ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Mixed Tenses MCQ Test With Answers + PDF Exercise 4

English Grammar Tests · 20 questions · Online test and questions PDF: https://englishtestsonline.com/mixed-tenses-test-4/

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Explanations

1. You _____ very thoughtful. What _____ you _____ about?
✓ **B) look / are / thinking**
Look (seem) is a state verb, so it takes the present simple: **You look thoughtful**. The question is about what is happening in your mind right now, so it takes the present continuous: **What are you thinking about?** Not **think**, because a question about this moment needs **are … thinking**.

2. His situation _____ since spring. Now he _____ much better.
✓ **D) has improved / feels**
Since spring links a past start to now, so we use the present perfect: **has improved**. **Now** describes his present state, and with **he** the present simple is **feels**. Not **feel**, because **he** needs **-s**.

3. It's evening. People _____ home from work, and now they _____ TV.
✓ **B) have come / are watching**
The present perfect **have come** shows a past action with a result now: they are at home. **Now** shows an action in progress, so we use the present continuous **are watching**. Not **come / watch**, because the sentence is about this evening, not about a habit.

4. Please _____ me the newspaper the postman _____ today.
✓ **E) show / has brought**
A request uses the imperative base form: **show me**. The newspaper arrived today and is here now, so we use the present perfect: **has brought**. Not **had brought**, because the past perfect needs another past event to come before.

5. Do you _____ that woman in the corner? She _____ a walk with her dog.
✓ **A) see / is having**
See is a state verb, so it takes the present simple: **Do you see …?** The woman is walking right now, so we use the present continuous: **is having a walk**. Not **has**, because that describes a habit, not this moment.

6. My dog _____ a lot but it _____ at the moment.
✓ **C) barks / isn't barking**
A lot describes a habit, so we use the present simple **barks**. **At the moment** shows what is happening now, so we use the present continuous **isn't barking**.

7. I _____ about it at the moment and I think that I _____ how to use it now.
✓ **C) am reading / know**
At the moment shows an action in progress, so we use the present continuous **am reading**. **Know** is a state verb, so with **now** it stays in the present simple: **I know**. Not **am knowing**: state verbs don't usually take **-ing**.

8. Tom _____ the book since yesterday morning and he _____ it.
✓ **B) has been reading / has just finished**
Since yesterday morning shows an activity that went on over a period up to now: present perfect continuous **has been reading**. **Just** with a result now takes the present perfect: **has just finished**. Not **had been reading**, because there is no past moment to look back from.

9. I _____ I _____ you before.
✓ **C) think / have met**
Think (believe) is a state verb in the present simple: **I think**. **Before** with no exact time shows a life experience, so we use the present perfect: **I have met you before**. Not **has met**, because **I** needs **have**.

10. He _____ a very experienced teacher. He _____ French for 15 years.
✓ **C) is / has been teaching**
The first sentence describes him now: **He is**. **For 15 years** shows an activity that started in the past and still continues, so we use the present perfect continuous: **has been teaching**. Not **is teaching**: the present continuous can't be used with **for** + a period up to now.

11. I'm _____ to tell you the story I _____ at school today.
✓ **B) going / heard**
Be going to is followed by the base form: **I'm going to tell**. The hearing happened at school earlier and is finished (the speaker is not at school now), so we use the past simple: **the story I heard at school today**. Not **am hearing**, because the action is not happening now.

12. Jimmy, Jane and Billy wanted _____ their grandfather who _____ to visit them.
✓ **A) to impress / had come**
Want is followed by **to** + infinitive: **wanted to impress**. The grandfather came before the time of **wanted**, so we use the past perfect: **had come**. Not **to come**: the relative clause needs a verb with a tense.

13. On _____ the room he _____ left and _____ his way.
✓ **A) entering / turned / went on**
After the preposition **on** we use the **-ing** form: **On entering** means 'as soon as he entered'. The story is in the past, so both main verbs are in the past simple: **turned** and **went on**. Not **turns**, because it doesn't match the past **went on**.

14. _____ you read the book “The Godfather”? If yes, when _____ you read it?
✔ C) have / did
To ask about experience with no time given, we use the present perfect: **Have you read …?** A question with **when** asks about a finished past time, so it needs the past simple: **When did you read it?** Not **have** in the second gap, because **when** can't be used with the present perfect.

15. I _____ Tom since he _____ school.
✔ D) haven’t seen / left
The main clause with **since** takes the present perfect: **I haven’t seen**. After **since**, the starting point is a finished past event, so we use the past simple: **since he left school**. Not **hadn’t seen**, because the time runs up to now, not to a past moment.

16. He _____ me his name but I _____ it.
✔ C) told / have forgotten
Telling the name was a finished past action: **told**. Forgetting has a result now (I don't know his name), so we use the present perfect: **have forgotten**. Not **forgot**: that option is paired with **will tell**, which doesn't fit.

17. Don’t worry. They _____ you the money tomorrow before they _____.
✔ C) will send / leave
Tomorrow shows the future, so the main clause uses **will send**. After time words like **before**, **when** and **after**, we use the present simple for the future: **before they leave**. Not **before they will leave**: **will** is not used after **before**.

18. I _____ already _____ the doctor about it, but she couldn’t _____ me.
✔ B) have / seen / help
Already goes with the present perfect, and with **I** we need **have**: **I have already seen**. After **couldn’t** we use the base form: **couldn’t help**. Not **has**, because **I** takes **have**.

19. The weather _____ as nice today as it _____ yesterday.
✔ A) is / was
Today goes with the present: **The weather is**. **Yesterday** goes with the past: **it was**. **Weather** is singular, so we use **is/was**, not **are/were**.

20. You _____ six cakes since we _____.
✔ D) have had / came
The main clause with **since** takes the present perfect: **You have had six cakes**. After **since**, the starting point is a finished past action: **since we came**. Not **have come**, because the part after **since** needs the past simple.

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