ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

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Explanations

1. I'm not really sure where the cat is, but I think she _____ in the kitchen.
✔ **B) might be playing**
To guess about an action happening right now, use **might be + -ing**: **She might be playing in the kitchen.** Not **might have played**, which is a guess about the past.

2. If I had left early like everyone else did, I _____ sitting here now listening to all this rubbish.
✔ **B) wouldn't be**
This is a mixed conditional: a past condition (**If I had left early**) with a present result (**now**). The present result uses **would(n't) + infinitive**: **I wouldn't be sitting here now.**

3. If I'd gone down to Bodrum as all my friends did, I, too, _____ scuba diving lessons.
✔ **A) could have taken**
In a third conditional (**If I'd gone…**), the result clause uses **would/could/might have + past participle**. **Could have taken** means it was possible, but it didn't happen. **Had taken** is wrong, because the result clause needs a modal.

4. Meltem had agreed to meet us here at the entrance, but she _____ here when we arrived.
✔ **C) wasn't**
The sentence simply states a past fact that contrasts with her promise (**but**): she **wasn't** here when we arrived. The past simple is all we need, and no modal is required.

5. It _____ that silly friend of yours who called and didn't leave a proper message on the answering machine.
✔ **B) could easily be**
The speaker is guessing who called, so a modal of possibility is needed: **It could easily be** your friend, meaning it is quite possible. Not **should have been**, which is about duty or expectation, not a guess.

6. I wish I'd never set foot there in person. I _____ her instead.
✔ **A) should have phoned**
Should have + past participle expresses regret about the past: it was a good idea, but I didn't do it. The clue is **I wish I'd never set foot there**: **I should have phoned her instead.**

7. These aren't my books. I _____ someone else's books by mistake.
✔ **C) must have taken**
Must have + past participle is a confident conclusion about the past. The clue is **These aren't my books**, so the speaker concludes: **I must have taken someone else's books.**

8. Why did you do the dishes? You really _____ have bothered.
✔ **B) needn't**
Needn't have + past participle means someone did something that was not necessary. You did the dishes, but it wasn't necessary: **You needn't have bothered.** Not **mustn't**, which means it is not allowed.

9. I _____ bought them if you had lent me some money.
✔ **B) might have**
In a third conditional (**if you had lent me**), the result uses **would/could/might have + past participle** for something that didn't happen. **Might have bought** means it was a possible result. **May have** is normally used for guesses about real past events, not for unreal conditions.

10. You _____ brought them with you. Why didn't you?
✔ **C) ought to have**
Ought to have + past participle (like **should have**) criticises a past action that didn't happen. The clue is **Why didn't you?** Not **must have**, which would mean you surely did bring them.

11. Garry _____ returned the CD we rented last week. It was on the table, but now it's gone.
✔ **A) must have**
Must have + past participle is a logical conclusion about the past based on evidence. The CD was on the table and now it's gone, so **Garry must have returned it. Ought to have** would mean he was supposed to but didn't.

12. You've done an excellent job on it. No one else _____ it better.
✔ **C) could have done**
Could have + past participle talks about past ability or possibility. **No one else could have done it better** means nobody would have been able to do it better.

13. I really _____ fishing with my friends, but unfortunately I was down with the flu.
✔ **B) would like to have gone**
Would like to have + past participle expresses a wish about the past that didn't come true. The clue is **but unfortunately I was down with the flu**, so I didn't go.

14. I _____ have taken your advice and stayed away from that place.
✔ **C) should**
Should have + past participle expresses regret: following your advice was the right thing, but I didn't do it. Not **must have**, which is a conclusion that something surely happened.

15. It now seems we _____ to get a taxi. We're already here and still have half an hour to go before the performance _____.
✓ **B) needn't have hurried / begins**
Needn't have + past participle means we did something that turned out to be unnecessary. We hurried, but we are early. The second gap needs the present simple for a timetabled event: **before the performance begins**.

16. They kept repeating that they _____ follow him wherever he went, but he still wasn't so sure.
✓ **B) would**
In reported speech, **will** becomes **would**. They said, **We will follow you wherever you go**, which becomes **they would follow him wherever he went**. It is a promise, not advice (**had better**) or duty (**ought to**).

17. She _____ read my letter by now, and I'm sure she will call us any moment.
✓ **B) must have**
Must have + past participle is a confident guess that something has already happened. The clue is **by now**: **She must have read my letter by now.** **Should** or **has to** + **read** would refer to the present or future, not to a finished action.

18. Next week's final between these two teams _____ be really fascinating.
✓ **A) should**
Should can express what we expect or think is likely in the future: **The final should be really fascinating. Had better** gives advice or a warning, so it doesn't fit here.

19. Her parents were supposed to have been back by last Monday. Frankly, they _____ a great time there.
✓ **C) must be having**
Must be + -ing is a confident guess about something happening now. They haven't come back yet, so the speaker concludes: **they must be having a great time there.**

20. You _____ have repeated it. It wasn't really necessary.
✓ **C) needn't**
Needn't have + past participle means you did something, but it wasn't necessary. The clue is **It wasn't really necessary.** Not **can't have**, which means it is impossible that you did it.

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