ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

PRE-INTERMEDIATE Test 7

Pre-Intermediate English Grammar Tests · 25 questions · Online test and questions PDF:
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1	**B**	2	**A**	3	**C**	4	**D**	5	**B**	6	**A**	7	**C**	8	**D**	9	**B**	10	**C**
11	**D**	12	**B**	13	**C**	14	**C**	15	**C**	16	**B**	17	**A**	18	**D**	19	**D**	20	**C**
21	**C**	22	**B**	23	**C**	24	**D**	25	**D**										

Explanations

1. **(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.)**

This morning I _____ to work.
✓ **B) walked**
The story starts with one finished action in the past (**this morning**), so we use the past simple: **walked**.

2. I _____ to go by bus because the sun _____.
✓ **A) didn't want**
Want is a state verb, so it is not used in the continuous form. The story is in the past, so we use **didn't want**.

3. I _____ to go by bus because the sun _____.
✓ **C) was shining**
We use the past continuous for the background or the weather in a story: **the sun was shining**.

4. While I _____ past the supermarket, I _____ something strange.
✓ **D) was walking**
After **while** we use the past continuous for the longer action in progress: **was walking**. **Was walked** is passive and wrong here.

5. While I _____ past the supermarket, I _____ something strange.
✓ **B) saw**
A short action interrupts the longer one, so we use the past simple: **saw**. **See** is a state verb and is not normally used in the continuous.

6. A man _____ near me and he _____ a song very loudly on his own!
✓ **A) passed**
The man's passing is a short, finished action in the story, so we use the past simple: **passed**. **Was passed** is passive and doesn't fit.

7. A man _____ near me and he _____ a song very loudly on his own!
✓ **C) was singing**
The singing was already in progress when he passed near me, so we use the past continuous: **was singing**. Not **were singing**, because the subject **he** takes **was**. **Song** is a noun, not a verb.

8. He _____ for a few minutes.
✓ **D) continued**
This is a finished past action with a length of time (**for a few minutes**), so we use the past simple: **continued**.

9. Then he _____ a friend and he _____ singing.
✓ **B) met**
Then shows the next finished action in the story, so we use the past simple: **met**.

10. Then he _____ a friend and he _____ singing.
✓ **C) stopped**
This is the next short, finished action in the story, so we use the past simple: **stopped**.

11. I _____ a very good program on TV last night.
✓ **D) saw**
Last night shows a finished past time, so we use the past simple: **saw**. **See** is not normally used in the continuous here.

12. While I _____ this morning, I _____ my money. I don't know how.
✓ **B) was shopping / lost**
After **while** we use the past continuous for the longer action (**was shopping**). The short action that happened during it is in the past simple (**lost**).

13. Last week, the police _____ Alan in his car because he _____ over eighty miles an hour.
✓ **C) stopped / was driving**
The police stopping Alan is a short action (**stopped**). His driving fast was in progress at that moment (**was driving**). **Drived** is not a word; the past of **drive** is **drove**.

14. How _____ your finger?
✓ **C) did you cut**
To ask about a finished past action, we use **did** + subject + verb: **How did you cut your finger?**

15. I _____ and I _____ the knife.
✓ **C) was cooking / dropped**
The cooking was in progress (**was cooking**) when the short action happened (**dropped**). We don't use the continuous for a quick action like dropping something.

16. When I _____ at the party, everyone _____ a good time.
✓ **B) arrived / was having**
The party was already in progress when I arrived, so we use **arrived** (short action) and **was having** (action in progress). **Everyone** takes a singular verb, so not **were having**.

17. _____ a good time last night?
✓ **A) Did you have**
Last night is finished past time, so we ask with the past simple: **Did you have a good time?**

18. While I _____ to work this morning, I _____ an old friend.
✔ **D) was going / met**
After **while** we use the past continuous for the longer action (**was going**). The short action that happened during it is in the past simple (**met**).

19. I _____ to get up this morning. It _____ and it was cold, and my bed was so warm.
✔ **D) didn’t want / was raining**
Want is a state verb, so it takes the past simple: **didn't want**. The weather is background, so we use the past continuous: **was raining**.

20. I _____ to the news on the radio when the phone _____.
✔ **C) was listening / rang**
I was in the middle of listening (**was listening**) when a short action interrupted me (**rang**).

21. But when I _____ up the phone, there was no one there.
✔ **C) picked**
Picking up the phone is a short, finished action in the past, so we use the past simple: **picked**.

22. I _____ hello to the children, but they didn’t say anything because they _____ television.
✔ **B) said / were watching**
Saying hello is a short action (**said**). The children were in the middle of watching TV at that moment (**were watching**).

23. What _____ at 8.00 last night?
✔ **C) were you doing**
We use the past continuous to ask about an action in progress at a certain time in the past: **What were you doing at 8.00 last night?** Not **did you doing**, because after **did** we use the base form, not the -ing form.

24. We played tennis _____ two hours.
✔ **D) for**
We use **for** + a length of time: **for two hours**. Not **during**, because **during** goes before a noun like **the summer**, not a number of hours.

25. I worked on a farm _____ the holidays.
✔ **D) during**
We use **during** + a noun to say when something happened: **during the holidays**. Not **while**, because **while** is followed by a subject and verb (**while I was on holiday**).

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