ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Prepositions after verbs (Intermediate / Upper-Intermediate) Test 4

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1	**A**	2	**D**	3	**C**	4	**A**	5	**B**	6	**D**	7	**A**	8	**D**	9	**C**	10	**A**
11	**C**	12	**A**	13	**D**	14	**B**	15	**C**	16	**A**	17	**D**	18	**D**	19	**C**	20	**A**

Explanations

1. Many young children believe _____ Father Christmas.
✓ **A) in**
We say **believe in** someone or something when we think they exist or are good: **Do you believe in ghosts?** Without **in**, **believe someone** means to think that what they say is true.

2. They blamed Peter _____ the failure.
✓ **D) for**
The pattern is **blame someone for something**: **They blamed Peter for the failure.** Not **on**: that is used in the other pattern, **blame something on someone** (**They blamed the failure on Peter**).

3. The police are going to charge him _____ dangerous driving.
✓ **C) with**
The police **charge someone with** a crime, which means they officially accuse them of it: **He was charged with theft.** Other prepositions are not used with this verb.

4. Our next-door neighbour said he'd complain _____ us _____ the police if we made any more noise.
✓ **A) about / to**
We **complain about** a person or problem, and we **complain to** the person who can do something: **complain about us to the police**. The other pairs do not match these verb patterns.

5. Paralysis has deprived him _____ the use of his right hand.
✓ **B) of**
The pattern is **deprive someone of something**, meaning to take something away from them: **The illness deprived him of his sight.** Not **from**, which is a common mistake here.

6. He did not die _____ hunger or cholera. He died _____ an accident.
✓ **D) of / in**
We say **die of** (or **die from**) an illness or hunger, but **die in** an accident, a fire or a war. Option **from / at** is wrong because we never say **at an accident**.

7. Some members of parliament voted _____ the proposal.
✓ **A) against**
We **vote for** something we support and **vote against** something we oppose: **They voted against the plan.** The other prepositions are not used with **vote** in this way.

8. We all perform, and we all hope _____ approval.
✓ **D) for**
Hope for + noun means to want something to happen or to get it: **We're hoping for good weather.** Not **of** or **about**.

9. Please excuse me _____ being late.
✓ **C) for**
The pattern is **excuse someone for (doing) something**: **Please excuse me for being late.** Not **from**: **excuse someone from something** means to allow them not to do it (**excused from homework**).

10. He feeds his horse _____ corn and beans.
✓ **A) on**
We say **feed an animal on** a type of food when it is its usual diet: **They feed the cattle on hay.** You can also say **feed corn to the horse**.

11. We can call _____ Mary at her office at 10 tomorrow.
✓ **C) on**
Call on someone means to visit them for a short time: **I'll call on my aunt tomorrow.** Not **call off**, which means to cancel.

12. He boasted _____ the big fish he had caught.
✓ **A) of**
Boast of or **boast about** means to talk too proudly about something you have or have done: **He boasted of his success. On**, **with** and **from** are not used.

13. The teacher explained the principles of nuclear fission _____ the class.
✓ **D) to**
The pattern is **explain something to someone**: **She explained the rules to us.** Not **for**, and we never say **explain someone something**.

14. He insisted _____ being paid the full sum.
✓ **B) on**
Insist on + noun or -ing means to demand something firmly: **He insisted on paying.** The more formal **insist upon** means the same. **At**, **with** and **by** are not used after **insist**.

15. I introduced Terry _____ Janet two years before they were married.
✓ **C) to**
The pattern is **introduce someone to someone**: **Let me introduce you to my sister.** Not **with**, which is a common mistake.

16. She would sit for hours listening _____ the songs of the birds.
✓ **A) to**
Listen always takes **to** before the thing we hear: **listen to music**, **listening to the songs of the birds**. Not **at** or **with**.

17. They all praised her _____ being brave.
✓ **D) for**
The pattern is **praise someone for (doing) something**: **They praised her for being brave.** This is like **thank/blame someone for**.

18. He stood looking _____ the picture for a long time.
✓ **D) at**
Look at means to turn your eyes towards something: **looking at the picture**. Not **look for** (= search) or **look after** (= take care of).

19. If you don't know what this means, refer _____ the dictionary.
✓ **C) to**
Refer to a book or dictionary means to look in it for information: **Refer to the manual for details.** No other preposition is used here.

20. The chance which he had looked _____ was now freely offered to him.
✓ **A) for**
Here **look for** means to hope for or expect something: **the chance which he had looked for**. Not **looked up**, which means to search for information in a book (**look up a word**).

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