ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Phrasal Verbs MCQ Test With Answers + PDF Exercise 11

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Explanations

1. There was a robbery at the bank, and the police are looking _____ the matter.
✔ **C) into**
Look into means to investigate or examine something carefully. The police are investigating the robbery, so they are **looking into** the matter. Not **look through**, which means to read something quickly.

2. At least half a dozen people _____ (watched without doing anything) while the old man struggled to pick up his heavy bags.
✔ **B) looked on**
Look on means to watch something happen without taking part or helping. The people only watched, so they **looked on**. Not **looked at**, which simply means directing your eyes at something and does not include the idea of not helping.

3. I've been trying to phone Charles all evening, but there must be something wrong with the line; I can't seem to _____.
✔ **D) get through**
Get through means to make contact with someone by phone. The line seems faulty, so the speaker can't **get through** to Charles. Note that we say **phone someone**, not **phone to someone**.

4. My little brother loves roast chicken. He always _____ the legs first and eats them with his fingers.
✔ **C) pulls off**
Pull off means to remove something that is attached to the outside of something else, such as a leg from a roast chicken. Not **pull out**, which is used for things that are inside or fixed in something, like teeth or nails.

5. I nearly fainted when my dentist told me that he'd have to _____ two of my teeth.
✔ **D) pull out**
Pull out means to remove something that is fixed inside something else. A dentist **pulls out** (extracts) teeth. Not **pull off**, which is for things attached to the outside of something.

6. The lorry _____ (stopped) at the traffic lights.
✔ **B) pulled up**
Pull up means that a vehicle slows down and stops. The lorry stopped at the red light, so it **pulled up**. Not **pulled through**, which means to recover from a serious illness.

7. The operator _____ me _____ (connected me) almost immediately.
✔ **A) put / through**
Put someone through means to connect someone to another person on the telephone. The operator **put me through** quickly. Not **put on**, which is used when you pass the phone to someone (**I'll put Mum on**).

8. Would you _____ (like) something to eat, Mrs. Brown?
✔ **A) care for**
Care for can mean **would like**, used politely in offers: **Would you care for a drink?** Not **look for**, which means to try to find something.

9. It took my mother quite a while to catch _____ that we were only joking.
✔ **D) on**
Catch on means to understand something, often after some time. It took the mother a while to **catch on** that it was a joke. Not **catch in**, which is not used with this meaning.

10. When Joan returned to school after her illness, she had to work really hard to catch _____ the others.
✔ **C) up with**
Catch up with someone means to reach the same level as them after being behind. Joan missed lessons, so she had to work hard to **catch up with** the others. Not **catch up on**, which is used for things you haven't done yet (**catch up on homework**), not people.

11. Thieves held _____ a bank in Manchester and got away with 50,000 pounds.
✔ **D) up**
Hold up a bank or shop means to rob it using threats or weapons. The thieves **held up** the bank and took the money. Not **hold on**, which means to wait or to grip something.

12. Summer time ends tomorrow, so don't forget to _____ your clock tonight.
✔ **C) put back**
When summer time ends, clocks go back one hour, so you **put back** your clock. Not **put on**, which is used when summer time starts and clocks go forward (**put the clocks on/forward**).

13. She is very important to him. He wouldn't get _____ without her.
✔ **B) by**
Get by means to manage or survive with difficulty. She is very important to him, so he couldn't manage, or **get by**, without her. Not **get over**, which means to recover from something.

14. I tried to _____ everything he said, but he spoke so quickly that it was impossible.
✔ **D) get down**
Get down can mean to write something down, especially when someone is speaking. He spoke too fast, so it was impossible to **get down** everything. Not **get over**, which means to recover from something.

15. Right, if you're really ready, I think it's time to get _____ some work.
✓ **D) down to**
Get down to something means to start doing it seriously. **It's time to get down to some work** means it's time to begin working properly. Not **get round to**, which means to finally do something you have been delaying.

16. What time did you _____ last night? It must have been quite late because when I phoned you at 11:30 your mother said you were still out.
✓ **B) get in**
Get in means to arrive home. The mother said he was still out at 11:30, so he must have **got in** late. Not **get away**, which means to escape or go on holiday.

17. I think we'll have to get _____ more drink for the party.
✓ **D) in**
Get in can mean to buy a supply of something so you have it at home. We need to **get in** more drink for the party. Not **get on**, which means to have a good relationship or to make progress.

18. Let's _____ the subject of exams. It's beginning to make me feel very nervous.
✓ **A) get off**
Get off a subject means to stop talking about it. The topic makes the speaker nervous, so they want to **get off the subject**. Not **get over**, which means to recover from something.

19. How is Janet _____ (progressing) in her new school?
✓ **B) getting on**
Get on means to progress or do well: **How is she getting on at school?** Not **going on**, which means to happen (**What's going on?**).

20. The teacher asked the class to _____ (write down) the school telephone number.
✓ **B) put down**
Put down means to write something on paper. The teacher wanted the students to **put down** (write) the phone number. Not **hold on**, which means to wait.

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