ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Pronouns Test Exercises – Multiple Choice Questions With Answers – Advanced Level 22

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Explanations

1. Mr Benson, _____, is our family doctor.
✓ **A) who is a graduate of Harvard**
The commas show a **non-defining relative clause**, which adds extra information about a named person. For people in this kind of clause we use **who**, never **that**: **Mr Benson, who is a graduate of Harvard, is our family doctor.** Not **that is seen in the picture**, because **that** cannot introduce a non-defining clause after a comma.

2. She was alone at home. She had to do all the work _____.
✓ **D) by herself**
By herself means 'alone, without help'. The reflexive pronoun must match the subject **she**. Not **her own**, because the idiom needs **on**: **on her own**.

3. If it's true, somebody has broken the window, _____?
✓ **E) haven't they**
In a question tag, **somebody / someone / everybody** are picked up by **they**. The auxiliary is repeated from **has broken**, so the tag is **haven't they?** Not **hasn't he**: using **he** for **somebody** is old-fashioned, and **they** always takes **have**.

4. The unsinkable ship Titanic sank in 1912 on _____ maiden voyage.
✓ **A) its**
A ship is usually a thing, so the possessive determiner is **its**. A **maiden voyage** is a ship's first journey. Not **it's**, which means **it is** or **it has**. (Traditionally ships can also be **her**, but never **his**.)

5. The woman is worried about _____ husband because he has been away in the forest for three days.
✓ **C) her**
Before a noun we need a possessive determiner, and it must match the owner, **the woman**: **her husband**. Not **hers**, which is a pronoun used without a noun (**The car is hers**).

6. Some people believed _____ were protecting the environment by restricting exploration and drilling.
✓ **C) they**
The gap is the subject of the reported clause **(that) ___ were protecting**, and it refers back to **some people**. So we need the subject pronoun **they**. Not **them**, which is an object pronoun and cannot be the subject of **were**.

7. She said that _____ umbrella had been broken so she wanted to borrow _____ and promised to return it to _____ on Sunday.
✓ **D) her / mine / me**
Before the noun **umbrella** we need the determiner **her**. After **borrow**, a pronoun stands alone, so we use **mine** (= my umbrella). After **to** we need the object pronoun **me**. Not **my** in the second gap, because **my** must be followed by a noun.

8. _____ they talk of appears to be their close friend.
✓ **C) Whoever**
Whoever means 'any person who'. Here it is the object of **talk of** and the subject of **appears**: **Whoever they talk of appears to be their close friend.** The clue is **friend**, which refers to a person. Not **Whatever** or **Whichever**, which are used for things or choices.

9. This letter _____ has no name on it begins by saying: "To _____ it may concern".
✓ **E) which / whom**
The first gap needs a relative pronoun for a thing, **which** (or **that**). The second is the fixed formula **To whom it may concern**, where **whom** is the object form, used here in formal English. Not **that / those**: the first part works, but **To those it may concern** is not the set phrase.

10. Can you tell me _____ the foreigner stays in the evening?
✓ **A) where**
This is an indirect question about place. **Stays** here means 'lives or spends time', so we ask **where**: **Can you tell me where the foreigner stays in the evening?** Note the statement word order after **tell me**. Not **when**, because **in the evening** already gives the time.

11. When people are treating _____ as a lunatic who has to be humoured, Hamlet cries: "_____ fool _____ to the top of _____ bent."
✓ **B) him / They / me / my**
The people treat Hamlet, so the first gap is the object **him**. Inside the quotation Hamlet speaks in the first person: **They fool me to the top of my bent** ('they humour me as far as I can bear'). So we need **They** as subject, **me** as object and the determiner **my**. Not **their bent**, because the **bent** (limit of endurance) is Hamlet's own.

12. Freedom is a reality only when men may voice _____ opinions because _____ must examine _____ opinions.
✔ **C) their / they / their**
Men is plural, so every reference must be third person plural. Use the determiner **their** before **opinions**, the subject **they**, then **their** again. Not **their / they / theirs**, because **theirs** cannot be followed by a noun.

