not **a little**, which means 'some' and is positive.

7. They were all strangers to me. I'd met _____ of them before.
✔ **C) none**
They were strangers, so the meaning is 'not one of them'. Use **none of** for more than two people. **Neither** is only for two.

8. I suppose he wanted to get home as _____ as _____.
✔ **D) quickly / possible**
Quickly describes the verb **get home**, so we need an adverb. The fixed phrase is **as … as possible**: **as quickly as possible**.

9. It seemed _____ that we would _____ have a crash.
✔ **B) certain / finally**
After **seem** we use an adjective: **It seemed certain**. Before the verb **have** we need an adverb: **would finally have**.

10. I think _____ truthfulness is _____ greatest value.
✔ **D) _____ / the**
Truthfulness is an idea in general, so it has no article. A superlative needs **the**: **the greatest value**.

11. Everything is fair in _____ love and _____ war.
✔ **C) _____ / _____**
Love and **war** are general ideas here, so they take no article. This is a famous saying: **All is fair in love and war.**

12. What _____ terrible news!
✔ **D) _____**
News is uncountable, so we can't use **a** or **an**: **What terrible news!** Not **a**, which is only for singular countable nouns (**What a terrible day!**).

13. In _____ past, _____ most people lived by _____ agriculture.
✔ **D) the / _____ / _____**
We say **in the past** with **the**. **Most people** (meaning people in general) and **agriculture** (a general activity) take no article.

14. In _____ fog or rain, you should reduce _____ speed.
✔ **B) _____ / _____**
Fog, **rain** and **speed** are used in a general sense here, so they need no article: **In fog or rain, reduce speed.**

15. He's studying _____ chemistry at _____ university at _____ present.
✔ **C) _____ / _____ / _____**
School subjects take no article (**chemistry**). In British English we say **at university** and **at present** (= now), with no article.

16. She turned this way and that, admiring _____ in the mirror.
✔ **B) herself**
The subject is **she** and she looks at the same person, so we use the reflexive pronoun **herself**.

17. The couple in the flat upstairs are making _____ unpopular by shouting at _____ at the top of their voices every night.
✔ **A) themselves / each other**
The couple make their own selves unpopular, so we use the reflexive **themselves**. They shout at the other person, so we use **each other**. Not **them**, because the subject and object are the same people.

18. She expresses _____ very clearly, though sometimes she doesn't remember _____ the right word.
✔ **D) herself / _____**
We say **express yourself**, so with **she** it is **expresses herself**. **Remember** needs no pronoun before its object: **remember the right word**.

19. They were fighting with _____ and making _____ cry, but then their mother told them to behave _____.
✔ **C) each other / each other / themselves**
The children did things to one another: **fighting with each other**, **making each other cry**. We say **behave yourself/themselves**, so with **them** it is **behave themselves**.

20. The story seems to be _____ _____.
✔ **B) wholly / true**
After **seem to be** we need an adjective (**true**). An adverb describes the adjective: **wholly true** (= completely true).

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