ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

PRE-INTERMEDIATE Test 6

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

Explanations

1. I was born in Africa _____ 1970.
✓ **C) in**
Use **in** with years: **in 1970**, **in 2005**. Use **on** for days and **at** for times.

2. My parents moved back to England _____ I was five.
✓ **A) when**
When joins two parts of a sentence and tells us the time: **when I was five**. **Ago** comes after a period of time (**five years ago**).

3. We lived in Bristol _____ three years.
✓ **B) for**
Use **for** with a length of time: **for three years**, **for two weeks**.

4. I left college three years _____.
✓ **B) ago**
Ago comes after a length of time and means 'before now': **three years ago**. Not **for**, because the action is finished at one point in the past.

5. I found a flat on my own _____ last year.
✓ **C) ____**
We use no preposition before **last**, **next** and **this**: **last year**, not **at last year** or **on last year**.

6. I usually go home _____ the weekend.
✓ **C) at**
In British English we say **at the weekend**. (American English says **on the weekend**.)

7. I didn't go home _____ weekend because some friends came to stay.
✓ **B) last**
Last weekend means the weekend before now. There is no **the** in the sentence, so **at weekend** is wrong.

8. They arrived _____ three o'clock _____ the afternoon.
✓ **A) at / in**
Use **at** with clock times (**at three o'clock**) and **in** with parts of the day (**in the afternoon**).

9. _____ Saturday evening we went out to a concert.
✓ **D) On**
Use **on** with days, also with a part of the day: **on Saturday evening**, **on Monday morning**. Not **in**: we say **in the evening**, but **on Saturday evening**.

10. _____ we got home, we listened to some music.
✓ **D) When**
When is used for a short action: **When we got home, ...**. **While** is used for a longer action in progress (**while we were driving**), so it doesn't fit **got home**.

11. We got up late _____ Sunday morning.
✓ **C) on**
Use **on** with a day + part of the day: **on Sunday morning**.

12. _____ the afternoon we went for a walk.
✓ **D) In**
Use **in** with parts of the day: **in the morning**, **in the afternoon**, **in the evening**.

13. I bought a car a few weeks _____.
✓ **C) ago**
Ago comes after a length of time and means 'before now': **a few weeks ago**.

14. I had an accident _____ last night.
✓ **B) ____**
No preposition before **last**: **last night**, not **at last night**.

15. It happened _____ seven o'clock _____ the evening.
✓ **D) at / in**
At + clock time (**at seven o'clock**), **in** + part of the day (**in the evening**).

16. I took my car to the garage _____ this morning.
✓ **C) ____**
No preposition before **this**: **this morning**, **this week**. Not **in this morning**.

17. It will be ready _____ two weeks.
✓ **B) in**
In + a length of time can mean 'after this time from now': **ready in two weeks**. Not **for**, because **for two weeks** means it will stay ready only for that time.

18. I _____ a friend while I _____ the shopping.
✓ **B) met / was doing**
Use the past continuous (**was doing**) for the longer action in progress and the past simple (**met**) for the short action that happened during it. **While** usually goes with the longer action.

19. I _____ for my things when I _____ someone call my name.
✓ **D) was paying / heard**
The longer action in progress is in the past continuous (**was paying**); the short action that interrupted it is in the past simple (**heard**). The story is in the past, so **hear** is wrong.

20. I _____ round and _____ Paula.
✓ **A) turned / saw**
Two short actions one after the other are both in the past simple: **turned round and saw**. **See** is not normally used in the continuous form.

21. She _____ a bright red coat yesterday.
✔ **B) was wearing**
Yesterday shows the past; we use the past continuous **was wearing** to describe what someone had on at that moment. **Was wear** is not a correct form.

22. We _____ to have a cup of coffee.
✔ **A) decided**
A single finished action in a past story takes the past simple: **We decided to have a cup of coffee.**

23. While we _____ a drink, a waiter _____ a pile of plates.
✔ **D) were having / dropped**
While + past continuous for the longer action (**were having a drink**), past simple for the short action that happened during it (**dropped**).

24. We all _____ a terrible shock.
✔ **D) got**
A short, finished action in the past takes the past simple: **We all got a terrible shock.**

25. While the waiter _____ up the broken plates, he _____ his finger.
✔ **B) was picking / cut**
While + past continuous for the longer action (**was picking up**), past simple for the short action (**cut his finger**). Not **picked / was cutting**: cutting a finger is the short action.

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