ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

# Present Tenses MCQ Test With Answers + PDF Exercise 2

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| 1 | **E** | 2 | **C** | 3 | **C** | 4 | **A** | 5 | **C** | 6 | **B** | 7 | **B** | 8 | **B** | 9 | **B** | 10 | **D** |
| 11 | **B** | 12 | **B** | 13 | **C** | 14 | **B** | 15 | **C** | 16 | **C** | 17 | **A** | 18 | **C** | 19 | **D** | 20 | **B** |

## Explanations

**1.** The weather is awful; it _____ all day.
✔ **E) has been raining**
Use the present perfect continuous for an action that started in the past and is still going on now. The clue is **all day** together with the present **is awful**: **it has been raining**. Not **had been raining**, because that is past perfect and the sentence is about now.

**2.** It is 2 o'clock. I _____ afraid I _____ late.
✔ **C) am / am**
Both verbs describe the present situation (**It is 2 o'clock**), so both need the present simple: **I am afraid I am late**. **I'm afraid** is a polite way to say something unwelcome.

**3.** Who usually answers these letters in your office?
✔ **C) I do, of course.**
The question uses the present simple verb **answers**, so the short answer uses **do**: **I do.** Not **Mary is**, because the question does not use **is**; it would need **Mary does**.

**4.** The milk is hot. I _____ on it to make it cold.
✔ **A) am blowing**
The action is happening right now, so use the present continuous: **I am blowing**. Not **is blowing**, because the subject is **I**.

**5.** - You don't like horror films, do you?

- _____. They are so terrifying.
✔ **C) No, I don't.**
The question uses **don't like**, so the short answer uses **do**. The speaker does not like horror films, so the answer is **No, I don't**. **They are so terrifying** is the clue.

**6.** _____ this engineer work at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs?
✔ **B) does**
Present simple questions with **he/she/it** or a singular noun use **does**: **Does this engineer work...?** Not **do**, because **this engineer** is singular.

**7.** He _____ never _____ him sing.
✔ **B) has / heard**
Use the present perfect with **never** for experiences up to now: **has + past participle**. The answer is **He has never heard him sing**. Not **has / hear**, because after **has** we need the past participle **heard**.

**8.** I think _____.
✔ **B) he is about fifty**
After **I think** we use a full clause with a subject and a verb: **I think he is about fifty**. Not **if he is**, because **think** is not followed by **if** here.

**9.** I miss her very much; almost every minute of the day I think of her, or I think I _____ her.
✔ **B) hear**
**Hear** is a verb of perception and is normally used in the present simple, not the continuous. The clue **almost every minute of the day** also shows a repeated situation: **I think I hear her**. Not **am hearing**, because **hear** is usually not used in the continuous form.

**10.** Look! There _____ a man sitting at the first table near the door. He _____ at us.
✔ **D) is / is looking**
**Look!** shows that this is happening now. Use **there is** for one man, and the present continuous for the action in progress: **He is looking at us**. Not **is / was looking**, because the action is happening now, not in the past.

**11.** These engineers always _____ in the office and _____.
✔ **B) stay / learn**
**Always** shows a habit, so use the present simple for both verbs. **Engineers** is plural, so there is no -s: **stay / learn**. Not **stays / learns**, because those forms are for one person.

**12.** It's the happiest evening I _____.
✔ **B) have ever had**
After a superlative (**the happiest**) we use the present perfect with **ever** for experience up to now: **the happiest evening I have ever had**. **Ever** goes between **have** and the past participle. Not **has ever had**, because the subject is **I**.

**13.** Let me show you the picture that I _____ this week. It's finished now.
✔ **C) have drawn**
**This week** is not finished yet, and the picture is finished and ready to show, so use the present perfect: **I have drawn**. Not **am drawing**, because the picture is already finished, not still in progress.

**14.** This is the 7th year Ann and Mary _____ this school.
✔ **B) have been attending**
**This is the 7th year** shows an action that started in the past and continues now. That needs the present perfect continuous. **Ann and Mary** is plural, so the answer is **have been attending**. Not **has attended**, because **has** is for one person.

**15.** He _____ his English lesson in the morning; he _____ it in the evening.
✔ **C) doesn't have / has**
This is a regular timetable, so use the present simple. With **he**, we use **doesn't have** in the negative and **has** in the positive. Not **is having**, because a regular schedule is not an action in progress now.

**16.** The sun _____ in the east and _____ in the west.
✔ **C) rises / sets**
This is a general fact, so use the present simple with -s for **the sun**. The sun comes up (**rises**) in the east and goes down (**sets**) in the west. Not **sets / rises**, because that reverses the facts.

**17.** While _____ to school, we always _____ a bus.
✔ **A) going / take**
After **while** we can use the **-ing** form when the subject is the same (**while going**). **Always** shows a habit, so the main verb is in the present simple: **we always take**. Not **goes / takes**, because the subject is **we**.

**18.** We don't like him because he always _____ lies.
✔ **C) tells**
**Always** shows a habit, so use the present simple. **He** needs -s: **he always tells lies**. Not **tell**, because the verb needs -s after **he**.

**19.** I _____ all my work. I am free now.
✔ **D) have done**
Use the present perfect for a finished action with a result now. The clue is **I am free now**: **I have done all my work**. Not **had done**, because the past perfect refers to a time before another past event.

**20.** She _____ at school since 1984.
✔ **B) has been teaching**
**Since 1984** shows an action that started in the past and still continues. Use the present perfect continuous: **she has been teaching**. Not **have taught**, because **have** is not used with **she**.

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