ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Prepositions – Linking Words Test A2 – B1 Grammar Exercises

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Explanations

1. _____ the past, people used to live _____ small houses made of mud and straw.
✔ **C) In / in**
We say **in the past** for a time long ago. We live **in** a house, because we are inside it.

2. _____ New Year's Eve, people gather _____ each other's homes and celebrate the beginning of the new year.
✔ **B) On / at**
Use **on** with a special day: **on New Year's Eve**. People gather **at** a place, like **at** someone's home.

3. A: Where is my coat?

B: It is _____ the coat hook _____ the door.
✔ **D) on / behind**
The coat hangs **on** the hook, because it touches it. The hook is **behind** the door, at the back of it.

4. Two boats that crashed and sank are now _____ the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean.
✔ **C) at**
We say **at the bottom of** the sea or ocean. Not **under**, because nothing is under the bottom.

5. My football got stuck _____ the roof of the house, so Dad is climbing _____ the ladder to get it.
✔ **A) on / up**
The ball is **on** the roof, on top of it. Dad goes **up** the ladder to get to it.

6. The mouse walked _____ the pipe and then it jumped _____ the muddy water in the garden.
✔ **C) through / into**
Through means from one end to the other inside something, like a pipe. **Into** shows movement to the inside: **jump into the water**.

7. Mary didn't clean the carpets yesterday _____ the vacuum cleaner was broken.
✔ **B) because**
Because gives the reason: the vacuum cleaner was broken, so she couldn't clean. Not **so**, because **so** gives a result, not a reason.

8. _____ his efforts, Henry couldn't understand the meaning of the passage _____ the book.
✔ **D) Despite / in**
Despite is followed by a noun (**his efforts**) and shows a contrast. Not **Although**, because it needs a full clause with a verb. We read a passage **in** a book.

9. He was waiting _____ the airport while his friends were having fun _____ the party.
✔ **B) at / at**
Use **at** for a place or event where something happens: **at the airport**, **at the party**.

10. She walked _____ the street and entered the building _____ the right of the bank.
✔ **C) across / on**
Across the street means from one side to the other. We say **on the right of** (or **to the right of**) something.

11. Angela's alarm clock didn't go off _____ this morning, so she was late for her meeting _____ work.
✔ **C) (no word) / at**
We don't use a preposition before **this morning**, **today** or **tomorrow**. We say **at work** for the place where we work.

12. Derek needs to change his clothes _____ he accidentally fell _____ his neighbour's swimming pool.
✔ **B) because / into**
Because gives the reason he must change. He fell **into** the pool, from outside to inside the water.

13. _____ they heard the news, they hurried to the hospital.
✔ **A) As soon as**
As soon as means immediately after something happens: they heard the news and then hurried at once.

14. _____ I had blisters on my heels, I still played tennis last Sunday.
✔ **C) Despite the fact that**
Despite the fact that is followed by a full clause (**I had blisters**) and shows a contrast. Not **In spite of**, because without **the fact that** it needs a noun, not a clause.

15. _____ her bad health, she is cheerful and she is giving a dinner party _____ 12th July.
✔ **D) In spite of / on**
In spite of + noun (**her bad health**) shows a contrast. We use **on** with dates: **on 12th July**.

16. **The town hall is next to the museum and opposite the park.**
✔ **B) False**
Lucas says the town hall is **between the supermarket and the bakery**. He doesn't say it is next to the museum or opposite the park.

17. **The gift shop is closed because the owner is on a break.**
✔ **A) True**
Lucas says they can visit the gift shop later **because the owner is at lunch**. Being at lunch means the owner is on a break.

18. **The fastest way to the train station is to go along Pine Street and go under the bridge and turn left.**
✓ **B) False**
Lucas says to go **over** the bridge and turn **right**, not under the bridge and left.

19. **The football stadium is within walking distance of the city centre.**
✓ **B) False**
Lucas says it is **too far to walk**, so they should go by bus or taxi.

20. **There is a historical monument on Broad Street.**
✓ **A) True**
Lucas says **on Broad Street is the Independence Statue**. A statue is a historical monument.

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