ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Mixed Tenses Advanced Level Test – Quiz (Online Exercise With Answers) 2

English Tenses Tests · 25 questions · Online test and questions PDF:
https://englishtestsonline.com/mixed-tenses-advanced-level-test-quiz-online-exercise-with-answers-2/

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Explanations

1. As a teenager, I _____ that I _____ just young and attractive.
✔ **A) felt / was**
The time is finished (**as a teenager**), so both verbs are in the **past simple**: **felt** / **was**. These are state verbs describing how things were at that time, so no continuous or perfect form is needed. Not **had felt**, because there is no earlier past action to go back from.

2. When Tom entered the room, his mum _____ him because he _____ long hair and a beard. He looked totally different.
✔ **C) didn't recognize / had grown**
The main event is in the **past simple**: **didn't recognize**. Growing the hair and beard happened earlier and was finished, and its result (**He looked totally different**) was visible when he came in, so we use the **past perfect simple**: **had grown**. Not **has grown**, because the story is in the past.

3. Look at the drunken driver at the end of the street! He _____ an accident.
✔ **C) is going to have**
We use **be going to** for a prediction based on present evidence. Here we can see the drunk driver now, so **He is going to have an accident**. Not **will have**, because **will** is for predictions based on opinion, not on what we can see.

4. She invited me to dinner. But it _____ two years since I _____ to her house. So I lost my way.
✔ **B) was / had gone**
The story is in the past (**She invited me … I lost my way**), so we use **it was … since** + **past perfect**: **it was two years since I had gone to her house**. Going to her house happened before that past moment. Not **is / have been**, because those are present forms.

5. The swimmer _____ to be in difficulty, but he _____ to reach the shore in the end.
✔ **D) seemed / managed**
This is a finished past event told in order, so both verbs are in the **past simple**: **seemed** / **managed**. **In the end** shows the second action completed the story. Not **has managed**, because a finished past event takes the past simple, not the present perfect.

6. No English teacher _____ to the school until now.
✔ **D) has been appointed**
Until now links the past to the present, so we need the **present perfect**. The subject receives the action, so it is passive: **has been appointed**. Not **was appointed**, because the past simple doesn't connect to now.

7. "The police _____ the New York bomber" _____ the headline of the newspaper.
✔ **B) catch / was**
Newspaper headlines use the **present simple** for recent past events, and **police** always takes a plural verb: **The police catch …**. The headline appeared in the past, so the second verb is **was**. Not **catches**, because **police** is plural.

8. When Mrs Stone _____ to her flat, she _____ a message from her mother on the answering machine.
✔ **A) returned / found**
Two past actions happen one after the other, so both are in the **past simple**: **returned** / **found**. Not **had returned / had found**, because the past perfect is only for an action that happened before another past action.

9. When we _____ at the forest, it _____ darker.
✔ **D) arrived / was getting**
A short past action (**arrived**) happens during a longer background situation, so the background is in the **past continuous**: **it was getting darker**. Not **has been getting**, because the story is in the past, not connected to now.

10. When she _____ home last night, she realized that John _____ a beautiful candle-lit dinner for her.
✔ **D) arrived / had prepared**
Last night takes the **past simple**: **arrived**. The dinner was ready when she got home, so John's action was finished earlier, which needs the **past perfect**: **had prepared**. Not **has been preparing**, because the present perfect continuous can't be used in a past story.

11. Orthrozanclus, about half an inch long, _____ about 505 million years ago during the Cambrian Period.
✔ **C) lived**
505 million years ago is a finished time in the past, so we use the **past simple**: **lived**. Not **had lived**, because there is no other past event to go back from.

12. The average surface temperature of Earth _____ more than 1 degree Fahrenheit since 1900.
✔ **B) has increased**
Since 1900 shows a period from the past up to now, so we use the **present perfect**: **has increased**. The amount (**more than 1 degree**) is the result so far. Not **had increased**, because there is no past reference point.

