ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Penguin Readers Placement Test 2B

English Level Tests · 30 questions · Online test and questions PDF:
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Explanations

1. What _____ at weekends?
✓ **A) does John usually do**
In a question, the order is **what + does + person + usually + verb**: **What does John usually do?** The sentence needs the main verb **do** at the end.

2. Which postcard _____ you?
✓ **B) did she send**
In past questions we use **did** + person + verb: **Which postcard did she send you?** Not **she sent**: a question needs **did** before **she**.

3. She's the _____ girl in the class.
✓ **B) prettiest**
With **the** we compare one girl with all the others, so we need **the -est** form. Short words ending in -y change to **-iest**: **pretty → prettiest**.

4. I _____ read when I was six.
✓ **B) could**
Could is the past of **can**. We use it for things we were able to do in the past: **I could read when I was six.**

5. When he arrived _____, his wife wasn't there.
✓ **A) home**
We say **arrive home** and **go home**, with no **at** or **to** before **home**.

6. Would you like _____?
✓ **B) to dance**
After **would like** we use **to** + verb: **Would you like to dance?**

7. I never _____ the radio.
✓ **C) listen to**
We **listen to** something: **I never listen to the radio.** Not **am listening**: with **never** we talk about habits, so we use the present simple.

8. I think that somebody _____ in the accident.
✓ **A) died**
Died is the past of the verb **die**. **Dead** is an adjective (**He is dead**), and we can't say **was died**.

9. Anne is _____ than Catherine.
✓ **A) cleverer**
With **than** we use the **-er** form: **clever → cleverer**. Don't use **more** and **-er** together.

10. We're going _____ now.
✓ **B) shopping**
We say **go shopping**, with no **to**: **We're going shopping now.** We can also say **go to the shops**, but **to shops** needs **the**, and **the shops** needs **to**.

11. She was very sad and couldn't stop _____.
✓ **B) crying**
After **stop** (meaning 'not continue') we use the **-ing** form: **She couldn't stop crying.**

12. That coat is _____ small for you.
✓ **C) too**
We use **too** + adjective when something is more than we want: **too small**. We don't use **too much** before an adjective.

13. Would you like some _____ tea?
✓ **B) more**
Some more + noun means 'an extra amount': **some more tea**. We don't put **of** before **tea** here.

14. She plays tennis very _____.
✓ **C) well**
To say how someone does something, we use **well**, not **good**: **She plays tennis very well. Good** goes with a noun: **a good player**.

15. There wasn't _____ in the shop.
✓ **A) anybody**
In negative sentences we use **anybody**: **There wasn't anybody.** Not **any people**: **people** is plural, so it needs **weren't**.

16. I looked for you _____ but I couldn't see you.
✓ **C) everywhere**
Everywhere means 'in all places'. I looked in all places, but I couldn't see you.

17. I was hungry _____ I had a sandwich.
✓ **C) so**
So shows a result: I was hungry, and the result was a sandwich. Not **because**: the sandwich didn't make me hungry.

18. Did you _____ the two bus tickets?
✓ **C) pay for**
We **pay for** the thing we buy: **pay for the tickets**. We **pay** a person: **pay him**.

19. She _____ me that the plane was late.
✓ **B) told**
Tell is followed by a person: **She told me that…** **Said** is not followed by a person: **She said that…**

20. She always has _____ in bed.
✓ **A) breakfast**
We say **have breakfast** with no **a** or **the**. The same goes for **lunch** and **dinner**.

21. I wanted to invite _____ the party.
✓ **B) her to**
We **invite somebody to** something: **invite her to the party**.

22. We often have _____ weather here in winter.
✓ **C) bad**
Weather is uncountable, so we don't use **a**: **bad weather**.

23. She's wearing the same dress _____ her sister.
✓ **A) as**
We say **the same … as**: **the same dress as her sister**. **Than** is used after the **-er** form, as in **taller than**.

24. _____ that I love her.
✓ **B) Tell her**
Tell needs a person after it, with no **to**: **Tell her that I love her.**

25. _____ you very much for your letter.
✓ **B) Thank**
The fixed phrase is **Thank you very much**. **Thanks to** means 'because of'.

26. Don't be angry! It makes things _____.
✓ **A) worse**
Bad has a special form when we compare: **bad → worse → worst**. **Worser** and **more worse** are wrong.

27. I can't see James in the picture because there's somebody _____ of him.
✓ **C) in front**
If somebody is **in front of** James, they cover him, so I can't see him. Not **behind**: a person behind him would not hide him.

28. He goes to the office _____ train every day.
✓ **C) by**
We use **by** for transport: **by train, by bus, by car**.

29. _____ to the party this evening?
✓ **B) Aren't they coming**
For plans for the future (**this evening**) we use the present continuous: **Aren't they coming? Won't they be come** is wrong grammar.

30. That's Mr Brown. He _____ me English.
✓ **C) teaches**
With **he/she/it** in the present simple, we add **-s** or **-es** to the verb. After **-ch** we add **-es**: **teach → teaches**.

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