ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Self Study Guide – Test Your English Grammar Part 15

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Explanations

1. Many teenagers feel that they _____ look perfect all the time, and this puts them under a lot of pressure.
✔ **D) must**
Must shows a strong obligation that the speaker or subject feels: **they must look perfect**. The pressure in the sentence is the clue. **Have got** needs **to** (**have got to**), and **obliged** needs **are obliged to**.

2. The coach has very strict rules about exercise: all students _____ exercise at least three times a week.
✔ **A) have to**
Strict rules create an obligation, so we use **have to**: **all students have to exercise**. Not **don't have to**, because that means it is not necessary. **Ought** needs **to**.

3. She _____ write the whole exercise. Ten sentences are enough.
✔ **C) needn't**
Needn't means it is not necessary. The clue is **Ten sentences are enough**. Not **mustn't**, because that means it is forbidden.

4. The sign 'Overtaking forbidden' means that you _____ overtake.
✔ **B) aren't allowed to**
Forbidden means not permitted, so **you aren't allowed to overtake**. **Don't have** is incomplete: it needs **to**, and it would mean 'not necessary'.

5. Cold sufferers should stay at home, not only for their own health but because they _____ endanger the health of their co-workers.
✔ **C) might**
Might expresses possibility: sick people **might endanger** the health of others. Not **must**, because that would be a certainty or an obligation, which makes no sense here.

6. Although some desert plants can survive without water, most plants and all animals _____ have food in order to live.
✔ **B) must**
Must expresses necessity: animals **must have food** to live. **Ought** and **have got** need **to**, and **should** is only advice, too weak for a fact of nature.

7. It is generally agreed that when you travel in countries other than your own, you _____ conform to the local customs as much as possible.
✔ **D) should**
Should gives advice about what is right or polite: **you should conform to local customs**. **Ought** would need **to** (**ought to conform**).

8. I hear you've been to Patagonia. That trip _____ been interesting.
✔ **C) must have**
Must have + past participle is a confident guess about the past: **That trip must have been interesting. Must been** and **had been** are not correct here.

9. I think they _____ consult a doctor as soon as possible. Otherwise it may be too late.
✔ **D) must**
Must shows strong necessity. The speaker thinks it is urgent: **they must consult a doctor**. **Ought** needs **to**, and **might** or **can** do not express necessity.

10. If she doesn't buy a ticket, she _____ go to the theatre tomorrow.
✔ **C) can't**
Can't + infinitive can refer to the future: without a ticket **she can't go**. The other options are missing **to** (**won't be able to go**), so they are grammatically wrong here.

11. It was a nice evening, but I'm afraid I _____ Aunt Mary today more than usual.
✔ **C) might have annoyed**
To guess about something in the past, use modal + **have** + past participle: **I might have annoyed Aunt Mary**. The clue is **It was a nice evening** (past). Not **could annoy**, because it refers to the present or the future, not to what already happened.

12. It's rained a lot, so we _____ water the garden.
✔ **C) needn't**
Needn't means it is not necessary. It has rained, so **we needn't water the garden**. **Don't need** and **don't have** would need **to** (**don't need to water**).

13. You _____ pay now – tomorrow's OK.
✔ **A) needn't**
Needn't means it is not necessary now: **tomorrow's OK**. **Don't need** and **don't have** are missing **to**, and **must** is the opposite meaning.

14. People _____ to drive more carefully.
✔ **B) ought**
The word **to** after the gap is the clue. Only **ought** is followed by **to**: **People ought to drive more carefully. Should** and **must** take the infinitive without **to**.

15. _____ to work extra?
✔ **B) Do I have**
Questions with **have to** use **do**: **Do I have to work extra? Need I** and **Must I** are not followed by **to**, and **Have I to** is very old-fashioned.

16. I _____ to speak English fluently by the end of the year.
✓ **C) will be able**
Can has no future form, so we use **will be able to** for future ability: **I will be able to speak English fluently. Will be allowed** is about permission, not ability.

17. Residents _____ hang washing out of the windows. It's prohibited.
✓ **D) must not**
Must not means it is forbidden. The clue is **It's prohibited**. Not **don't have to**, because that only means it is not necessary.

18. If you like this scarf, you _____ find it at any shop.
✓ **D) can**
Can expresses possibility: the scarf is easy to get, so **you can find it at any shop**. **Must**, **should** and **ought to** express obligation or advice, which does not fit.

19. I _____ work tomorrow. It is a good opportunity to go to the country.
✓ **B) won't have to**
Won't have to means it will not be necessary in the future. The free day is a chance to go to the country. **Will have** and **am not allowed** are missing **to**.

20. The sign 'Do not bring pet animals' means that you _____ bring pet animals.
✓ **B) aren't allowed to**
Do not bring is a prohibition, so **you aren't allowed to bring pet animals**. Not **don't have to**, because that means 'it is not necessary'.

21. The sign 'Non-Members Welcome' means that you _____ be a member to get in.
✓ **D) don't have to**
Non-Members Welcome means anyone can come in, so **you don't have to be a member**. That means it is not necessary. Not **aren't allowed to**, because members are not forbidden.

22. Students _____ register at the tutorial office in the first week of term. It's compulsory.
✓ **D) must**
Must + infinitive without **to** expresses obligation. The clue is **It's compulsory**. **Must to** is always wrong, and **ought** needs **to**.

23. They knelt in front of the child who _____ one day rule all England.
✓ **B) would**
Would is the future in the past: the child **would one day rule** England. **Were to** does not agree with the singular **child** (it would have to be **was to**).

24. People really _____ hard in those days.
✓ **A) had to work**
In those days refers to the past, and the past of **must** (obligation) is **had to**: **People had to work hard. Must work** is present.

25. There's the phone. I'll get it. That _____ be Tony.
✓ **B) must**
Must expresses a confident deduction: the speaker is almost sure the caller is Tony, so **That must be Tony.** Not **can**, because **can** is not used for a guess about one specific situation.

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