ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

PRE-INTERMEDIATE Test 9

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1	C	2	B	3	B	4	C	5	D	6	A	7	B	8	A	9	A	10	D
11	C	12	C	13	A	14	C	15	B	16	A	17	C	18	A	19	B	20	D
21	C	22	B	23	D	24	C	25	A										

Explanations

1. A: How much are the driving lessons? B: Fifteen pounds _____ hour.
✔ **C) an**
We use **a/an** to mean 'each' with prices: **£15 an hour**. We use **an** because **hour** starts with a vowel sound (the h is silent).

2. I was at _____ home all day yesterday.
✔ **B) ____**
We say **at home** with no article: **I was at home all day.**

3. There are _____ apples.
✔ **B) a lot of**
A lot of works with plural nouns like **apples** in positive sentences. **Much** and **a little** are for uncountable nouns.

4. The shop hasn't got _____ washing powder.
✔ **C) much**
Washing powder is uncountable, so we use **much** in negative sentences: **hasn't got much**. **Many** and **a few** are for plural nouns.

5. Why aren't there _____ magazines?
✔ **D) many**
Magazines is a plural noun, so we use **many** in questions and negatives. **Much** and **little** are for uncountable nouns.

6. The shop hasn't got _____ birthday cards.
✔ **A) many**
Birthday cards is plural, so in a negative sentence we use **many**: **hasn't got many**. Not **some**, because we normally use **any** or **many** in negatives.

7. I saw _____ change on the table a minute ago.
✔ **B) some**
Change (coins) is uncountable. In positive sentences we use **some**: **I saw some change. Any** is for questions and negatives.

8. I can see _____ newspapers.
✔ **A) lots of**
Lots of works with plural nouns like **newspapers** in positive sentences. **Much** and **a little** are for uncountable nouns.

9. The shopkeeper has got _____ cheese.
✔ **A) a lot of**
Cheese is uncountable, so we use **a lot of** in a positive sentence. **Many**, **few** and **a few** are for plural nouns.

10. I need _____ help with my homework. Are you free?
✔ **D) some**
Help is uncountable. In positive sentences we use **some**: **I need some help.** Not **much**, because it sounds unnatural in positive sentences.

11. Let's have _____ ice-cream each.
✔ **C) an**
Here **ice-cream** means one portion, so it is countable: **an ice-cream each**. We use **an** because **ice-cream** starts with a vowel sound.

12. I eat _____ apple every day.
✔ **C) an**
Apple is a singular countable noun that starts with a vowel sound, so we use **an**: **an apple every day**.

13. Do you prefer _____ coffee or tea?
✔ **A) ____**
When we talk about drinks in general, we use no article: **Do you prefer coffee or tea?**

14. They don't like _____ chocolate.
✔ **C) ____**
We use no article with uncountable nouns when we talk in general: **They don't like chocolate.**

15. I'd like _____ glass of milk, please.
✔ **B) a**
Glass here is a container and it is countable, so we say **a glass of milk**.

16. Please, have _____ cake. There are lots of them on the plate.
✔ **A) a**
Them tells us there are many separate small cakes, so **cake** is countable here: **have a cake**.

17. How often do you eat _____ chocolate?
✔ **C) ____**
We talk about chocolate in general, so we use no article: **How often do you eat chocolate?**

18. This table is made of _____ glass.
✔ **A) ____**
Glass as a material is uncountable, so no article: **made of glass**.

19. I never drink _____ coffee.
✔ **B) ____**
We talk about coffee in general, so we use no article: **I never drink coffee.**

20. Does he like _____ cake? I want to make one for his birthday.
✔ **D) _____**
We ask about cake in general, so we use no article: **Does he like cake?** Not **the**, because the cake is not made yet.

21. She needs _____ to help her choose a birthday present.
✔ **C) someone**
She needs a person, and the sentence is positive, so we use **someone**. **Something** is for things, **somewhere** for places.

22. Is _____ listening to me?
✔ **B) anyone**
In questions we usually use **any-** words, and **-one** is for people: **Is anyone listening? Anywhere** is for places.

23. Would _____ please explain what happened?
✔ **D) someone**
In polite requests we use **some-** words, even in questions: **Would someone please explain? Anything** is for things, **somewhere** and **anywhere** for places.

24. He isn't selective about what to watch. He will watch _____ on television!
✔ **C) anything**
Anything in a positive sentence means 'it doesn't matter what': **He will watch anything.** Not **something**, which means one particular thing.

25. If _____ asks, tell them I've got a cold.
✔ **A) anyone**
After **if** we often use **any-** words, and **-one** is for people: **If anyone asks, tell them...** Not **nobody**, because then there is no one to tell.

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