ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

PRE-INTERMEDIATE Test 23

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Explanations

1. The telephone _____ by Bell in 1876.
✔ **C) was invented**
The telephone did not do the inventing; Bell did. So we need the passive, and **in 1876** shows the past: **was invented**.

2. Thieves _____ two pictures from the museum last night.
✔ **B) stole**
The thieves did the action, so we use the active voice. **Last night** is a finished past time, so we use the past simple: **stole**. Not **have stolen**, because the present perfect is not used with **last night**.

3. They _____ the picture for £3,000 last week.
✔ **C) sold**
They did the action, so we use the active voice. **Last week** is a finished past time, so we use the past simple: **sold**. Not **has sold**, because **they** needs **have**, and the present perfect does not go with **last week**.

4. Three new factories _____ this year.
✔ **C) have been built**
The factories did not build themselves, so we need the passive. **This year** is not finished yet, so we use the present perfect passive: **have been built**. Not **was built**, because **factories** is plural.

5. 10,000 cars _____ next year.
✔ **D) will be produced**
Cars do not produce anything; people produce them, so we need the passive. **Next year** is the future: **will be produced**. Not **will produce**, which is active.

6. The television _____ by Bell; he invented the telephone.
✔ **C) wasn't invented**
The clue says Bell invented the telephone, not the television. So we need the negative past passive: **wasn't invented**.

7. _____ they _____ many cars last year?
✔ **B) Did / make**
Last year is finished past time, so the question uses the past simple: **Did** + subject + base verb, **Did they make …?**

8. **(Please note: The following questions are part of a cloze test. They are interrelated, meaning that the information provided in each question is connected to the others.)**

Nylon _____ in the mid-1930s by an American chemist, Wallace Carothers.
✔ **D) was invented**
Nylon did not invent itself; the chemist invented it. So we need the passive, and **in the mid-1930s** is past time: **was invented**. Not **has been invented**, because the present perfect does not go with a finished past time.

9. Other scientists _____ with his invention, and finally on 27 October 1938, nylon _____ to the world.
✔ **B) worked**
This is a finished action in the past story, so we use the past simple: **worked**. Not **was working**, because **scientists** is plural and needs **were**.

10. Other scientists _____ with his invention, and finally on 27 October 1938, nylon _____ to the world.
✔ **A) was introduced**
Nylon did not introduce itself; someone introduced it. So we need the passive, and the date **27 October 1938** is past: **was introduced**.

11. It was cheap and strong and immediately _____ successful, especially in the making of women's stockings.
✔ **B) became**
The story is in the past (**It was cheap and strong**), so we use the past simple: **became**. **Is became** is never correct.

12. During the Second World War, the best present for many women was a pair of nylon stockings, but more importantly, nylon _____ to make parachutes and tires.
✔ **C) was used**
People used nylon, so nylon **was used**: this is the past passive. **During the Second World War** is finished past time. Not **has been used**, because the present perfect does not go with a finished past time.

13. Today, nylon _____ in many things: carpets, ropes, seat belts, furniture, computers, and even spare parts for the human body.
✔ **D) is found**
Today shows the present, and people find nylon in many things, so we use the present passive: **is found**. Not **founded**, which comes from **found** (to start an organisation).

14. It _____ an important part in our lives for over 50 years.
✔ **B) has played**
For over 50 years shows an action from the past until now, so we use the present perfect: **has played**. Not **played**, because the past simple means the action is finished, but nylon is still important today.

15. Next year, about 36 million tons of it _____.
✔ **B) will be manufactured**
Next year is the future, and nylon is made by people, so we use the future passive: **will be manufactured**. Not **is going to manufacture**, which is active.

16. English _____ all over the world.
✔ **B) is spoken**
People speak English; English does not speak. This is a general fact, so we use the present simple passive: **is spoken**.

17. The animals _____ by a loud noise.
✔ **D) were frightened**
By a loud noise shows the passive: the noise frightened the animals. So we say **were frightened**. Not **has been frightened**, because **animals** is plural.

18. My children _____ with their homework by anyone.
✔ **D) aren't helped**
By anyone shows the passive, and **anyone** goes with a negative: **aren't helped** (nobody helps them).

19. How many times _____ playing football?
✔ **A) have you been hurt**
How many times asks about your experience up to now, so we use the present perfect passive: **have you been hurt**. **Hurted** is not a word; the past participle is **hurt**.

20. The thieves _____ by anyone.
✔ **C) weren't seen**
By anyone shows the passive, and **anyone** goes with a negative: **weren't seen** (nobody saw them).

21. Coffee _____ in England because the climate is too cold.
✔ **B) isn't grown**
The climate is too cold, so people do not grow coffee there. We use the negative present passive: **isn't grown**.

22. _____ last night?
✔ **C) Were the plants watered**
Someone waters the plants, so we need the passive. **Last night** is past: **Were the plants watered?** Not **Have the plants been watered**, because the present perfect does not go with **last night**.

23. Driving should _____ in city centers.
✔ **B) be banned**
After **should** we use the base form. In the passive this is **be** + past participle: **should be banned**.

24. America _____ by Christopher Columbus.
✔ **D) was discovered**
Columbus did the action, so America **was discovered** by him. This is the past simple passive. Not **had been discovered**, because there is no other past event before it.

25. The house is going _____.
✔ **B) to be knocked down**
People will knock the house down, so we need the passive with **going to**: **is going to be** + past participle, **to be knocked down**.

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