ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Outcomes Placement Test: Free Practice Version with Answers

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Explanations

1. Where ___ your parents live?
✔ **D) do**
With you, we, they and plural nouns (your parents), present simple questions use do: Where do your parents live?

2. I have two ___, a boy and a girl.
✔ **C) children**
Child has an irregular plural: one child, two children.

3. We don't have ___ bread. Can you buy some?
✔ **C) any**
In negative sentences we usually use any: We don't have any bread.

4. My birthday is ___ June.
✔ **B) in**
We use in with months and years: in June, in 2025. We use on with days and dates: on Monday, on 5 June.

5. That's Mr Brown. He works in a hospital. He's a ___.
✔ **D) nurse**
A nurse works in a hospital and looks after people who are ill.

6. ___ is that jacket? It's £40.
✔ **D) How much**
We ask about a price with How much: How much is that jacket?

7. There ___ a bank near the station.
✔ **B) is**
A bank is one thing, so we say there is.

8. A: "Thank you for your help!" B: "___"
✔ **B) You're welcome.**
When someone thanks you, you can answer You're welcome.

9. They ___ watching TV at the moment.
✔ **D) are**
For something happening now, we use am/is/are + -ing. They takes are: They are watching TV.

10. I usually go to work ___ bus.
✔ **A) by**
We say by bus, by car, by train for how we travel. (But we say on foot.)

11. When I was a child, I ___ play football every day.
✔ **A) used to**
Used to + verb is for a past habit that is not true now: I used to play football.

12. She ___ for this company since 2015.
✔ **B) has worked**
With since + a starting point, we use the present perfect: She has worked here since 2015 (and still works here).

13. This is the ___ restaurant in town. Everyone loves it.
✔ **C) most popular**
For the superlative of a long adjective, we use the most: the most popular.

14. You look tired. You ___ go to bed early tonight.
✔ **B) should**
We use should + verb to give advice: You should go to bed early.

15. I'll call you as soon as I ___ home.
✔ **B) get**
After as soon as, when and before, we use the present simple for the future: as soon as I get home.

16. How long have you ___ in this flat?
✔ **A) lived**
The present perfect is have + past participle: How long have you lived here?

17. Can you ___ the children while I go to the shops?
✔ **C) look after**
Look after means take care of someone: Can you look after the children?

18. We missed the train, ___ we took a taxi.
✔ **A) so**
So introduces a result: We missed the train, so we took a taxi.

19. I'm really ___ in history. I read books about it all the time.
✔ **C) interested**
An -ed adjective describes how a person feels: I'm interested in history.

20. A: "Shall we go to the beach on Saturday?" B: "That ___ like a great idea!"
✔ **B) sounds**
To react to an idea, we say That sounds great or That sounds like a great idea.

21. If I ___ more money, I would buy a bigger car.
✔ **D) had**
For an imagined present situation, we use if + past simple, then would + verb.

22. The letter ___ to the wrong address last week.
✔ **C) was sent**
The letter did not send itself, so we use the passive. Last week is finished time: was sent.

23. He said he ___ come to the party, but he never arrived.
✔ **A) would**
In reported speech, will usually changes to would: "I will come" → He said he would come.

24. This is the town ___ I was born.
✔ **A) where**
We use where in a relative clause about a place: the town where I was born.

25. I've been learning English ___ three years.
✔ **C) for**
For gives a length of time (for three years). Since gives a starting point (since 2022).

26. I'm thinking ___ changing my job.
✔ **A) about**
We say think about (or think of) + -ing: I'm thinking about changing my job.

27. You ___ pay to visit the museum. It's free.
✔ **A) don't have to**
Don't have to means it is not necessary. Mustn't means it is not allowed.

28. The concert was ___ by the rain, so we stayed at home.
✔ **C) cancelled**
When a planned event will not happen, it is cancelled.

29. I can't find my phone. I ___ have left it on the bus.
✔ **C) might**
Might + have + past participle shows a possibility in the past: I might have left it on the bus.

30. I'm looking forward ___ you next week.
✔ **D) to seeing**
In look forward to, to is a preposition, so we use -ing after it: I'm looking forward to seeing you.

31. By the time I got to the cinema, the film ___.
✔ **A) had started**
The past perfect (had started) shows the earlier of two past actions: the film started before I got there.

32. If she hadn't missed the bus, she ___ late for yesterday's interview.
✔ **B) wouldn't have been**
For an imagined past, we use if + past perfect, then would have + past participle.

33. The new shopping centre ___ next year.
✔ **D) will be built**
The future passive is will be + past participle: It will be built next year.

34. He suggested ___ a taxi because it was raining.
✔ **C) taking**
Suggest is followed by -ing (suggest taking) or by that + clause (suggest that we take). We do not say suggest to take.

35. She ___ have gone home. Her coat is still here.
✔ **A) can't**
Can't have + past participle shows that we are sure something did not happen.

36. He asked me ___ I could speak French.
✔ **D) whether**
In a reported yes/no question, we use if or whether: He asked me whether I could speak French.

37. I'm not used ___ in such a big city.
✔ **B) to living**
Be used to is followed by -ing: I'm not used to living in a big city.

38. The price of petrol has ___ sharply this year.
✔ **B) risen**
Rise (risen) means go up by itself. Raise needs an object: The company raised its prices.

39. I'd ___ stay at home tonight than go out.
✔ **A) rather**
Would rather + verb + than means prefer: I'd rather stay at home than go out.

40. We need to ___ a solution before the meeting ends.
✔ **A) come up with**
Come up with means think of an idea or plan: come up with a solution.

41. Hardly ___ the house when it started to pour with rain.
✔ **C) had we left**
After hardly at the start of a sentence, the subject and had change places: Hardly had we left...

42. I'd sooner you ___ the car tonight. I might need it.
✔ **D) didn't take**
Would sooner (like would rather) + person + past simple talks about what we want someone else to do.

43. The success of the project ___ on how much money we can raise.
✔ **A) hinges**
Hinge on means depend completely on something: Everything hinges on the money.

44. She was ___ disappointed with the results of the survey.
✔ **B) bitterly**
Bitterly goes with disappointed: bitterly disappointed. We say sharply criticised and acutely aware.

45. ___ the bad weather, the match will go ahead as planned.
✔ **B) Notwithstanding**
Notwithstanding is a formal word for despite, and is followed by a noun: Notwithstanding the bad weather...

46. The new manager has really ___ the team. They're working much harder now.
✔ **D) galvanised**
To galvanise people means to make them suddenly more active and determined.

47. She ___ no effort to make her guests feel welcome: everything was perfect.
✔ **B) spared**
Spare no effort means try as hard as you can: They spared no effort to help us.

48. Little ___ that his decision would change the company for ever.
✔ **B) did he realise**
After little at the start of a sentence (meaning not at all), the word order is like a question: Little did he realise...

49. The plan was rejected ___ grounds of cost.
✓ **A) on**
We say on the grounds of or on grounds of something, meaning for that reason.

50. Were it not ___ your help, I would never have finished on time.
✓ **B) for**
Were it not for is a formal way to say If it weren't for: Were it not for your help...

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