ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Pronouns – Possessives – Demonstratives – Quantifiers Test B1 Grammar Exercises

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Explanations

1. Can you open the door, Mikel? _____ must be Mrs Morgan. _____ was going to come this afternoon.
✔ **B) It / She**
We use **It** to say who someone probably is (at the door, on the phone): **It must be Mrs Morgan.** After that we use **She** for Mrs Morgan, because she is a woman. Not **Someone**, because the speaker already guesses who it is.

2. Ed has finished his project, but _____ sister is still working on _____.
✔ **A) his / hers**
His sister means Ed's sister, so we use the possessive adjective **his** before the noun. **Hers** is a possessive pronoun that means **her project**, so it stands alone without a noun. Not **her**, because **her** needs a noun after it.

3. _____ have found a nice flat in the city centre and _____ rent isn't very high.
✔ **D) We / its**
We is the subject, and **its rent** means the rent of the flat. **Its** is the possessive of **it** and has no apostrophe. Not **it's**, because **it's** means **it is**.

4. _____ student at our college has a room of _____.
✔ **B) Every / their own**
Every goes directly before a singular noun: **every student**. **A room of their own** means a room that belongs only to them. We often use **their** after **every student** when we don't know if it is a man or a woman. Not **Each of**, because it needs **the** or a pronoun after it: **each of the students**.

5. She seems to be enjoying _____ when she is with _____ friends.
✔ **A) herself / her**
Enjoy yourself/herself means to have a good time, so we need the reflexive pronoun **herself**. Before the noun **friends** we use the possessive adjective **her**. Not **hers**, because it cannot go before a noun.

6. Sometimes everybody may need to be _____.
✔ **C) on their own**
Be on your own means to be alone. After **everybody** we usually use **their**: **everybody ... on their own**. Not **by herself**, because **everybody** means both men and women.

7. You _____ waste so much time on the computer, so you can't criticize your kids for doing _____.
✔ **A) yourself / it**
You yourself uses a reflexive pronoun for emphasis: **you, and not another person**. **Doing it** refers back to wasting time on the computer. Not **yours**, because a possessive pronoun cannot come before a verb like **waste**.

8. What was the name of _____ interesting friend of _____ from Brighton?
✔ **C) that / yours**
We use **that** for a singular thing or person we talked about before or that is far away. **A friend of yours** is the normal pattern: **of** + possessive pronoun (**mine, yours, his**). Not **of you**, because we say **a friend of yours**.

9. Schools open in September after _____ holiday.
✔ **D) three months'**
For how long something lasts we can use a possessive form of time: **three months' holiday** (= a holiday of three months). Note the apostrophe after the **s** in **months'**. Another correct form is **a three-month holiday**, with no **s**. Not **three months**, because the apostrophe is missing.

10. Everybody has become so egoistic that _____ cares about _____ these days.
✔ **B) nobody / anybody**
Nobody already makes the sentence negative, so after it we use **anybody**, not **somebody**: **Nobody cares about anybody.** Not **nothing**, because we are talking about people.

11. It might take you _____ minutes to finish a meal, but your body digests _____ in almost 12 hours.
✔ **A) a few / it**
Minutes is a countable plural noun, so we use **a few**: **a few minutes** (= a small number). **It** replaces **a meal**. Not **a little**, because it goes with uncountable nouns.

12. I have _____ friends at school, but _____ of them has come to my home yet.
✔ **A) a lot of / none**
A lot of friends means many friends. **None of them** means not one of the friends; it is used for more than two people. Not **neither**, because **neither** is only for two people or things.

13. Watching too _____ television causes children to lose _____ imagination.
✓ **B) much / their**
Television is uncountable, so we say **too much television**. **Their imagination** uses the possessive adjective before a noun. Not **too a lot of**, because **too** cannot go before **a lot of**.

14. I wasn't planning to stay for more than two days, so I had very _____ luggage with _____.
✓ **A) little / me**
Luggage is uncountable, so we use **little**: **very little luggage** (= almost no luggage). We say **with me**, not **with myself**, after a preposition of place like this. Not **few**, because it goes with plural countable nouns.

15. There aren't _____ pandas left and _____ number is gradually going down.
✓ **C) many / their**
Pandas is a plural countable noun, so in a negative sentence we use **many**: **There aren't many pandas**. **Their number** means the number of pandas, so we need the possessive adjective **their**. Not **much**, because it goes with uncountable nouns.

16. Sean has two dogs; _____ them are too old, so _____ them can walk long distances.
✓ **C) both of / neither of**
Sean has two dogs, so we use words for two: **both of them** (= the two dogs) and **neither of them** (= not one and not the other). Not **none** or **all**, because those are used for more than two.

17. You needn't put so _____ coloured pens in your pencil case. _____ would be enough.
✓ **D) many / A few**
Pens is countable and plural, so we say **so many pens**. **A few** (= a small number) also goes with countable nouns and replaces **a few pens**. Not **much** or **a little**, because they are used with uncountable nouns.

18. Leonard loves his goldfish so much that _____ gave _____ of them a different name.
✓ **B) he / each**
He is the subject (Leonard). **Each of them** means every single fish, one by one. Not **every**, because we cannot say **every of them**; we say **each of them** or **every one of them**.

19. _____ you or someone else must check _____ the tyres of the car or else you may have a problem in the middle of your journey.
✓ **A) Either / all**
Either … or shows a choice between two: **Either you or someone else**. **All the tyres** means every tyre of the car. Not **Both**, because **both** goes with **and**, not **or**.

20. We don't have _____ hope of finding the climbers alive as they have been missing for _____ weeks now.
✓ **C) much / a few**
Hope is uncountable, so in a negative sentence we use **much**: **We don't have much hope**. **Weeks** is countable, so we say **a few weeks**. Not **a little**, because **don't have a little hope** is not natural, and **a little** goes only with uncountable nouns.

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