ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Reading Comprehension MCQ Test With Answers + PDF Exercise 04

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Explanations

1. **While his sister was practising, Mozart _____.**
✓ E) learned how to play the piano
The passage says Wolfgang **used to listen to his sister as she practised** and **quickly learned the pieces she played**. So while she practised, he was learning to play. Not **used to play by himself**: he played alone only once, that evening in the dark.

2. **Mozart's father didn't believe that _____.**
✓ B) a child of three could possibly play the piano
Wolfgang was **only three years old**, and his father **thought that his hands were too small**. So the father didn't believe such a young child could play the piano.

3. **As a child, Mozart _____.**
✓ D) had a great talent for music
At three he learned the pieces just by listening and played them **much better than** his sister. This shows **a great talent for music**. Not **was taught by his sister**: he learned by listening, not from her lessons.

4. The voyage began well in calm, clear weather. As usual, the ship was crowded; most of the passengers were tourists who, after their holiday in Turkey, were now returning home. There was a great deal of fun and entertainment on board the ship. People were eating, dancing, singing and enjoying themselves. But after the sunset, the weather began to change, and the sea got rougher and rougher. Soon nearly everyone was feeling ill.

Most of the passengers on board the ship _____.
✓ E) enjoyed themselves by singing and dancing at first
At the beginning, people were **eating, dancing, singing and enjoying themselves**. Only **after the sunset** did the sea get rough and make them ill. Not **were ill from the very start**: the voyage **began well**.

5. **The passage is about _____.**
✓ B) a voyage spoiled by bad weather
The voyage **began well**, with fun on board. Then the weather changed, the sea got **rougher and rougher**, and nearly everyone felt ill. So the passage is about a voyage **spoiled by bad weather**. Not **the dangers of a sea voyage**: it describes one trip, not dangers in general.

6. **At the start of the voyage, _____.**
✓ A) everyone was feeling happy
The voyage began in **calm, clear weather**, and there was **a great deal of fun and entertainment**. So everyone was happy. Not **looking forward to the holiday in Turkey**: the tourists were returning home after it.

7. Elephants are not really very savage animals, but occasionally they can be in a very bad temper. Their most dangerous habit at such moments is to pick up, with their trunk, a large stick or stone, and throw it with great force at someone standing nearby. When this happens the only thing anyone can do is to jump quickly out of the way.

When an elephant is in a bad temper, _____.
✓ A) it may try to hurt someone
In a bad temper, an elephant may throw a stick or stone **with great force at someone standing nearby**. So it may try to hurt someone. Not **keep perfectly still**: the passage says to **jump quickly out of the way**.

8. **The worst thing an elephant does is to _____.**
✓ E) throw things at anyone close to it
The elephant's **most dangerous habit** is to pick up a stick or stone and **throw it with great force at someone standing nearby**. Not **hit people with its trunk**: it uses the trunk only to pick things up.

9. **It is not very often that _____.**
✓ B) an elephant behaves in a savage manner
Elephants are **not really very savage**, and only **occasionally** are they in a bad temper. So it is not often that an elephant behaves savagely. **Savage** means wild and violent.

10. It was a misty morning, and there was a soft rain falling. There were only a few leaves left on the trees, but on the ground was a thick carpet of brown and yellow leaves. This was the time of year the old gardener loved best. Since he was too old to work, he used to spend his days by the window, looking out on the garden. It was no longer what it had been under his care, but still, it was lovely.

It is obvious that _____.
✓ C) the old gardener was as fond of his garden as ever
This was the time of year he **loved best**, and he spent his days **looking out on the garden**, which was **still lovely**. So he still loved his garden. Not **no longer interested in gardening**: he stopped working because he was too old, not because he lost interest.

11. **The passage gives a description of _____.**
✓ D) a wet morning in autumn
The passage describes **a misty morning** with **a soft rain**, and fallen **brown and yellow leaves**. These are signs of autumn. Not **winter**: some leaves are still on the trees.

12. **The garden had looked much nicer ____.**
✓ E) when the old man had been looking after it
The garden was **no longer what it had been under his care**. So it looked nicer when the old man was looking after it. **Under his care** means while he looked after it.

13. This was the first time Mary was going to fly. It wasn't going to be a long flight; in fact, she would be in the air for just under an hour. She arrived at the airport an hour before the plane was expected to take off. She was very excited, yet a little nervous. However, it was announced before long that her flight was going to be delayed for two hours. Suddenly, she felt very disappointed and didn't know what to do while she waited.

Mary's flight ____.
✓ B) was delayed for two hours
The passage says it **was announced** that **her flight was going to be delayed for two hours**. Not **was over far too quickly**: we don't know about the flight itself, only the wait.

14. **On arrival at the airport, Mary ____.**
✓ B) expected the plane to take off in an hour
She **arrived at the airport an hour before the plane was expected to take off**. So she expected it to leave in an hour. Not **was calm and confident**: she was **excited, yet a little nervous**.

15. **It was obvious from the passage that Mary ____.**
✓ E) began her first flight with a disappointment
It was her **first time** flying, and when the delay was announced she **felt very disappointed**. So her first flight started with a disappointment. Not **was pleased the flight had been postponed**: she was disappointed, not pleased.

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