ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Mixed Tenses MCQ Test With Answers + PDF Exercise 6

English Grammar Tests · 17 questions · Online test and questions PDF: https://englishtestsonline.com/mixed-tenses-test-7/

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Explanations

1. It has been a long time since I _____ him last. I _____ from him all these years.
✔ **A) saw / haven't heard**
After **since** we use the past simple for a finished moment in the past: **since I saw him last**. **All these years** runs up to now, so the second gap needs the present perfect: **haven't heard**. Not **had seen**, because the main verb **has been** is in the present, not the past.

2. He was sure they _____ the station before night _____.
✔ **B) would reach / came**
After a past reporting verb (**was sure**), **will** changes to **would**: **they would reach**. In a time clause after **before**, we don't use **would**. We use the past simple: **before night came**. Not **would come**, because time clauses never take **will** or **would**.

3. - "_____ you _____ this film yet?"

- "Yes."

- "When _____ you _____ it?"
✔ **B) have / seen / did / see**
Yet with no time given needs the present perfect: **Have you seen this film yet?** A question with **When** asks about a finished past time, so it takes the past simple: **When did you see it?** Not **have you seen** in the second question, because **when** is not used with the present perfect.

4. - When _____ you _____ here?

- I _____ just _____.
✔ **A) did / come back / have / come back**
A question with **When** asks about a past time, so it takes the past simple: **When did you come back?** **Just** with a very recent action takes the present perfect: **I have just come back**. Not **have you come back** after **When**, because **when** is not used with the present perfect.

5. Look! There _____ nothing here. Everything _____ away.
✔ **B) is / has been taken**
Nothing is singular, so we say **There is nothing**. The result is visible now (**Look!**), so we need the present perfect passive: **Everything has been taken away**. Not **is being taken**, because the action is already finished.

6. Everybody _____ at what _____.
✔ **B) was surprised / had happened**
The surprise is in the past: **Everybody was surprised**. The event happened before the surprise, so we use the past perfect: **what had happened**. Not **has happened**, because the present perfect does not follow a past-tense main clause here.

7. The famous writer Tolstoy _____ forever in our memories, in the books he _____ to us.
✔ **A) will live / left**
Forever points to the future, so we use **will live**. Leaving the books was a finished action in Tolstoy's lifetime, so it takes the past simple: **the books he left**. Not **is living**, because the present continuous does not go with **forever** in this sense.

8. Ernest Hemingway _____ one of those writers who _____ sitting down.
✔ **C) was not / write**
Hemingway lived in the past, so we use the past simple: **was not**. In **one of those writers who …**, the word **who** refers to **writers** (plural). It describes a general habit, so it takes the present simple plural: **write**. Not **writes**, because the verb agrees with **writers**, not with **one**.

9. If you _____ so rude to her, she _____ to us earlier.
✔ **B) hadn't been / would have come**
This is a third conditional about an unreal past: **If** + past perfect, **would have** + past participle. **If you hadn't been so rude, she would have come earlier.** Not **were not / had come**, because the past perfect belongs in the **if** clause, not in the result.

10. "Hello, Mr Roberts," _____ the clerk.

"What _____ you _____ home for your wife today?"
✔ **C) greeted / are / taking**
The story is told in the past, so the reporting verb is past simple: **greeted**. The present continuous asks about a plan for today: **What are you taking home?** Not **did you take**, because **today** still lies ahead for the speaker.

11. Two years ago she _____ and now she _____ her time visiting friends.
✔ **B) retired / spends**
Two years ago shows a finished past action, so we use the past simple: **retired**. **Now** with a regular habit takes the present simple: **she spends her time**. Not **had retired**, because nothing else in the past comes after it.

12. He might _____ the accident if he _____ more careful.
✔ **B) have avoided / had been**
This is a third conditional about the past: **might have** + past participle, and **if** + past perfect. **He might have avoided the accident if he had been more careful.** Not **avoid / had been**, because the result is also in the past.

13. - Hello, Ann! I _____ you for ages. Where have you been all this time?

- I _____ to Italy. I _____ back yesterday.

✔ **B) haven’t seen / have been / came**

For ages up to now needs the present perfect: **I haven't seen you**. **Have been to** answers **Where have you been?** and means the trip is finished. **Yesterday** is a finished time, so we use the past simple: **came**. Not **had been / had come**, because there is no earlier past action.

14. - What _____ you _____ at 6 p.m. yesterday?

- I _____ my homework. After I _____ it I played chess with my friend.

✔ **C) were / doing / was doing / had done**

At 6 p.m. yesterday asks about an action in progress, so we use the past continuous: **What were you doing? I was doing my homework.** The homework was finished before the chess, so we use the past perfect: **After I had done it**. Not **have done**, because the story is in the past.

15. This book _____ quite different from the one I _____ last week.

✔ **E) is / read**

A fact about the book now takes the present simple: **This book is different**. **Last week** is a finished time, so we use the past simple: **the one I read last week**. Not **have read**, because the present perfect cannot go with **last week**.

16. - _____ I _____ after the luggage or _____ you?

- If you _____ to the luggage and pay the driver, I’ll go in and see about rooms.

✔ **A) Shall / look / will / see**

Shall I …? makes an offer, and **or will you?** asks about the other person's choice. **See to** means 'take care of'. After **if**, we use the present simple, not **will**: **If you see to the luggage**. Not **will see**, because **will** is not used in an **if** clause like this.

17. Nobody knows what _____ at that meeting, but she _____ to him since.

✔ **A) was said / hasn’t spoken**

The words were said at a past meeting, so we use the past simple passive: **what was said**. **Since** at the end means 'from then until now', so we need the present perfect: **she hasn't spoken to him since**. Not **didn't speak**, because the past simple does not go with **since**.

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