ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

# Penguin Readers Placement Test 6B

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| 1 | **A** | 2 | **B** | 3 | **B** | 4 | **D** | 5 | **D** | 6 | **B** | 7 | **A** | 8 | **C** | 9 | **A** | 10 | **B** |
| 11 | **B** | 12 | **C** | 13 | **B** | 14 | **D** | 15 | **D** | 16 | **C** | 17 | **A** | 18 | **A** | 19 | **D** | 20 | **B** |
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## Explanations

**1.** He just failed to win the race, _____ his great effort.
✓ **A) despite**
**Despite** is a preposition, so it is followed directly by a noun phrase: **despite his great effort**. Not **although**, because it is a conjunction and needs a full clause (**although he made a great effort**). **Nevertheless** and **however** are adverbs and cannot link a noun like this.

**2.** Hurry up! I wouldn't like _____ the start of the film.
✓ **B) to miss**
**Would like** is followed by the **to**-infinitive: **I wouldn't like to miss**. We **miss** a film, bus or start of something when we are too late for it; we **lose** objects. Not **that we miss**, because **would like** is not followed by a **that**-clause.

**3.** How many candidates have _____ for the job?
✓ **B) applied**
**Apply for** a job means to formally ask for it, usually by sending a letter or form: **Ten people applied for the job.** Not **appointed**, because the company **appoints** someone; candidates don't appoint.

**4.** They arrived in the neighbourhood _____ days _____.
✓ **D) a few / ago**
**A few** means 'some, a small number' (positive), while **few** means 'not many' (negative). **Ago** goes after a time period to show when in the past something happened: **a few days ago**. Not **since**, because it needs a point in time (**since Monday**), not a period.

**5.** She was _____ dark glasses because she didn't want to be recognised.
✓ **D) wearing**
We **wear** clothes, glasses and jewellery on our body: **She was wearing dark glasses.** Not **carrying**, because that means holding something and taking it with you.

**6.** The shop rang _____ that your new dress is ready.
✓ **B) to say**
We use the **to**-infinitive to show purpose: **The shop rang to say that…**. **Say** doesn't need an object, but **tell** does (**to tell you that…**), so **to tell** doesn't fit here. **For** + -ing is not used for purpose in this way.

**7.** Hello! I _____ you before now but I've been very busy.
✓ **A) should have rung**
**Should have** + past participle expresses regret or criticism about something that didn't happen in the past: **I should have rung you** (but I didn't). Not **must have rung**, because that is a deduction about the past, not a missed duty.

**8.** I'd like to take _____ of this opportunity to thank you for your help.
✓ **C) advantage**
The fixed expression is **take advantage of** something, meaning to use a chance or situation well: **I'd like to take advantage of this opportunity.** We say **benefit from** and **profit from**, not **take benefit of** or **take profit of**.

**9.** He always looks brave on the screen but I wonder _____ in real life.
✓ **A) what he is like**
**What is he like?** asks about someone's character. In an indirect question (after **I wonder**) we use normal word order: **I wonder what he is like**. Not **how he is**, because that asks about health or feelings, and **what is he like** has question word order.

**10.** She's recovered from her illness and is playing _____ well as _____.
✓ **B) as / ever**
In positive comparisons we use **as … as**: **as well as ever** means 'as well as she has always played'. **Ever** is used here, not **never**, because the sentence is positive. **So … as** is only used in negative sentences (**not so well as**).

**11.** It looks as if the lift is out of _____ so we'll have to walk up the stairs.
✓ **B) order**
**Out of order** means a machine is not working: **The lift is out of order.** Not **out of practice**, which means you haven't done a skill for a long time; **out of work** means without a job.

**12.** One flight across the ocean is very like _____.
✓ **C) another**
**Another** here is a pronoun meaning 'another flight': **One flight is very like another.** Not **each other**, because it needs two subjects doing something to one another (**The flights are like each other**). **Other** cannot stand alone as a singular pronoun.

**13.** We're late. By the time we get there, the film _____ started.
✓ **B) will have**
The future perfect (**will have** + past participle) shows that something will be finished before a future time: **By the time we get there, the film will have started.** The clue is **by the time**. Not **shall have**, because **shall** is normally only used with **I** and **we**.

**14.** She's very nice. I wish I _____ her as a teacher when I was at school.
**✓ D) had had**
For regrets about the past, we use **wish** + past perfect: **I wish I had had her as a teacher.** The clue is **when I was at school**. Not **had**, because **wish** + past simple is for wishes about the present.

