ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Prepositions And Phrasal Verbs Advanced Level Test – Quiz (Online Exercise With Answers) 1

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Explanations

1. He stepped _____ the gas and drove _____ after the accident.
✔ **E) on / away**
Step on the gas is an informal idiom meaning to press the accelerator and go faster. **Drive away** means to leave in a car. Together: **He stepped on the gas and drove away.**

2. A serious problem _____ after the project had been started.
✔ **A) came up**
Come up means to appear or happen unexpectedly, usually about a problem or an opportunity: **A problem came up at work.** Not **found out**, which needs a person as subject and an object (**We found out the truth**).

3. Our teacher insisted _____ cutting Jane's birthday cake up fairly _____ all the pupils.
✔ **A) on / among**
Insist on + -ing means to demand that something is done. When something is shared by a group of more than two, we use **among**: **cut the cake up fairly among all the pupils**. Not **insist to**, because **insist** takes **on**, not **to**, before a gerund.

4. You shouldn't blame her _____ giving your secret _____ to your fiancée before asking her whether she did it or not.
✔ **C) for / away**
We **blame someone for** doing something wrong. **Give away** a secret means to tell it to someone who shouldn't know it: **She gave my secret away.** Not **give up**, which means to stop doing something.

5. It's definitely not entirely untypical _____ Susan to boast _____ how clever her son was.
✔ **B) of / about**
After adjectives describing typical behaviour, we use **of** + person: **It's typical of Susan to …** (here **not untypical** = quite typical). **Boast about** (or **boast of**) means to talk proudly about something, often too proudly: **He boasts about his car.**

6. My mother always _____ the advantages of country life because she spent all her childhood in a small village.
✔ **E) touches on**
Touch on means to mention or talk about a subject, often briefly: **In her talks she always touches on the advantages of country life.** Not **puts off**, which means to postpone, and not **takes after**, which means to look or behave like an older relative.

7. He couldn't figure _____ what the manager was hinting _____ during the meeting.
✔ **E) out / at**
Figure out means to understand something after thinking about it. **Hint at** means to suggest something indirectly, without saying it clearly: **What is he hinting at?**

8. Could you please _____ my homework? If I've made any mistakes, we can correct them now.
✔ **D) look through**
Look through means to read or check something quickly: **Could you look through my essay?** Not **see through**, which means to recognise that someone is trying to deceive you.

9. We will have to _____ this noise for a while. They're redecorating the house.
✔ **C) put up with**
Put up with means to accept or tolerate something unpleasant: **I can't put up with this noise any longer.** Not **get on with**, which means to have a good relationship with someone or to continue doing something.

10. _____ present production levels, known deposits of bauxite can provide the world _____ aluminium for hundreds of years.
✔ **E) At / with**
We say **at** a level or rate: **at present production levels**. **Provide someone with something** is the pattern: **provide the world with aluminium**. Not **provide … for**, which needs the thing first: **provide aluminium for the world**.

11. Many flats in our neighbourhood were broken _____ last semester while people were _____ holiday.
✔ **C) into / on**
Break into a building means to enter it illegally, usually to steal; in the passive: **The flats were broken into.** We say **on holiday**: **people were on holiday**. Not **broken up**, which means ended (a relationship) or separated into pieces.

12. I'm really sorry I couldn't get _____ the meeting, but some relatives of mine turned _____ unexpectedly.
✔ **D) to / up**
Get to a place or event means to arrive at it or manage to attend it. **Turn up** means to arrive or appear, often unexpectedly: **Some relatives turned up.** Not **turn down**, which means to refuse.

13. _____ are you to leave the country during this time.
✔ **C) Under no circumstances**
Negative phrases at the start of a sentence cause inversion: **Under no circumstances are you to leave** = you must not leave in any situation. **Be to** + infinitive expresses an order. Not **Not until**, which needs a time clause or phrase (**Not until tomorrow can you leave**).

14. I ran _____ some interesting old books in that store _____ the corner.
✔ **B) into / at**
Run into means to meet or find someone or something by chance (**run across** and **come across** are similar). A shop **at the corner** (or **on the corner**) is located where two streets meet. Not **run over**, which means to hit someone with a vehicle.

15. The old woman was taken _____ by the noise _____ the traffic.
✔ **A) aback / of**
Be taken aback means to be very surprised or shocked: **She was taken aback by his rudeness.** **The noise of the traffic** uses **of** to show where the noise comes from. Not **taken off**, which means removed or imitated.

16. He's mad _____ country and western music. Whenever he finds a chance, he listens to popular singers of this kind of music.
✔ **D) about**
Be mad about something (informal) means to like it very much: **He's mad about football.** Not **mad at**, which means angry with: **She's mad at me for being late.**

17. Sam has been _____ charge of preparing a dinner _____ 120 people.
✔ **E) in / for**
Be in charge of something means to be responsible for it: **Sam has been in charge of preparing a dinner.** A dinner **for** 120 people is made for those guests, just as we say **a party for 50 guests**. Not **at / of**: we never say **at charge**, and **a dinner of 120 people** is also wrong.

18. Our only aim is to resolve the conflict _____ peaceful and reasonable means.
✔ **E) through**
Through (or **by**) is used before **means** to show the method used to do something: **resolve a conflict through peaceful means**. Not **with**, which does not collocate with **means** in this sense.

19. The parents are worried _____ their son getting lost _____ his trip to the Rocky Mountains.
✔ **C) about / during**
Be worried about + noun/-ing expresses concern: **worried about their son getting lost**. **During** is a preposition followed by a noun: **during his trip**. Not **that / while**: **worried that** needs a full clause, and **while** is normally followed by a clause or an -ing form, not a noun.

20. It's _____ time we left; therefore, you'd better come _____ the solution.
✔ **E) about / up with**
It's about time (or **It's high time**) + past simple means something should happen now: **It's about time we left. Come up with** means to think of an idea or solution. Not **high / along with**: **high time** is fine, but **come along with** means to accompany someone, not to find a solution.

21. When I arrived _____ Sandra's house, I was completely _____ breath.
✔ **E) at / out of**
We **arrive at** a building or a specific place (**arrive in** a city or country). **Out of breath** means breathing very fast after physical effort: **I ran up the stairs and was out of breath.**

22. _____ any rate, Simon finally decided to go ahead _____ the new financial project.
✔ **B) At / with**
At any rate means anyway or in any case. **Go ahead with** something means to start doing something that was planned: **They went ahead with the wedding.** Not **In / on**: **in any case** exists, but **go ahead on** is not correct.

23. Plants make their own food _____ a process called photosynthesis.
✔ **C) through**
Through a process shows the method by which something happens: **Plants make food through photosynthesis.** Not **with**, which is used for tools or materials, not processes.

24. Though _____ the course of time the firm employed some of America's finest artists, artistic excellence could certainly not be counted _____ the firm's real goals.
✔ **E) in / among**
In the course of time means gradually, as time passes. **Count something among** a group means to consider it part of that group: **She is counted among the best writers.** Not **within / over**: **over the course of time** is possible, but **within the course** and **counted over** are not.

25. Beypazarı, a lovely town in Ankara Province, is one of the best tourist attractions _____ its historical, traditional features, which are still unnoticed _____ even the people living nearby.
✔ **D) with / by**
With introduces the features that something has: **a town with a rich history**. In the passive, the agent is introduced by **by**: **unnoticed by even the people living nearby**. Not **for / to**: an attraction can be famous **for** something, but **unnoticed to** is not correct.