13. A good statesman always learns more from _____ opponents than from _____ fervent supporters.
✔ **D) his / his**
The subject is singular, **a good statesman**, and the word is masculine. Both nouns therefore take the possessive determiner **his**: **from his opponents than from his fervent supporters**. Keep the reference consistent. Not **their / his**, which mixes plural and singular for the same person.

14. If Queen Victoria had got to read the "Reader's Digest," _____ would have loved _____ and _____ would have changed _____.
✔ **B) she / it / it / her**
Queen Victoria is the subject, so the first gap is **she**. The **Reader's Digest** is one magazine, so it is **it** both as object (**loved it**) and as subject (**it would have changed**). The last gap is the object **her**. Not **them / they**, because the magazine's title is singular even though it ends in a plural-looking word.

15. People have learned to process words too - words, and the thoughts and attitudes _____ embody.
✔ **E) they**
This is a relative clause with the relative pronoun left out: **the thoughts and attitudes (that) they embody**. The subject **they** refers back to the **words**. Not **their**, which is a determiner and cannot be the subject of **embody**.

16. I understand you, Mr Ruskin. But if you want to renew your subscription, you should pay _____ £15.
✔ **B) another**
Another can come before a number and an amount to mean 'an additional': **pay another £15** = pay £15 more. Not **some other** or **one other**, which mean 'a different one' and are not used with sums of money in this way.

17. We had to check almost _____ room of the hotel to find the small cat.
✔ **A) every**
Every is followed by a singular countable noun, and **almost every** is a common combination: **almost every room**. Not **all**, which would need a plural or **the**: **almost all the rooms**.

18. Mike Oldfield is an English guitarist _____ 1994 album "The Songs of Distant Earth" is about space.
✔ **C) whose**
Whose is the possessive relative pronoun: **a guitarist whose album** = a guitarist + his album. It is used before a noun. Not **that**, because **that** cannot show possession.

19. The yellow leaves _____ fell when he shook the tree.
✔ **C) all**
All can follow a plural subject to mean 'every one of them': **The yellow leaves all fell**. Not **that**, because **The yellow leaves that fell when he shook the tree** has no main verb and is not a complete sentence.

20. All of us are living in the middle of a dark wood; it is a forest _____ the wind is never still.
✔ **D) where**
Where introduces a relative clause about a place: **a forest where (= in which) the wind is never still**. The clause is already complete, with the subject **the wind**, so we need an adverb of place. Not **whose**, which must be followed by a noun that belongs to the forest.

21. These things were the ground _____ the people of the past came together.
✔ **E) on which**
The idea is **come together on the ground**, so the preposition moves to the front in formal English: **the ground on which the people of the past came together**. Not **that**, because the preposition **on** would then be missing.

22. Do you know the name of the boy _____ is talking with John?
✔ **B) who**
For a person in subject position we use **who**: **the boy who is talking with John**. Not **whom**, which is the object form and cannot be the subject of **is talking**.

23. The professional users of words process _____ product as if _____ were baby food and _____ babies: all we have to do is open _____ mouths and swallow.
✔ **A) their / it / we / our**
The first gap refers to the professional users: **their product**. The product is singular and uncountable, so it becomes **it**: **as if it were baby food**. Then the writer includes himself and the reader, **and we (were) babies**, so the last gap is **our mouths**. Not **they** in the second gap, because **product** is singular.

24. Tom sold his bike, the tires of _____ are quite extraordinary.
✔ **B) which**
In a non-defining relative clause about a thing, we use **which** after a preposition: **the tires of which** (= its tires). Not **whose**: the correct form would be **whose tires**, never **the tires of whose**. Not **that**, which cannot follow a preposition.

25. When men are brought face to face with _____ opponents, forced to listen and learn and mend _____ ideas, _____ cease to be children and savages and begin to live like civilized men.
✔ **D) their / their / they**
All three gaps refer to **men** (plural). Before the nouns **opponents** and **ideas** we need the determiner **their**, and the subject of **cease** is **they**. Not **their / them / they**, because **them** cannot come before a noun.

