ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Phrasal Verbs MCQ Test With Answers + PDF Exercise 03

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Explanations

1. Keep _____ alcohol and don't smoke.
✓ **D) off**
Keep off something means to avoid eating, drinking or using it: **Keep off alcohol.** Not **away**: you need **keep away from**, so **Keep away alcohol** is wrong.

2. He kept _____ trying to annoy me and in the end I just left the room.
✓ **B) on**
Keep on + -ing means to continue doing something, often in an annoying way: **He kept on trying to annoy me.** Not **at**: **keep on at someone** means to nag them, and it is followed by a person, not an -ing verb.

3. If you want to make a good impression, it's important to _____ your colleagues.
✓ **B) keep in with**
Keep in with someone means to stay friendly with them, usually because it helps you: **keep in with your colleagues.** The other options mean avoid (**keep away from**, **keep out of**) or nag (**keep on at**), which don't fit 'make a good impression'.

4. This nuclear power station let _____ a cloud of dangerous gases.
✓ **C) off**
Let off gas, smoke or steam means to release it into the air: **The power station let off a cloud of gases. Let up** means to stop or become weaker, and **let down** means to disappoint, so they don't fit.

5. Instead of being sent to prison, the shoplifter was _____ with a fine.
✓ **B) let off**
Let someone off (with something) means to give them a lighter punishment than expected: **He was let off with a fine. Let out** means to release someone from prison, and that is not the meaning here.

6. The children had great fun _____ fireworks.
✓ **D) letting off**
Let off fireworks means to make them explode: **The children had fun letting off fireworks.** The other phrasal verbs don't go with fireworks.

7. I've just heard that John Parker – you remember, the man who robbed a house a few years ago – is being _____ this weekend.
✓ **B) let out**
Let someone out means to release them, e.g. from prison: **He is being let out this weekend.** Not **let off**: that means he gets no punishment or only a small one, and it isn't used for a release on a fixed date.

8. The dog let _____ a yowl of pain when I accidentally stepped on its tail.
✓ **A) out**
Let out a sound (a cry, a scream, a yowl) means to make that sound suddenly: **The dog let out a yowl of pain. Let off** is used for fireworks, gas or a lighter punishment, not for sounds.

9. As the doctor arrived to attend to the girl who had fainted, the crowd moved to one side to _____.
✓ **B) let him through**
Let someone through means to make space so they can pass: **The crowd moved to one side to let him through. Let him out** means to allow him to leave a place, which doesn't match moving to one side.

10. If you don't know what the word means, you'd better _____ in the dictionary.
✓ **C) look it up**
Look something up means to find information in a dictionary or book: **look it up in the dictionary.** The pronoun **it** goes between **look** and **up**. Not **look for it**: that means to search for a lost thing.

11. Our living room looks _____ the mountains.
✓ **D) on to**
A room or window that **looks on to** (or **onto**) something faces it or has a view of it: **Our living room looks on to the mountains. Look up to** means to respect someone.

12. _____! (Be careful) There is a car coming!
✓ **B) look out**
Look out! is a warning that means 'Be careful!': **Look out! There's a car coming!** The other options don't express a warning.

13. I'd like to _____ the house before I decide to rent it.
✓ **A) look over**
Look over something means to examine it carefully, often before deciding: **I'd like to look over the house before I rent it.** Not **look into**: that means to investigate a problem or situation.

14. I _____ the paper for news of the proposed strike, but didn't find anything.
✓ **D) looked through**
Look through a newspaper or book means to read it quickly, searching for something: **I looked through the paper for news of the strike.** Not **looked into**: that means investigated, and you don't investigate a newspaper.

15. Was that true or did you _____?
✓ **A) make it up**
Make something up means to invent a story that isn't true: **Was that true or did you make it up?** The contrast with 'true' is the clue. **Make it out** means to see or understand it with difficulty.

16. I was _____ (moving towards) the post office when it suddenly started to rain.
✓ **D) making for**
Make for a place means to move towards it: **I was making for the post office when it started to rain.** The meaning given in brackets, 'moving towards', is the clue.

17. I must get a new pair of boots. I've _____ my old ones.
✓ **C) worn out**
Wear something out means to use it so much that it can't be used any more: **I've worn out my old boots**, so I need new ones. **Worn down** means made smaller or flatter by use, not completely useless.

18. After working all day in the garden Homer was _____.
✓ **A) worn out**
Worn out about a person means very tired: **After working all day in the garden, he was worn out.** **Worn off** is used for feelings or effects that slowly disappear, e.g. **the pain wore off**.

19. Looking carefully, we made _____ a tall figure in the darkness.
✓ **A) out**
Make out means to see or hear something with difficulty: **we made out a tall figure in the darkness.** 'Looking carefully' and 'darkness' are the clues. **Make up** means to invent, which doesn't fit.

20. We must _____ our minds about where to go for our holidays this year.
✓ **C) make up**
Make up your mind means to decide: **We must make up our minds about where to go.** It is a fixed expression with **mind**. **Make for** means to move towards a place.

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