ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Penguin Readers Placement Test 4A

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Explanations

1. Would you like some more coffee? There's still _____ left.
✓ **A) a little**
Coffee is uncountable, so we use **little**, not **few**. **A little** means 'some, enough' (positive), which fits the offer of more coffee. Not **little**, which means 'almost none'.

2. She's already _____ her mother.
✓ **D) as tall as**
To say two things are equal, we use **as + adjective + as**: **She's as tall as her mother**. We never use **than** after **as** or **so**.

3. Mary wants to know if she can bring a friend of _____ to the party.
✓ **C) hers**
The pattern is **a friend of + possessive pronoun** (**mine, yours, hers**). Mary is a woman, so we say **a friend of hers**. Not **her**, which needs a noun after it.

4. My brother, _____ lives in Spain, is coming to visit us.
✓ **D) who**
We use **who** for people. Here the extra information is between commas (a non-defining clause), and **that** cannot be used in such clauses, so only **who** is correct.

5. If you _____ soon, we'll miss the start of the film.
✓ **B) don't come**
This is the first conditional: **If + present simple, will + verb**. We don't use **will** or **would** in the **if** part, so **If you don't come soon** is correct.

6. I don't allow my children _____ so badly.
✓ **C) to behave**
The pattern is **allow + person + to + verb**: **I don't allow my children to behave so badly**. Not **behaving**, which is used after **allow** only without a person (**They don't allow smoking**).

7. I _____ watching that programme because it's very interesting.
✓ **D) enjoy**
Enjoy means to like doing something, and it is followed by the **-ing** form: **I enjoy watching that programme**. **Amuse** and **please** need an object (**it pleases me**), and **smile** does not fit.

8. _____ that you would be at the meeting.
✓ **C) I was told**
Tell takes a person as object, so the passive is **I was told (that)…**. **Say** cannot take a person as object, so **I was said** is wrong, and **It was told me** / **It was said me** are not correct English.

9. I'll ring you when I _____ the hotel.
✓ **A) arrive at**
After time words like **when**, we use the present simple for the future, not **will**: **when I arrive**. We **arrive at** a building or place (**arrive at the hotel**), never **arrive to**.

10. She's got a much more interesting _____ in the company now.
✓ **A) job**
Job is a countable noun for the position someone has: **a more interesting job**. Not **work**, which is uncountable here and can't be used with **a**.

11. Can you lend me _____ scissors?
✓ **D) a pair of**
Scissors is a plural noun for one object with two parts, so we count it with **a pair of**: **a pair of scissors**, like **a pair of trousers**.

12. It will cost a lot of money to have _____.
✓ **A) that work done**
The causative pattern is **have + object + past participle**: **have that work done** (pay someone to do it). We say **do work**, not **make work**, so **done** is right.

13. I _____ have tea than coffee.
✓ **D) would rather**
Would rather + verb (without **to**) + **than** shows preference: **I'd rather have tea than coffee**. Not **prefer**, which uses **to**: **I prefer tea to coffee**.

14. Good _____! I hope you win.
✓ **C) luck**
Good luck! is the fixed expression we say to wish someone success, e.g. before an exam or a game.

15. Take an umbrella _____ it rains while you are out.
✓ **B) in case**
In case means 'because it might happen': you take the umbrella now as a precaution. Not **if**, because you need the umbrella before it starts raining.

16. I couldn't hear what she was _____.
✓ **B) saying**
We use **say** for the words someone speaks: **what she was saying**. **Tell** needs a person (**telling me**), and **talking** / **speaking** are not used with **what** as the object in this way.

17. You nearly had an accident. You _____ drive more carefully.
✓ **C) should**
Should + verb gives advice: **You should drive more carefully**. Not **ought**, because it needs **to** (**ought to drive**).

18. That's the hotel _____ we stayed last year.
✓ **D) where**
Where introduces a relative clause about a place: **the hotel where we stayed** (= at which we stayed). **Which** or **that** would need a preposition: **the hotel that we stayed at**.

19. I had fallen asleep and didn't realise at first that the phone _____.
✓ **B) was ringing**
The past continuous **was ringing** shows an action in progress at the moment the person woke up. Not **had rung**, which would mean the ringing had already finished.

20. I broke a _____ while I was doing the washing-up.
✓ **B) wine glass**
A **wine glass** is a type of glass made for wine; the first noun describes the second. Not **glass of wine**, which means a glass full of wine.

21. Would you mind _____ the children while I'm out?
✓ **A) looking after**
Would you mind is followed by the **-ing** form, and **look after** means to take care of: **looking after the children**. **Caring** and **taking care** would need **for** / **of**, and **looking for** means searching.

22. I'll write him a note _____ he'll know where we are.
✓ **B) so**
So (or **so that**) introduces the purpose or result: **I'll write a note so he'll know where we are**. **That** alone, **for** and **as** don't express purpose here.

23. That man _____ my purse.
✓ **D) stole**
We **steal** a thing (**stole my purse**) but **rob** a person or place (**robbed me of my purse**). **Stole me** is wrong because **steal** doesn't take a person as object.

24. They _____ on holiday and _____ in love.
✓ **C) met / fell**
We **meet** someone for the first time, and **fall in love** is a fixed expression: **They met on holiday and fell in love**.

25. We had a lovely time. It was _____ good party.
✓ **D) such a**
Such a + adjective + singular noun: **such a good party**. **So** is used with an adjective alone: **The party was so good**.

26. They will never agree because they hate _____ other.
✓ **A) each**
Each other shows that two people do the same thing to one another: **they hate each other**. No preposition is needed after **hate**.

27. The furniture for their house has cost them a large _____ of money.
✓ **B) amount**
Money is uncountable, so we say **a large amount of money**. **Number** is for countable nouns, and **a large lot** is not correct (we say **a lot of**).

28. He's going to have a new _____ made to wear at the wedding.
✓ **D) suit**
A **suit** is a jacket and trousers that match, which a man wears on formal occasions like a wedding. Not **dress** (for women) or **clothes** (plural, no **a**).

29. I'm going to the supermarket _____ a few things.
✓ **A) to buy**
We use **to + verb** to give the purpose of an action: **I'm going to the supermarket to buy a few things**. Not **for buy** or **for buying**; **in order** needs **to**.

30. I'll be sad when I have to give _____ playing tennis.
✓ **D) up**
Give up means to stop doing something you do regularly, and it is followed by **-ing**: **give up playing tennis**.

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