ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Penguin Readers Placement Test 5A

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1	**D**	2	**C**	3	**D**	4	**B**	5	**A**	6	**C**	7	**C**	8	**D**	9	**A**	10	**D**
11	**B**	12	**B**	13	**C**	14	**D**	15	**C**	16	**B**	17	**A**	18	**B**	19	**A**	20	**C**
21	**A**	22	**D**	23	**A**	24	**B**	25	**B**	26	**C**	27	**D**	28	**C**	29	**B**	30	**A**

Explanations

1. Jane's dress is _____ yours.
✓ **D) similar to**
We say **similar to** something and **the same as** something. Not **similar than** or **the same than**; **than** is used only after comparatives like **bigger than**.

2. We've proved that he was guilty but he _____ doesn't admit it.
✓ **C) still**
Still shows that a situation continues when we expect it to have changed. It goes before the main verb: **he still doesn't admit it**. Not **yet**, which usually goes at the end of a negative sentence (**he hasn't admitted it yet**).

3. If I _____ the mistake, I would have corrected it.
✓ **D) had noticed**
This is the third conditional, about an imagined past: **If** + past perfect, **would have** + past participle. So we need **If I had noticed**. Not **would have noticed**, because **would** is not used in the **if** part.

4. Every old house like this has _____ strange stories.
✓ **B) its**
Every old house is singular and refers to a thing, so the possessive is **its**. Not **their**, which would need a plural subject (**All old houses have their stories**).

5. That's my name on the cheque but it isn't my _____.
✓ **A) signature**
A **signature** is your name written in your own special way, used to sign cheques and documents. The sentence means someone else signed the cheque.

6. 'I'm going to the theatre tomorrow.'

'So _____.'
✓ **C) am I**
To agree with a positive statement, we use **So + auxiliary + subject**. The first speaker uses **am** (**I'm going**), so the reply is **So am I**. Not **So do I**, because the verb in the statement is **be**, not a present simple verb.

7. He came to the party _____ he hadn't been invited.
✓ **C) although**
Although links two ideas that contrast and is followed by a clause: **although he hadn't been invited**. Not **in spite**, which needs **of** and a noun or **-ing** form (**in spite of not being invited**).

8. I wanted to write to her but she _____ give me her address.
✓ **D) wouldn't**
Wouldn't can mean 'refused to' in the past: **she wouldn't give me her address** = she refused to give it. Not **hadn't** or **hasn't**, because they would need a past participle (**given**), not **give**.

9. She fell down and broke her ankle, _____ was a pity.
✓ **A) which**
After a comma, **which** can refer back to the whole previous idea: breaking her ankle was a pity. Not **that**, which cannot be used after a comma in this way, and not **what**, which is not a relative pronoun here.

10. They were all on the platform, waiting _____ arrive.
✓ **D) for the train to**
The pattern is **wait for** + someone/something + **to** + verb: **waiting for the train to arrive**. Without **for** the sentence is wrong.

11. _____ a good thing that the teacher didn't see you.
✓ **B) It's**
We use **It's** as an empty subject when the real subject comes later in a **that** clause: **It's a good thing that…** Not **There's**, which talks about something existing, not about a fact being good.

12. He stayed under water for a minute and then swam to the _____.
✓ **B) surface**
The **surface** is the top of the water. After a minute under water he swam up to the top: **swam to the surface**.

13. What was the name of the person who won first _____?
✓ **C) prize**
A **prize** is what you get for winning a competition: **win first prize**. Not **price**, which is how much something costs, and not **reward**, which is given for helping or for good behaviour.

14. I didn't realise that your house was _____ the other side of the road.
✓ **D) on**
We say **on the other side of** the road, river, street, etc. This is a fixed phrase with **on**.

15. Her work has been _____ and she deserves an increase in salary.
✓ **C) satisfactory**
Satisfactory means good enough, of the expected standard, so it fits a reason for a pay rise. Not **very well**, because after **has been** we need an adjective, and **well** here would be an adverb.

16. He had to get off the bus because he couldn't pay the _____.
✓ **B) fare**
A **fare** is the money you pay for a journey by bus, train, taxi or plane. Not **bill**, which is what you pay in a restaurant or for electricity, water, etc.

17. I would like you _____ that again, please.
✓ **A) to read**
The pattern is **would like** + person + **to** + verb: **I would like you to read**. Not **that you read**, because **would like** is not followed by a **that** clause.

18. We discussed the problem _____ our way to the office.
✓ **B) on**
On our way to means during the journey to a place: **We talked on our way home.** This is a fixed phrase with **on**.

19. The school that I went to was 10 miles _____.
✓ **A) away**
After a distance we use **away**: **10 miles away**. Not **far**, which is not used after a number; we say **How far is it?** or **It's not far**.

20. It's a lovely dress but it's too expensive. I can't _____ it.
✓ **C) afford**
Afford means to have enough money to buy something: **I can't afford a new car.** Not **pay**, because we say **pay for** something, not **pay it**.

21. They _____ him of taking the money.
✓ **A) accused**
The pattern is **accuse** someone **of** doing something: **They accused him of taking the money.** Not **blamed**, which takes **for** (**They blamed him for taking the money**).

22. I don't think we've met before. You're confusing me with _____.
✓ **D) someone else**
Someone else means a different person. Not **some other** or **other person**, because they need a noun or an article (**some other person**, **another person**).

23. She'd seen the film before, _____ she?
✓ **A) hadn't**
She'd seen is **she had seen** (past perfect), so the question tag uses **had**: positive sentence, negative tag, **hadn't she?** Not **didn't**, because **'d** here means **had**, not **did**.

24. Look, there's the waiter! _____ the bill.
✓ **B) Ask him for**
We **ask** someone **for** something we want them to give us: **Ask him for the bill.** Not **Demand him**, because **demand** is not followed by a person and is too strong here.

25. I don't believe him, _____ excuse he offers.
✓ **B) whatever**
Whatever + noun means 'it doesn't matter which': **whatever excuse he offers**. Not **however**, which goes with adjectives or adverbs (**however hard he tries**), not with nouns.

26. How long does it take you to _____ to work every day?
✓ **C) get**
Get to means arrive at a place: **get to work**. Not **arrive**, which needs **at** or **in** (**arrive at work**), and not **reach**, which takes no **to** (**reach work**).

27. She wasn't _____ to reach the ceiling.
✓ **D) tall enough**
Enough comes after an adjective: **tall enough to** + verb. Not **enough tall**, because **enough** goes before nouns (**enough money**), not before adjectives.

28. We have _____ for a secretary but haven't appointed anyone yet.
✓ **C) advertised**
Advertise for someone means to put a public notice, for example online or in a newspaper, to find a person for a job. Not **announced**, which is not used with **for** in this meaning.

29. I played very badly. I was _____ with myself.
✓ **B) disgusted**
Disgusted with yourself means very angry and unhappy with what you did. Not **ashamed**, which takes **of** (**ashamed of myself**), not **with**.

30. He's a better player than I am so I didn't expect to _____ him.
✓ **A) beat**
We **beat** a person or team, but we **win** a game, a match or a prize. Not **win**, because we can't **win him**; **victory** is a noun, not a verb.

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