ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Mixed Tenses Multiple Choice Test 4

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Explanations

1. The doctors continuously _____ the heart rate of any patient who _____ a blood transfusion.
✓ **C) monitor / has gotten**
This is a general routine, so we use the **present simple**: **the doctors monitor**. In the relative clause, the **present perfect** (**has gotten**, American English; British **has got/has had**) shows a transfusion that has already happened. Not **had monitored / have got**, because **patient** is singular and needs **has**.

2. How long _____ you _____ on this puzzle? I _____ if I were you.
✓ **D) have / been working / would give up**
How long + an action that started in the past and is still going on needs the **present perfect continuous**: **have you been working**. For advice we use **If I were you, I would…**, so **I would give up**. Not **has**, because the subject is **you**.

3. I _____ my pay tomorrow so I _____ you a loan then.
✓ **B) will receive / can give**
Tomorrow shows the future, so **will receive**. **Can give** expresses what will be possible **then**. Not **might get / couldn't give**, because getting your pay is a reason to give a loan, not to refuse one.

4. It's been three years since I _____ my old roommate Alfred. I _____ to his new home to see him next week.
✓ **A) saw / will be going**
After **It's been … since**, we use the **past simple** for the moment in the past when something last happened: **since I saw him**. **Next week** shows a planned future action, so **will be going** (future continuous). Not **had seen / went**, because **went** is past and **next week** is future.

5. The incident _____ a lot of bad feelings between the office workers who _____ together very long.
✓ **E) caused / hadn't worked**
The incident is a finished past event, so **caused** (past simple). The workers' time together was before the incident, so we use the **past perfect**: **hadn't worked together very long**. **Very long** is normally used in negative sentences.

6. I _____ the new student extra lessons but he _____ to catch up.
✓ **B) have been giving / hasn't been able**
The lessons started in the past and are still going on, so we use the **present perfect continuous**: **have been giving**. The result up to now is **hasn't been able to catch up**. Not **can't be able**, because **can** and **be able** are never used together.

7. He _____ because she _____ him some jokes and riddles.
✓ **A) was laughing / had been telling**
Was laughing (past continuous) describes what he was doing at that time. The jokes came before and caused the laughing, so we use the **past perfect continuous**: **had been telling**. Not **laughed / to tell**, because **she to tell** is not a correct verb form.

8. After his weekend holiday, I _____ Tom at the airport and _____ him a ride to his flat.
✓ **D) met / gave**
Both actions are finished and happened one after another in the past, so both verbs are **past simple**: **met** and **gave**. Not **will meet / gave**, because the two verbs joined by **and** must refer to the same time.

9. By the time I _____ home, my mother _____ my dinner.
✓ **C) arrived / had prepared**
By the time + past simple (**arrived**) is followed by the **past perfect** for an action finished earlier: **had prepared**. Not **arrived / will prepare**, because the dinner was ready before I got home.

10. When I _____ my son what he _____, he told me that he was playing and that he _____ an astronaut in space.
✓ **E) asked / was doing / had become**
The question was asked at one moment in the past, so **asked**. In reported speech, **What are you doing?** becomes **what he was doing**, and **I have become** becomes **he had become**. Not **was asking / done**, because **done** needs an auxiliary (**had done**).

11. There _____ many recent discoveries in medicine which _____ our lives.
✓ **A) have been / have improved**
Recent discoveries with results now need the **present perfect**: **there have been** (plural, for **many discoveries**) and **which have improved our lives**. Not **is / improve**, because **discoveries** is plural.

12. I _____ the flowers in the vase and then _____ the vase on the table.
✓ **C) put / placed**
Two finished actions in order (**and then**) are both in the **past simple**: **put** (irregular: put-put-put) and **placed**. Not **had put / placing**, because **placing** is not a complete verb.

13. We _____ the house painted this summer or else it _____ till next year.
✓ **B) must have / will not be done**
Must have + object + past participle (**have the house painted**) means we need someone to do the job for us. **Or else** gives the result if we don't: **it will not be done till next year**. Not **have to have / can be done**, because the result should be negative.

14. _____ you _____ the mumps yet? My sister just _____ down with a case.
✓ **D) have / had / came**
Yet in a question shows the **present perfect**: **Have you had the mumps yet?** (**have** an illness). **Come down with** means **become ill with**; **just came** is American usage (British: **has just come down**). Not **have / been**, because we **have** an illness, we don't **be** it.

15. I _____ for my sewing needle. It _____ out of my hand as I _____ it.
✓ **A) am looking / fell / was threading**
I am looking (present continuous) describes what I am doing now. **It fell** (past simple) is a short action that interrupted a longer one, **as I was threading it** (past continuous). Not **have looked / has fallen**, because the long action of threading needs the past continuous.

16. No. I _____ with you because I _____ plans to go with the Smiths.
✓ **C) can't go / have made**
The speaker refuses an invitation, so **can't go**. The plans were made earlier and matter now, so we use the **present perfect**: **have made plans**. Not **couldn't go / make**, because **I make plans** doesn't show plans that already exist.

17. I _____ the tin of beans yet. Where _____ you _____ it?
✓ **B) haven't found / did / put**
Yet in a negative sentence needs the **present perfect**: **haven't found** (**find-found-found**). The putting happened at a finished past time, so we ask in the past simple: **Where did you put it?** Not **haven't find**, because after **have** we need the past participle **found**.

18. Tomorrow, I _____ my first payment on the new car I _____ last month.
✓ **D) will be making / bought**
Will be making (future continuous) describes an action that is planned or expected to be happening tomorrow. **Last month** shows a finished past time, so **bought** (past simple). Not **will make / buy**, because **buy** cannot refer to **last month**.

19. We _____ buying a boat because we _____ anything about sailing.
✓ **D) aren't / don’t know**
We aren't buying (present continuous) shows a decision about the near future. **Know** is a state verb, so the present simple is used: **we don't know anything**. Not **aren't / know**, because **anything** needs a negative verb here.

20. Which hotel _____ to stay in when you get to New York? I _____ one if you _____ reservations yet.
✓ **E) are you going / can suggest / haven't made**
For plans we use **be going to**: **Which hotel are you going to stay in? Can suggest** is an offer. **Yet** needs the **present perfect**: **if you haven't made reservations yet**. Not **will be suggesting / made**, because **made** doesn't go with **yet**.

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