26. Can you tell me _____ he left the meeting so early?
✔ **E) why**
So early is the clue: the speaker wants the reason, so the indirect question uses **why**. Not **when**, because asking about the time does not fit with **so early**.

27. Ahmet and I went to the cinema and _____ enjoyed the film.
✔ **C) we**
Ahmet and I together are **we**, and the gap is the subject of **enjoyed**. Not **us**, which is the object form, and not **they**, because the speaker is one of the two people.

28. I don't like operas. This is the reason _____ I turned down their invitation.
✔ **D) why**
After **the reason** we use **why** (or **that**, or no word): **the reason why I turned down their invitation**. Not **which**, because that would need a preposition: **the reason for which**.

29. _____ candidate had to pay 10,000 dollars to apply for the office; that's why there are only 4 candidates.
✔ **E) Each**
Each is used with a singular countable noun and means every one taken separately: **each candidate had to pay**. Not **All** or **Some**, which would need a plural noun here (**all candidates**), and **None** needs **of** (**none of the candidates**).

30. You should have known that he never carries cash on _____.
✔ **C) him**
The fixed phrase is **carry something on you / on him**, using the object pronoun after the preposition: **He never carries cash on him.** Not **himself**: although the person is the same as the subject, English uses the ordinary object pronoun after prepositions of place like this.

31. If all the new plants that are planned were allowed to go ahead and construction started tomorrow morning, _____ could only bring the total up to about 9 per cent by 1999.
✔ **C) they**
The gap is the subject of **could bring**, and it refers back to **all the new plants** (plural). So we need the subject pronoun **they**. Not **their**, which must be followed by a noun, or **us**, which is an object form.

32. - "Look, there is _____ in the garden, I heard _____ among the bushes."

- "Don't worry, it must be my dog."
✔ **E) someone / something**
In positive statements we use **some-** words. The speaker thinks a person is in the garden (**someone**) but only heard an unknown noise (**something**). That is why the answer **it must be my dog** makes sense. Not **anything**, which is used in questions and negatives, not in a positive **there is** sentence.

33. Is there _____ who wants to read the passage?
✔ **E) anyone**
In open questions we normally use **any-** words. A person is meant (**who wants**), so we need **anyone**: **Is there anyone who wants to read the passage?** Not **anything**, which refers to things, not people.

34. Do you remember the man _____ we asked several questions about cars last month?
✔ **D) whom**
The man is the object of **asked** (we asked him questions), so the formal object relative pronoun is **whom**. **Who** or **that** are also common in speech. Not **whose**, which must be followed by a noun.

35. Coal is the most promising alternative source but, as with nuclear and solar, we can't increase our use of _____ fast enough.
✔ **E) it**
Coal is an uncountable singular noun, and it is the object of the preposition **of**, so we use **it**: **our use of it**. Not **them**, which would wrongly refer to **nuclear and solar**, or **its**, which needs a noun after it.

36. In my practice as a psychiatrist, _____ have found that helping people to develop personal goals has proved to be the most effective way to help _____ to cope with problems.
✔ **C) I / them**
The writer speaks about **my practice**, so the subject is **I**. The second gap is the object of **help** and refers to **people**, so it is **them**. Not **I / myself**, because the psychiatrist helps the patients, not himself.

37. My sister and her husband bought a new car. I drove _____ car yesterday, but _____ car is much better than _____.
✔ **B) their / my / theirs**
The car belongs to the sister and her husband, so it is **their car**. The speaker then compares it with their own car, **my car**. The last gap has no noun after it, so we need the possessive pronoun **theirs** (= their car). Not **them**, which is an object pronoun and cannot replace **their car**.

38. When some comedian or wit, Sydney Smith, for example, told Queen Victoria jokes, _____ weren't supplied to _____ by six well-paid gag writers, but just occurred to _____.
✔ **A) they / him / him**
The **jokes** (plural) are the subject of **weren't supplied**, so the first gap is **they**. The jokes came to the comedian (a man, e.g. Sydney Smith), so both later gaps are the object pronoun **him**. Not **she / her**: the Queen heard the jokes, but she did not write or think of them.

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