ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Prepositions – Linking Words Test B1 Grammar Exercises

A2 B1 Level Grammar Tests · 20 questions · Online test and questions PDF:
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Explanations

1. Peter had left his guitar _____ the bed before he got _____ his room.
✔ **B) on / out of**
We put things **on** a surface such as a bed or a table. When we leave a room, we **get out of** it. Not **into**, because Peter is leaving his room, not entering it.

2. It takes about ten minutes to drive _____ this tunnel.
✔ **A) through**
We use **through** when we move from one end of something closed, like a tunnel, to the other end: **drive through a tunnel**. Not **across**, which is for flat open spaces such as a road or a field.

3. Our next chemistry class is _____ 11 o'clock _____ Tuesday.
✔ **C) at / on**
We use **at** with clock times (**at 11 o'clock**) and **on** with days (**on Tuesday**). Not **in**, which we use with months, years and parts of the day (**in the morning**).

4. As the truck was going slowly _____ the slope, I was driving right _____ it.
✔ **D) up / behind**
A truck goes slowly **up** a slope because climbing is hard. If you follow another car closely, you drive **right behind** it. Not **in front of**, because you would then be ahead of the truck, not following it.

5. Because he works _____ a farm, Carl always goes to bed very early and gets up _____ dawn.
✔ **C) on / at**
We say **work on a farm** and **get up at dawn**. **At** is used with exact times of the day, such as **at dawn**, **at noon** and **at midnight**.

6. Farmers are usually _____ the fields from early _____ the morning _____ late _____ night _____ the summer.
✔ **D) in / in / till / at / in**
We say **in the fields**, **in the morning**, **at night** and **in the summer**. **From … till/to** shows the start and end of a period: **from early in the morning till late at night**. Not **at the morning** or **on night**: we always say **in the morning** and **at night**.

7. _____ we didn't have many toys when we were kids, we used to enjoy ourselves a lot.
✔ **C) Although**
Although links two clauses that contrast: they had few toys, but they still had fun. Not **Despite**, because it is followed by a noun or **-ing** form, not by a full clause (**Despite not having many toys…**).

8. I still have a terrible toothache _____ the drugs I have been taking for days.
✔ **D) in spite of**
In spite of shows contrast and is followed by a noun: **in spite of the drugs**. Not **even though**, because it needs a full clause with a subject and verb (**even though I have been taking drugs**).

9. Melinda never misses the concerts of her favourite band _____ they give one near her hometown.
✔ **C) whenever**
Whenever means 'every time': every time the band gives a concert near her hometown, Melinda goes. Not **in case**, which is about doing something as a precaution.

10. Whether or not you join me, I will be _____ our neighbour's barbecue party _____ this afternoon.
✔ **B) at / _____**
We are **at** an event, such as **at a party** or **at a barbecue**. We don't use a preposition before **this**, **next** or **last** with time: **this afternoon**, not **in this afternoon**.

11. _____ wealth _____ fame makes me happy. I only want my freedom and privacy.
✔ **C) Neither / nor**
Neither … nor gives a negative meaning to both things: wealth doesn't make me happy, and fame doesn't either. The next sentence (**I only want my freedom**) shows the meaning is negative, so **Either … or** and **Both … and** don't fit.

12. My grandfather turned up the volume of the TV _____ hear the news.
✔ **D) in order to**
In order to + base verb shows purpose: he turned up the volume **in order to hear** the news. Not **so that**, because it needs a subject and verb after it (**so that he could hear**).

13. You can get over diseases _____ the common cold without taking any medicine.
✔ **B) such as**
Such as introduces an example: **diseases such as the common cold**. It means 'for example' or 'like'.

14. It is hard to get a good job _____ you speak a second foreign language fluently _____ English.
✔ **C) unless / as well as**
Unless means 'if … not': it is hard to get a good job if you don't speak another language. **As well as** means 'in addition to': a second language **as well as English**. Not **apart from**, because it cannot be followed by a clause like **you speak**.

15. The car looked all right _____ a few unimportant scratches.
✔ **B) apart from**
Apart from means 'except for': the car looked fine, and the only problem was a few small scratches. Not **unless**, because it introduces a condition and needs a clause, not a noun.

16. Can you wash the dishes _____ I am doing the ironing?
✔ **D) while**
While means 'during the time that': two actions happen at the same time, washing the dishes and ironing. Not **whereas**, which shows a contrast between two facts.

17. It was snowing heavily, _____ we decided to cancel the trip.
✔ **B) so**
So introduces a result: heavy snow was the reason, and cancelling the trip was the result. Not **since**, which introduces a reason, not a result.

18. The Johnsons have been living right _____ us _____ I was born.
✔ **A) above / since**
Above us means on the floor higher than ours. With the present perfect continuous (**have been living**) we use **since** + a point in time: **since I was born**. Not **for**, which is used with a period of time (**for ten years**).

19. _____ security reasons, you see cameras _____ you go in the city.
✔ **C) Due to / wherever**
Due to + noun gives a reason: **due to security reasons**. **Wherever** means 'in every place': you see cameras in every place you go in the city. Not **Because**, because it needs a full clause, not just a noun phrase.

20. There is a lot of traffic on the roads _____ the high number of people going on holiday these days.
✔ **A) due to**
Due to + noun phrase gives a reason: **due to the high number of people**. Not **because**, which needs a clause; with a noun we say **because of**.

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