ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

PRE-INTERMEDIATE Test 27

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Explanations

1. How long _____ in Paris?
✓ **C) have you been living**
How long asks about an action that started in the past and is still going on, so we use the present perfect continuous: **have you been living**. Not **do you live**, because the present simple does not go with **How long** for an action up to now.

2. Anna _____ a good job.
✓ **B) has found**
Anna got the job in the past and has it now, so we use the present perfect: **has found**. Not **founded**, because **found – founded** means 'to start a company'; the past of **find** is **found**.

3. Pete and I _____ for over six months.
✓ **D) have been going out**
For over six months shows an activity that started in the past and is still going on, so we use the present perfect continuous: **have been going out** (= have been in a relationship). Not **went out**, because the past simple means it is finished.

4. I _____ a new flat a few months ago.
✓ **A) bought**
A few months ago is a finished time in the past, so we use the past simple: **bought**. Not **have bought**, because the present perfect cannot be used with **ago**.

5. How long _____ your car?
✓ **A) have you had**
Have (= own) is a state verb, so we use the present perfect simple, not the continuous: **How long have you had your car?** Not **have you been having**, because state verbs are not normally used in the continuous.

6. Tom _____ as a postman for the past month.
✓ **D) has been working**
For the past month shows an activity that started in the past and continues now, so we use the present perfect continuous: **has been working**. Not **is working**, because the present continuous cannot be used with **for** + a period up to now.

7. I _____ an essay all day.
✓ **D) have been writing**
All day shows a long activity up to now, so we use the present perfect continuous: **have been writing**. Not **have been written**, because that is passive.

8. I _____ six pages.
✓ **C) have written**
When we say **how many** things are finished (**six pages**), we use the present perfect simple: **have written**. Not **have been writing**, because the continuous is not used with a number of completed things.

9. "Are you going out?"

"_____. I don't know yet."
✓ **B) Possibly**
Possibly means 'maybe'. The clue is **I don't know yet**.

10. The exam was _____ difficult. I couldn't do any of it.
✓ **B) seriously**
Seriously here means 'very', so **seriously difficult** = very difficult. Not **real**, because we need an adverb before an adjective (**really difficult**, not **real difficult**).

11. "How old are you?"

"I'm _____ eight. It's my birthday next week."
✓ **C) nearly**
Nearly means 'almost'. The person is not eight yet, because the birthday is **next week**. Not **exactly**, because they are not eight today.

12. I travel a lot in my job, _____ to Europe.
✓ **D) mainly**
Mainly means 'mostly' or 'usually': most of the travel is to Europe.

13. Sorry I'm late. _____ for a long time?
✓ **C) Have you been waiting**
We use the present perfect continuous to ask about an activity that continued up to now: **Have you been waiting for a long time?** Not **Are you waiting**, because the present continuous cannot be used with **for a long time** to talk about time up to now.

14. The streets are wet. _____?
✓ **B) Has it been raining**
We use the present perfect continuous for an activity whose result we can see now. The clue is **The streets are wet**, so we ask **Has it been raining?** Not **Had it been raining**, because the past perfect needs another past moment, and here we are talking about now.

15. I'm hot because I _____!
✓ **C) have been running**
The present perfect continuous explains a present result of a recent activity: **I'm hot** because **I have been running**. Not **have run**, because it focuses on something finished, not on the activity.

16. I _____ my finger! It really hurts.
✓ **C) have cut**
We use the present perfect for a recent action with a result now (**It really hurts**), so the answer is **have cut**. Not **have been cutting** or **was cutting**, because cutting a finger is a short, single action. **Cutted** is not a word, because **cut** is irregular (cut – cut – cut).

17. _____ Paul Simon's latest record?
✓ **A) Have you heard**
We use the present perfect to ask about experiences up to now, with no past time given: **Have you heard…?** Not **Did you hear**, because there is no finished past time in the question.

18. She's tired because she _____ all day.
✓ **C) has been shopping**
She's tired is the present result of a long activity (**all day**), so we use the present perfect continuous: **has been shopping**. Not **has shopped**, because we want to show the long activity, not a finished one.

19. Sorry. I _____ one of your glasses.
✓ **A) have broken**
The glass is broken now, so we use the present perfect for a recent action with a present result: **have broken**. Not **have been breaking** or **was breaking**, because breaking a glass is a single, short action.

20. How long _____ this book?
✓ **C) have you been reading**
How long + an unfinished activity takes the present perfect continuous: **have you been reading**. Not **do you read**, because the present simple is not used with **How long** for time up to now.

21. They _____ here for three years.
✓ **D) have been living**
For three years shows a situation that started in the past and continues now: **have been living**. Not **are living** or **live**, because present tenses are not used with **for** + time up to now.

22. I _____ the living room, but I haven't finished yet.
✓ **D) have been painting**
I haven't finished yet shows the activity is not complete, so we use the present perfect continuous: **have been painting**. Not **have painted**, because that would mean the job is finished.

23. I _____ my wallet. Where did I last put it?
✓ **B) have lost**
The wallet is still missing now, so we use the present perfect: **have lost**. Not **have been losing** or **was losing**, because losing something is a single action, not a long activity.

24. Look what Pat _____ me for my birthday! A bike!
✓ **D) has given**
We use the present perfect for a recent action with a result we can see now (**Look… A bike!**): **has given**. Not **have been giving**, because the subject is **Pat** (he/she) and giving a present is a single action.

25. There's my wallet! I _____ for it for ages.
✓ **A) have been looking**
For ages shows a long activity that continued until now (the moment the wallet is found): **have been looking**. Not **looked**, because the past simple doesn't connect the activity with now.

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