ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

PRE-INTERMEDIATE Test 26

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Explanations

1. "What's for supper?"

"We _____ lamb. It's in the oven."
✓ **D) are having**
Use the present continuous for a future plan that is already decided or in progress. The lamb is **already in the oven**, so **are having** fits. Not **might have**: we are sure, not guessing.

2. "What time are we eating?"

"Don't worry. It _____ ready before your TV programme."
✓ **B) will be**
Use **will be** to make a confident prediction or promise about the future. **Don't worry** shows the speaker is sure. Not **might be**, because that sounds uncertain and doesn't reassure anyone.

3. I'm going into town tomorrow. I _____ lunch with Joe at 1.00.
✓ **B) am having**
Use the present continuous for a fixed arrangement with another person, a time and a place: **I'm having lunch with Joe at 1.00**. Not **will have**, because this is a plan already made, not a decision or prediction.

4. "Are you going to have a winter holiday this year?"

"I _____. I haven't decided yet."
✓ **B) might**
Use **might** when something is possible but not certain. The clue is **I haven't decided yet**.

5. How do you _____ your parents?
✓ **C) get on with**
Get on with someone means to have a good relationship with them: **I get on well with my sister.**

6. You shouldn't smoke in here. Put _____.
✓ **C) it out**
Put out a cigarette or fire means to stop it burning. Not **put it off**, which means to delay something until later.

7. I haven't got time to fill in this form. I'll fill _____ later.
✓ **B) it in**
The phrasal verb is **fill in** a form. With a pronoun, it goes in the middle: **fill it in**, not **fill in it**.

8. I _____ tennis tomorrow. But I'm not sure.
✓ **D) might play**
Use **might** for a possible future action. The clue is **I'm not sure**.

9. If I _____ younger, I _____ to play the piano, but I'm too old now.
✓ **D) were / would learn**
This is the second conditional for an unreal situation: **if** + past simple, **would** + verb. The speaker is not young, so: **If I were younger, I would learn**. Not **were / would**, because **would** needs a main verb after it.

10. I'm _____ forward to meeting her very much.
✓ **B) looking**
Look forward to means to feel happy about something that will happen: **I'm looking forward to the holidays.**

11. She _____ off her horse and hurt her wrist.
✓ **D) fell**
Fall off means to drop down from something, like a horse or a bike. **Fell** is the past of **fall**.

12. What a pretty dress! Turn _____! Let me look at it from the back.
✓ **B) round**
Turn round means to move your body so you face the other way. The clue is **look at it from the back**.

13. Don't worry about the baby. I'll look _____ her while you're out.
✓ **D) after**
Look after someone means to take care of them. Not **look for**, which means to try to find something.

14. Pick _____ your litter! Don't drop it on the street!
✓ **B) up**
Pick up means to lift something from the ground: **Pick up your litter.**

15. If I _____ Prime Minister, I _____ build more parks and schools.
✓ **D) were / would**
This is the second conditional for an imaginary situation: **if** + past simple, **would** + verb. We often say **If I were** for all persons. Not **am / would**, because the **if** part needs the past form.

16. If I _____ in a big house, I _____ a party.
✓ **A) lived / would have**
Second conditional for an imaginary situation: **If I lived** (past simple), **I would have** (**would** + verb). **Would** goes in the result part, not in the **if** part.

17. Thank you for the invitation. _____, I can't come.
✓ **C) Unfortunately**
Unfortunately means 'sadly, it's bad news'. We use it to say something disappointing politely, like refusing an invitation.

18. If she _____ a lot of clothes, she _____ money.
✔ **D) didn’t buy / would have**
Second conditional: **if** + past simple, **would** + verb. The logical meaning is that buying fewer clothes would mean more money: **If she didn't buy… she would have money**. Not **bought / would have**, because buying lots of clothes doesn't give you money.

19. If he _____ a watch, he _____ late all the time.
✔ **D) had / wouldn’t be**
Second conditional for an unreal present situation (he has no watch): **If he had a watch, he wouldn't be late**. Not **has / is**, because that is the first or zero conditional for real situations.

20. They _____ their baby Lily, but they aren’t sure yet.
✔ **D) might call**
Use **might** for something possible but not decided. The clue is **they aren't sure yet**.

21. I’d visit you more often if you _____ so far away.
✔ **B) didn’t live**
Second conditional: **I'd** (**would**) in the result part, past simple in the **if** part: **if you didn't live so far away**. Not **wouldn't live**, because **would** is not used in the **if** part.

22. If I _____ perfect English, I _____ in this class.
✔ **C) could speak / wouldn’t be**
Second conditional for an unreal situation: **could** + verb in the **if** part (past of **can**), **wouldn't** + verb in the result. If my English were perfect, I **wouldn't be** in this class. Not **could spoke**: after **could** use the base form.

23. I _____ to work if I _____ better, but I feel terrible.
✔ **D) would go / felt**
Second conditional for an unreal present situation (the speaker feels terrible): **I would go… if I felt better**. Not **would go / feel**: the **if** part needs the past simple.

24. What _____ if a stranger _____ you £1 million?
✔ **B) would you do / gave**
Second conditional question about an imaginary situation: **What would you do if a stranger gave you £1 million?** Not **would you have done**, which is the third conditional for the past.

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