**15.** I _____ to him for the error.
**✓ D) apologised**
We **apologise to** someone **for** something, meaning we say we are sorry: **I apologised to him for the error.** Not **excused** or **forgave**, because these don't take **to** and mean something different (**forgive** = stop being angry with someone).

**16.** I can't find my umbrella. I _____ it on the train.
**✓ C) must have left**
**Must have** + past participle is used for a strong, logical guess about the past: **I must have left it on the train.** Not **can have left**, because **can have** is not used in positive sentences for guesses about the past.

**17.** I don't believe in ghosts – or, at _____, I've never seen one.
**✓ A) least**
**At least** is used to correct or limit what you have just said: **I don't believe in ghosts – or, at least, I've never seen one.** Not **at last**, which means 'finally, after a long time'.

**18.** She _____ the letter carefully and put it in an envelope.
**✓ A) folded**
To **fold** paper or cloth means to bend it so that one part lies flat on another: **She folded the letter.** Not **bent**, because we bend things like metal or wire, not usually letters.

**19.** Very few people make this journey for the _____ of pleasure.
**✓ D) sake**
The fixed expression **for the sake of** means 'for the purpose or benefit of': **for the sake of pleasure** = just for pleasure. Not **reason**, because we say **for the reason that…** or **for pleasure**, not **for the reason of pleasure**.

**20.** They keep the bird in a cage to _____ it from flying away.
**✓ B) prevent**
The pattern is **prevent** someone/something **from** doing something, meaning to stop it happening: **to prevent it from flying away**. Not **avoid**, because it is not used with **from** in this pattern (**avoid flying**).

**21.** There's ice on the road so you _____ better drive carefully.
**✓ C) had**
**Had better** + infinitive without **to** gives strong advice: **You had better drive carefully** (**You'd better…**). Not **should** or **ought**, because they are not used with **better** in this way.

**22.** He looked round to make sure that _____ was following him.
**✓ B) no-one**
**No-one** (also **no one**) means 'no person'. He looked round to check that **no-one was following him**. Not **anyone**, because we don't use it as the subject of a positive verb like this; **none** is usually used with **of** (**none of them**).

**23.** I _____ expecting trouble _____ some time now.
**✓ C) have been / for**
The present perfect continuous shows an action that started in the past and is still going on: **I have been expecting trouble for some time now.** The clue is **now**. We use **for** with a period of time; **during** tells us when something happens, not how long.

**24.** If he hadn't eaten so much, he _____ sick.
**✓ D) wouldn't feel**
This is a mixed conditional: a past condition (**If he hadn't eaten so much**) with a present result (**he wouldn't feel sick** now). The result clause needs **would** + infinitive. Not **hadn't felt**, because the past perfect is not used in the result clause.

**25.** He has some very _____ habits. He has a bath with his clothes on!
**✓ A) odd**
**Odd** means strange or unusual: having a bath with your clothes on is an **odd habit**. Not **rare**, because that means 'not happening often', not 'strange'; **wicked** means morally bad.

**26.** _____ down a mountain at this speed _____ very dangerous.
**✓ A) Skiing / is**
An -ing form (gerund) can be the subject of a sentence: **Skiing down a mountain at this speed is very dangerous.** We don't use **the** before a general activity like this. Not **it is**, because the subject is already **skiing**, so **it** would repeat it.

**27.** He _____ out of the window for a moment and then went on working.
**✓ A) glanced**
To **glance** means to look quickly: **He glanced out of the window for a moment.** The clue is **for a moment**. Not **saw**, because **see** is not used with **out of the window** to describe a short action like this.

**28.** He's been _____ from the company because he wasn't doing his job.
**✓ D) sacked**
**Be sacked** (informal British English) means to be told to leave your job, usually because of bad work: **He's been sacked.** Not **resigned**, because if you **resign**, you decide to leave yourself; and it is not used in the passive.

**29.** We're short of petrol but _____ be a garage near here.
**✓ A) there may**
We use **there** + **be** to say that something exists, and **may** to show possibility: **There may be a garage near here.** Not **there can be**, because **can** is not used for a possibility about one particular situation.

**30.** They're carrying out repairs to the _____ building.
**✓ C) old school**
An adjective comes before a noun, and a noun used to describe another noun comes directly before it: **old** + **school** + **building** = **the old school building**. Not **school old**, because the adjective must come first.