ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Penguin Readers Placement Test 3A

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Explanations

1. When I told her about it, she _____.
✓ **A) just laughed**
We use the past simple for a finished action in a past story. **When I told her** is past, so **she just laughed**. Not **has just laughed**, because the present perfect doesn't go with a finished past time.

2. I would like to go _____ for my holiday next year.
✓ **A) abroad**
Go abroad means go to another country. **Foreign** is an adjective (**a foreign country**), so it can't follow **go** on its own.

3. Please ask _____ come in.
✓ **B) him to**
The pattern is **ask + person + to + verb**: **Please ask him to come in.**

4. I _____ to the cinema since last year.
✓ **C) haven't been**
Since last year shows a period from the past until now, so we use the present perfect: **I haven't been**. Not **didn't go**, because the past simple doesn't go with **since**.

5. Is _____ than her sister?
✓ **B) Jane taller**
In a question, the verb **is** comes first, then the person, then the adjective: **Is Jane taller…? Tall** is a short adjective, so we say **taller**, not **more tall**.

6. Is the boss still in his office? I don't think _____.
✓ **C) so**
After **think**, **hope** and **expect**, we use **so** to avoid repeating the idea: **I don't think so.** (= I don't think he is still in his office.)

7. I don't like fish, and my brother doesn't, _____.
✓ **A) either**
We use **either** at the end of a negative sentence to add another negative: **my brother doesn't, either**. Not **too**, because **too** is for positive sentences.

8. He wanted to _____ some money from me.
✓ **C) borrow**
Borrow means take something that you will give back: **borrow money from someone**. Not **lend**, because you **lend** money **to** someone.

9. You _____ drive slowly through the village.
✓ **A) must**
Must + verb means it is necessary or a rule: **You must drive slowly. Need** and **want** would need **to** before the verb.

10. She was 14 on her birthday, _____ she?
✓ **B) wasn't**
The main verb is **was**, so the question tag uses **was** in the negative: **She was 14, wasn't she?**

11. Is she a relative of _____?
✓ **B) yours**
After **of** with no noun after it, we use the possessive pronoun **yours**: **a relative of yours**. Not **your**, because **your** needs a noun after it (**your cousin**). **Your's** is always wrong, because possessive pronouns never have an apostrophe.

12. _____ in the class speaks two languages.
✓ **A) Everyone**
Everyone is singular, so it matches the verb **speaks**. **All the students** is plural and would need **speak**.

13. '_____ camera is this?'

'It's Angela's.'
✓ **C) Whose**
We use **Whose** to ask who something belongs to. The answer **It's Angela's** tells us the owner.

14. Who was the man _____?
✓ **B) that you were speaking to**
This is a relative clause: **the man that you were speaking to**. **Speak to** needs **to** at the end, so **that you spoke** is incomplete. **Spoke to you** needs **who** or **that** before it.

15. Look, children! Your aunt has _____ you a box of chocolates.
✓ **C) brought**
Bring means carry something to the place where the speaker or listener is. The chocolates came here, to the children, so **brought** is right. Not **taken**, because **take** means move something away from here.

16. There isn't a good restaurant _____ in this town.
✓ **C) anywhere**
In a negative sentence (**isn't**), we use **anywhere**. **Nowhere** would make a double negative.

17. I'm going out to the garden to pick some flowers _____ it isn't raining.
✓ **C) while**
While means 'during the time that': I'll pick flowers **while it isn't raining** (now, before the rain starts).

18. I _____ having breakfast when she knocked at the door.
✓ **A) was still**
Still goes after the verb **be**: **I was still having breakfast**. Not **yet**, because **yet** is used in negatives and questions, usually at the end.

19. The boss is too busy _____ see her now.
✓ **C) to**
The pattern is **too + adjective + to + verb**: **too busy to see her**.

20. There wasn't anything interesting on the news, _____?
✓ **B) was there**
The sentence begins with **There wasn't**, which is negative, so the tag is positive and uses **there**: **was there?** Not **wasn't there**, because a negative sentence needs a positive tag.

21. I'm afraid they didn't have _____ to eat.
✓ **A) enough**
Enough means as much as we need: **They didn't have enough to eat.** Not **nothing**, because **didn't** is already negative, and two negatives together are wrong in standard English.

22. He drives much _____ than his father.
✓ **A) faster**
Fast is both an adjective and an adverb. Its comparative is **faster**. **More fast** and **fastly** are not correct.

23. 'We don't believe you!' someone told him in a _____ voice.
✓ **B) loud**
A voice that is easy to hear because it is strong in sound is **loud**: **in a loud voice**.

24. You _____ come with me if you feel tired.
✓ **C) needn't**
Needn't means it is not necessary: **You needn't come if you feel tired.** Not **couldn't**, because that means it wasn't possible.

25. _____, there were no houses here.
✓ **B) A hundred years ago**
We use **ago** to say how far back in the past something happened: **A hundred years ago**. **Since 100 years** and **It makes a hundred years** are common mistakes.

26. _____ is it from here to London?
✓ **C) How far**
We ask about distance with **How far**: **How far is it to London?** Not **How long**, because that usually asks about time.

27. Both _____ play tennis very well.
✓ **C) of them**
Before a pronoun, we say **both of**: **Both of them play tennis.** We can also say **They both play**, but not **Both they**.

28. She never stops working. She works twelve hours _____ day.
✓ **A) a**
We use **a** to mean 'each' with time: **twelve hours a day**, **twice a week**.

29. A large white _____, please.
✓ **B) loaf**
Bread is uncountable, so we say **a loaf** (of bread) for one piece you buy: **a large white loaf**. Not **a bread**.

30. It's late. Ask the waitress for the _____, John.
✓ **A) bill**
In a restaurant, the paper that shows how much to pay is the **bill** (in British English): **Can we have the bill, please?**

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