ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Mixed Tenses Multiple Choice Test 2

English Grammar Tests · 20 questions · Online test and questions PDF:
https://englishtestsonline.com/mixed-tenses-multiple-choice-test-2/

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

Explanations

1. _____ I the only person to agree to the new proposal?
✔ **D) am**
In a question with **be**, the verb comes before the subject, and the subject **I** always takes **am**: **Am I the only person…?** Not **are** or **is**, because those go with other subjects (**you are**, **he is**).

2. How _____ the wounds on your arm?
✔ **E) are**
The subject **the wounds** is plural, so we need the plural verb **are**: **How are the wounds on your arm?** Not **is**, because **is** goes with a singular subject.

3. _____ you still unwilling to work along with us on the project?
✔ **B) are**
Unwilling is an adjective, so the question needs the verb **be**. With **you** we use **are**: **Are you still unwilling…?** Not **haven't** or **can**, because they would need a main verb (**Can you be…?**).

4. _____ she really unacceptable for our programme?
✔ **B) in your opinion, is**
The sentence has no verb, so the gap must give one: **In your opinion, is she really unacceptable…?** uses **be** + adjective in question order. Not **do you think**, because **Do you think she really unacceptable** still has no verb (it would need **she is**).

5. These _____ the unfortunate children I _____ to you before.
✔ **A) are / mentioned**
These is plural and points to children here now, so we use **are**. The mentioning happened earlier (**before**), so the past simple **mentioned** fits. Not **is / have mentioned**, because **is** does not agree with the plural **these**.

6. He _____ violently _____ his fist into the wall.
✔ **E) was / slamming**
This is the past continuous: **was** + **-ing** form, used for an action in progress: **He was violently slamming his fist into the wall.** Not **were**, because **he** takes **was**.

7. Who _____ the people _____ on the underground?
✔ **C) are / getting**
The people is plural, so we use **are**. **Getting on the underground** is a short form of **who are getting on**, describing what the people are doing now: **Who are the people getting on the underground?** Not **is / to get**, because **people** is plural.

8. How many colours _____ you _____ the portrait with?
✔ **A) are / painting**
This is a present continuous question: **are** + subject + **-ing** form: **How many colours are you painting the portrait with?** Not **have / painting**, because **have** needs a past participle (**have you painted**).

9. Qualified personnel just _____ want to come out to rural areas, even when they _____ good salaries.
✔ **B) don’t / are offered**
This is a general fact, so we use the present simple: **don't want**. In the second gap the qualified people receive the salaries, so we need the passive **are offered**. Not **will / don't offer**, because the people do not offer the salaries; they are offered them.

10. She repeatedly _____ romantic novels which _____ in the 18th century.
✔ **D) read / were written**
The novels did not write themselves; someone wrote them in the past, so we need the past passive **were written** (**in the 18th century**). **Read** here is the past simple of **read**. Not **reads / were writing**, because **were writing** is active and would mean the novels did the writing.

11. She _____ permission to see the children once a week.
✔ **A) has obtained**
The present perfect is **has** + past participle: **She has obtained permission**, which means she got it and has it now. Not **has obtains** or **might obtained**, because **has** and **might** are not followed by those forms.

12. Chemical factories in this area _____ the atmosphere.
✔ **E) have been polluting**
The present perfect continuous (**have been** + **-ing**) shows an action that started in the past and is still going on: **have been polluting**. Not **pollutes**, because the subject **factories** is plural and needs **pollute**.

13. She _____ to the works of Shakespeare often in her book.
✔ **B) refers**
Often shows a repeated action or habit, so we use the present simple. With **she** we add **-s**: **She refers to the works of Shakespeare often.** Not **have been referred**, because the subject is **she** and the verb should be active.

14. I _____ to my son's teacher today to let her know that my son _____ ill and _____ in school this week.
✓ C) spoke / is / won't be
The talk with the teacher is finished, so we use the past simple **spoke**. The son is ill now, so **is**, and his absence is in the future, so **won't be in school this week**. Not **would speak / are / won't be**, because **my son** takes **is**, not **are**.

15. Which of the students _____ the window before the teacher arrived?
✓ D) had broken
We use the past perfect (**had** + past participle) for an action that happened before another past action. The window was broken first, and then the teacher arrived, so **had broken** is correct. Not **has been breaking**, because the present perfect continuous does not fit with the past action **arrived**.

16. The rain _____ and the sun _____ at about noontime.
✓ B) had ended / was shining
The sentence describes a past moment (**at about noontime**). By then the rain was already finished, so we use the past perfect **had ended**. The sun was shining at that moment, so we use the past continuous **was shining**. Not **has ended / is shining**, because a present tense does not fit a finished past time.

17. _____ they often _____ a baby sitter?
✓ D) do / require
Often shows a habit, so we use a present simple question: **do** + subject + base verb: **Do they often require a baby sitter?** Not **can / requires**, because after **can** we use the base form without **-s**.

18. I _____ to this restaurant regularly for about eight years now.
✓ E) have been coming
For about eight years now shows an action that started in the past and still continues, so we use the present perfect continuous: **have been coming**. Not **was coming**, because that would mean the habit is finished.

19. I _____ raw meat of any kind! The idea _____ to me.
✓ B) will not eat / is repelling
Will not eat expresses a strong refusal: **I will not eat raw meat!** In the second gap, **is repelling to me** means the idea disgusts the speaker (**repel** = cause a strong dislike). Not **had been eating / repels**, because **repel** needs a direct object (**repels me**), not **to me**.

20. The old woman _____ bird feed hoping that the birds _____ to eat it.
✓ A) scattered / would come
The story is in the past, so we use the past simple **scattered**. To talk about what she expected in the past, we use **would** (the past of **will**): **hoping that the birds would come**. Not **scatters / coming**, because **coming** alone cannot be the verb after **that the birds**.

Practise more on englishtestsonline.com
Take this test online, download its questions PDF, and find thousands of free English tests:
englishtestsonline.com · scan the code for this test
englishtestsonline.com