ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Pronouns – Both / Neither – All / None Test A2 – B1 Grammar Exercises

A2 B1 Level Grammar Tests · 18 questions · Online test and questions PDF:
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Explanations

1. A: Please _____ yourself to the tea and coffee.

B: Thank you.
✔ **C) help**
Help yourself (to something) means take as much food or drink as you want, without asking. Example: **Help yourself to the cake.** Not **take care of**: that means look after yourself and doesn't go with **to the tea**.

2. Harry's dog was chasing the neighbour's cat when it hurt _____ on the fence.
✔ **B) itself**
For animals we usually use **it**, so the reflexive pronoun is **itself**. The dog hurt **itself** on the fence. Not **himself**: that is for a man or a boy, like Harry.

3. Kate's parents were enjoying _____ at the party until Kate burnt _____ on the oven.
✔ **A) themselves / herself**
Kate's parents = they, so we use **themselves**. **Kate** = she, so we use **herself**. **Enjoy yourself/themselves** means have a good time.

4. Usher has been playing video games by _____ since morning.
✔ **D) himself**
By + reflexive pronoun means alone, without other people. Usher is a man (he), so the answer is **by himself**.

5. This is the first time we've ridden horses, and we have really enjoyed _____.
✔ **B) ourselves**
The subject is **we**, so the reflexive pronoun is **ourselves**. **Enjoy ourselves** means have a good time.

6. A: Where are Frank and John today? _____ them are absent.

B: _____ them are absent. They have gone to the principal's room.
✔ **D) Both of / Neither of**
Frank and John are two people, so we use **both of** and **neither of** before **them**. A thinks **both of them** are absent, but B says **neither of them** is absent, because they are in the principal's room. **Neither of them are** is common in informal English, but **Neither of them is** is more formal. Not **Neither them** or **Both them**: we need **of** before **them**.

7. A: Are _____ those flowers red? I'm colour-blind, so I can't see their real colour.

B: Yes, they are _____ red.
✔ **B) all of / all**
We use **all (of)** for more than two things, like a group of flowers. **Are all of those flowers red?** After the verb **be**, **all** comes straight after it: **they are all red**. Not **neither of**: it is negative and doesn't fit a normal yes/no question.

8. _____ of the passengers were sleeping when the plane was delayed for three hours. Luckily, _____ of them was in a hurry.
✔ **C) All / none**
There are many passengers (more than two), so we use **all** and **none**, not **both** or **neither**. **All of the passengers** were sleeping, and **none of them** (= not one of them) was in a hurry. Not **Both / all**: **both** is only for two people, and **all of them was** has the wrong verb.

9. _____ Mark _____ his dad have been working at the same company for 6 years.
✔ **A) Both / and**
The pattern is **both ... and**, and the verb is plural: **Both Mark and his dad have been working ...**. Not **Neither ... or**: the correct pair is **neither ... nor**, and the sentence is not negative in meaning.

10. A: Do Selin and Murat like dancing?

B: _____ Selin _____ Murat likes dancing.
✔ **B) Neither / nor**
Neither ... nor means not one and not the other. It goes with a singular verb here: **Neither Selin nor Murat likes dancing.** Not **Both ... and**: that would need the plural verb **like**.

11. He is planning to sell _____ of his cars because the old one takes up too much space in his garage and he doesn't use the new one anymore.
✔ **C) both**
He has two cars (the old one and the new one), so we use **both**. He wants to sell **both of his cars**. Not **all**: that is for three or more.

12. _____ of his parents are alive, but he has three sisters and they are _____ in the same city as him.
✔ **B) Neither / all**
He has two parents, so we use **neither of** for a negative meaning: **Neither of his parents is/are alive.** He has three sisters, so we use **all**: **they are all in the same city**. Not **Both / neither**: **but** shows a contrast, and **they are neither in the same city** is not correct.

13. A: I remember you had two exams last week. Did you pass _____ of them?

B: I couldn't answer _____ five questions in each exam, but I passed them.
✔ C) both / all
There were two exams, so A asks **Did you pass both of them?** Before a number we say **all five questions** (or **all of the five questions**), not **all of five questions**. Not **all / neither**: **all** is for three or more, so it can't be used for two exams.

14. My three-year-old son got dressed by _____ this morning, and this made _____ my husband _____ me very happy.
✔ D) himself / both / and
My son = he, so **by himself** (= alone, without help). This made two people happy, so we use **both ... and**: **both my husband and me**. Not **neither ... nor**: the sentence is positive (**very happy**).

15. _____ Will _____ Sam has bought a new mobile phone because _____ them has enough money.
✔ D) Neither / nor / neither of
The reason (they don't have enough money) shows a negative meaning, so we use **neither ... nor** and **neither of them**. In careful English, they take a singular verb: **Neither Will nor Sam has bought ...**, **neither of them has ...**. Not **Both / and / both**: **both** needs a plural verb and **both of them**, and the meaning doesn't make sense with **because**.

16. Which of the following is not mentioned in the email?
✔ D) Ruby hasn't seen the Statue of Liberty before.
The email says **None of them had seen it before**, but this is about Fiona's family, not Ruby. Ruby never says if she has seen the Statue of Liberty. The other three facts are in the email: she fell down the stairs, she is going to the cinema this weekend, and she called Fiona on Monday.

17. Ruby fell downstairs and _____ herself.
✔ C) hurt
Paragraph 1 says Ruby fell down the stairs and sprained her ankle, so she **hurt herself**. Not **cut** or **burnt**: the email doesn't say she cut or burnt herself.

18. Which statement is true?
✔ A) Ruby is better because she didn't work and she had a rest at home last week.
Paragraph 1 says **I am better now because I took a week off from work and rested.** The other sentences are false: the advert was for **Anchorman 2**, **both** films were funny, and **all** of Fiona's family went to see the Statue of Liberty.

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