13. It seems that somebody _____ to my father before the meeting, complaining that I _____ late for school four times last week.
✔ **D) wrote / was**
Both actions happened at finished past times (**before the meeting**, **last week**), so we use the **past simple**: **wrote** / **was**. Not **has written / have been**, because **last week** can't be used with the present perfect.

14. By this time tomorrow, Annie _____ through space for nineteen hours.
✔ **E) will have been flying**
By this time tomorrow + a duration (**for nineteen hours**) needs the **future perfect continuous**: **will have been flying**. It shows how long an action will have lasted at a future point. Not **will be flying**, because that form doesn't express the duration up to that point.

15. When the article arrived, the editor _____ the first sentence and then _____ to publish it.
✔ **C) read / refused**
The editor did two actions one after the other (**and then**), so both are in the **past simple**: **read** / **refused**. Not **had read / refused**, because **and then** already shows the order; the past perfect isn't needed.

16. It _____ a nice day; therefore, we went swimming.
✔ **A) was**
The result (**we went swimming**) is in the past simple, so the reason describing that day is also in the **past simple**: **It was a nice day**. Not **used to be**, because that is for repeated past situations, not one day.

17. Mr Porter _____ to clip the bushes in front of his house when his son Don _____ around the corner of the garden.
✔ **C) had begun / came**
Mr Porter started clipping before Don appeared, so the earlier action is in the **past perfect**: **had begun**, and the later one in the **past simple**: **came**. Not **began / was coming**, because Don's arrival is a single short action, not a background one.

18. When he _____ her a cheater, she _____ about him to the headmaster.
✔ **D) called / complained**
One past action is followed by a reaction, so both verbs are in the **past simple**: **called** / **complained**. Not **called / had complained**, because she complained after he called her names, not before.

19. Ever since 1905, when Albert Einstein _____ his special theory of relativity to the world, the speed of light _____ a special status in the minds of physicists.
✔ **D) revealed / has had**
In 1905 is a finished past time, so **revealed** is in the **past simple**. **Ever since** shows a situation from then up to now, so the main verb is in the **present perfect**: **has had**. Not **had had**, because the status continues today.

20. How bad that game is! I'm sure our team _____ in this match.
✔ **D) will be beaten**
I'm sure introduces a prediction about the result, so we use the **future simple passive**: **will be beaten** (the team receives the action). Not **will have been beaten**, because there is no future time to look back from.

21. When Darwin _____ the theory of evolution through natural selection years ago, the scientists of the day _____ over it fiercely.
✔ **E) introduced / argued**
Both actions are finished past events, and the arguing was a reaction to the theory, so both verbs are in the **past simple**: **introduced** / **argued**. Not **were arguing**, because the past continuous would mean the scientists were already arguing about the theory before Darwin introduced it.

22. The financial instability which _____ around with depressing frequency in the past two decades _____ weakening the economic system.
✔ **B) has come / has led to**
In the past two decades refers to a period up to now, so both verbs are in the **present perfect**: **has come** / **has led to**. The weakening of the economy is a present result of that period. Not **has been coming / led to**, because the past simple **led to** doesn't fit a period that continues to the present.

23. Things have certainly changed; there _____ lots of small old houses around here when I _____ young.
✔ **B) used to be / was**
Things have certainly changed contrasts the past with now, so we use **used to** for a past state that is no longer true: **there used to be**. **When I was young** is in the past simple. Not **would be**, because **would** is only for repeated past actions, not states.

24. A: Where is Annie?

B: She _____ at the library for her English test on Wednesday. In fact, she _____ for the test every day for the last week.
✔ **D) is studying / has been reviewing**
Annie is at the library now, so the first verb is in the **present continuous**: **is studying**. **For the last week** shows an activity from the past up to now, so the second verb is in the **present perfect continuous**: **has been reviewing**. Not **was reviewing**, because the period continues to the present.

25. After 1500, the construction of castles _____ no longer available and "castle" _____ a term for an imposing residence.
✔ **C) was / became**
After 1500 refers to a finished historical period, so both verbs are in the **past simple**: **was** / **became**. Not **had become**, because the change in meaning happened after 1500, not before another past event.