ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Self Study Guide – Test Your English Grammar Part 10

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Explanations

1. The laws used to be so strict that people _____ for trifling crimes they committed.
✓ **A) were hanged**
People did not do the hanging; someone else hanged them. So we need the ***past simple passive:** were hanged**. The clue** used to be **shows the past. Not** hanged*, because that active form would mean the people hanged someone else.

2. Every night the children _____ a fairy-tale by their aunt, who unwillingly chooses the same bed-time stories her parents would read to her.
✓ **D) are read**
Every night shows a habit, so we use the ***present simple. The children receive the action (**by their aunt**), so it must be passive:** are read**. Not** are being read*, because the present continuous is for an action happening right now, not a regular habit.

3. The Lord of the Rings _____ at our local cinema now.
✓ **C) is being shown**
Now shows an action in progress, and the film is shown by the cinema, so we need the ***present continuous passive:** is being shown**. Not** was being shown**, because that is past and does not match** now*.

4. I _____ a present for my last birthday.
✓ **B) was not given**
My last birthday is in the past, and someone else gives the present to me, so we need the ***past simple passive:** was not given**. The passive needs** was **+ past participle (**given**), not** give*.

5. We can't use the sports hall yet because it _____.
✓ **C) is still being built**
The building work is happening now and is not finished (**yet**, **still**), and the hall is built by workers. So we need the ***present continuous passive:** is still being built**. Not** is still building*, because that active form would mean the hall itself is building something.

6. This picture _____ by a friend of my mother's many years ago.
✓ **B) was painted**
Many years ago shows the past, and the picture was painted **by a friend**, so we use the ***past simple passive:** was painted**. Not** is painted*, because that is present.

7. – Wasn't Gabe going to bring hot dogs to the picnic? – He _____, but I don't think he did.
✓ **A) was supposed to**
Be supposed to + infinitive means someone was expected or planned to do something. In short answers we can stop after **to** and leave out the verb: **He was supposed to (bring them)**. After **to** we never use an **-ing** form, so the **bringing** options are wrong.

8. The house _____ in 1486.
✓ **B) is believed to have been built**
The structure is ***subject + is believed + infinitive. People believe it now, but the building happened earlier (**in 1486**), so we need the perfect passive infinitive:** to have been built**. Not** is believed to be built**, because** to be built* does not show an earlier time.

9. The rate of inflation _____ to rise.
✓ **C) is expected**
Inflation cannot expect anything; people expect it to rise. So we use the passive pattern ***subject + is expected + to-infinitive:** The rate of inflation is expected to rise*.

10. This picture _____ Rembrandt.
✓ **D) was believed to belong to**
The sentence has no **by** before **Rembrandt**, so options with **painted** cannot fit. **Belong to** means 'be owned by': **was believed to belong to Rembrandt** means people thought Rembrandt owned it. Not **is believed to be painted**, because the sentence would need **by Rembrandt**.

11. I am expected _____ for work at 5:00 PM.
✓ **B) to leave**
After **be expected** we use the ***to-infinitive:** I am expected to leave**. Not** to leaving**, because here** to* is part of the infinitive, not a preposition.

12. The earth _____ the centre of the universe.
✓ **A) was thought to be**
People in the past thought this about the earth, so we use the passive pattern ***subject + was thought + to-infinitive:** was thought to be**. Not** thought to be**, because the passive needs the verb** be **(**was*).

13. Shakespeare's famous drama Macbeth _____ on fact.
✓ **B) is known to be based**
We say a story **is based on** something, which is a passive form. With the reporting pattern this becomes ***is known + to be based:** Macbeth is known to be based on fact**. Not** knows to be based**, because a play cannot know anything; the verb must be passive (**is known*).

14. Mary _____ for shoplifting.
✓ **C) is said to have been arrested**
People say it now, but the arrest happened before, and Mary was arrested by the police. So we need ***is said + perfect passive infinitive:*** is said to have been arrested**. Not** is said to arrest*, because that active form would mean Mary arrests other people.

15. In the past fresh air _____ to be bad for sick people.
✓ **A) was considered**
In the past shows past time, and people considered fresh air bad, so we use ***was considered + to-infinitive:** was considered to be bad**. Not** is considered*, because that is present.

16. The naughty child _____ by the parents.
✓ **C) was expected to be punished**
The child does not punish; the parents punish the child (**by the parents**). So both verbs are passive: **was expected to be punished**. Not **was expected to punish**, because that would mean the child would punish someone.

17. In order to _____ for admission to some top universities, a candidate needs to get a high score on a well-known standardized test.
✓ **B) be considered**
The universities consider the candidate, so we need a ***passive infinitive after** in order to**:** to be considered**. Not** consider*, because the candidate does not do the considering.

18. He hates _____ a fool of.
✓ **D) being made**
The idiom is **make a fool of someone** (make someone look silly). After **hate** we use the **-ing** form, and here it is passive: **being made a fool of**. Not **being played**, because the idiom uses **make**, not **play**.

19. Nobody enjoys _____ to follow absurd measures and rules.
✓ **A) being forced**
After **enjoy** we use the **-ing** form. People are forced by others, so it must be passive: **being forced**. Not **to be forced**, because **enjoy** is never followed by a to-infinitive.

20. The gift cost her 5 pounds, _____ the package.
✓ **C) including**
Including works like a preposition meaning 'with ... as part of the total': **5 pounds, including the package**. Not **included**, because that only works after the noun (**the package included**).

21. People usually dislike _____ at home by strangers.
✓ **D) being telephoned**
After **dislike** we normally use the **-ing** form. Strangers telephone people, so it must be passive: **being telephoned**. Not **telephoning**, because that active form would mean the people call someone else.

22. Being _____ to foreign TV stations helps you to learn foreign languages.
✓ **C) connected**
We say **be connected to** something: here it means having access to foreign TV stations. **Being connected** is the subject of the sentence. Not **in touch**, because we say **in touch with** people, not **to** TV stations.

23. I can't believe my eyes. I've had my car _____!
✓ **A) stolen**
***Have something + past participle can describe something bad that someone else did to you:** I've had my car stolen **means someone stole my car. So we use the past participle** stolen*.

24. One of the great fiction writers in English, Charles Dickens wrote about many problems of society, _____ child labour, debt imprisonment and others.
✓ **D) including**
Including works like a preposition. It introduces examples from a larger group: **many problems of society, including child labour and debt imprisonment**. Not **included**, because that form would have to come after the nouns (**child labour included**).

25. – Why is Jane crying? – She has had her tickets to Germany _____.
✓ **D) stolen**
***Have something + past participle describes something bad that someone did to you:** She has had her tickets stolen **means someone stole her tickets. So we need the past participle** stolen**, not the past simple** stole*.

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