ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

# Self Study Guide – Test Your English Grammar Part 16

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| 1 | **B** | 2 | **C** | 3 | **C** | 4 | **A** | 5 | **D** | 6 | **B** | 7 | **B** | 8 | **D** | 9 | **D** | 10 | **A** |
| 11 | **D** | 12 | **D** | 13 | **B** | 14 | **B** | 15 | **D** | 16 | **B** | 17 | **A** | 18 | **B** | 19 | **A** | 20 | **B** |
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## Explanations

**1.** What _____ is that it's not right to gossip.
✓ **B) I think about this news**
A clause starting with **what** can be the subject of a sentence. Inside it we use normal statement word order (subject + verb): **What I think about this news** is that... Not **do I think**, because that is question word order.

**2.** _____ is not my concern.
✓ **C) Where on earth Charlie is now**
Here the wh-clause is the subject of **is not my concern**, so it needs statement word order: **Where on earth Charlie is now**. **On earth** goes straight after the question word. Not **Where on earth is Charlie now**, because that is a direct question, not part of a sentence.

**3.** _____ doesn't matter at this point.
✓ **C) When the money was stolen**
The clause is the subject of **doesn't matter**, so it uses statement word order: **When the money was stolen**. Not **When was the money stolen**, because inversion is only used in direct questions.

**4.** I'm often asked _____.
✓ **A) what students can do to become part of a team**
After **I'm asked** we use an indirect question with statement word order: **what students can do**. Not **what can students do**, because indirect questions don't invert the subject and verb.

**5.** _____ is none of my business.
✓ **D) What the boss told her**
The wh-clause is the subject of **is none of my business**, so it has statement word order and no auxiliary **did**: **What the boss told her**. Not **What did the boss tell her**, which is a direct question.

**6.** When _____ does not interest me.
✓ **B) Charlie is going to be arrested**
**When ... does not interest me** needs a clause with statement word order: **When Charlie is going to be arrested** (passive). Not **is Charlie going to be arrested**, because that is question word order.

**7.** Why _____
✓ **B) people laugh at one joke but not another depends on many factors.**
The clause **Why people laugh at one joke but not another** is the subject of **depends**, so it has statement word order and no **do**. The sentence is a statement, so it ends with a full stop. Not the option with a question mark, because the whole sentence is not a question.

**8.** Everybody all over the world loves what _____
✓ **D) a good joke does.**
After **loves what** we use statement word order: **what a good joke does**. The sentence is a statement, so it ends with a full stop, not a question mark.

**9.** And yet I wish _____.
✓ **D) I could show you our cat Dinah**
After **I wish** we use normal word order: subject + **could** + verb + objects: **I could show you our cat Dinah**. The other options put the words in the wrong order.

**10.** Then it doesn't matter _____
✓ **A) which way you go.**
After **it doesn't matter** we use an indirect question with statement word order: **which way you go**. It is a statement, so it ends with a full stop. Not **which way do you go?**, which is a direct question.

**11.** I asked _____
✓ **D) what hotel the president and his wife were staying at.**
In reported questions we use statement word order and a full stop: **what hotel the president and his wife were staying at**. Not **where were the president and his wife staying**, because the verb must come after the subject.

**12.** He wanted to know _____
✓ **D) what time I could start at.**
After **He wanted to know** we use a reported question with statement word order and a full stop: **what time I could start at**. Not **when could I start**, because the subject must come before **could**.

**13.** She asked me if _____
✓ **B) I would like the drink.**
Reported yes/no questions use **if** + statement word order, and the tense usually moves back after **asked**: **She asked me if I would like the drink.** No question mark is used. Not **I like the drink?**, because of the question mark and the tense.

**14.** I asked _____ something.
✓ **B) whether he had told me**
A reported yes/no question uses **whether** or **if** + statement word order: **I asked whether he had told me something.** Not **if had he told me**, because the subject must come before the verb.

**15.** I don't know _____
✓ **D) why he told this story to everybody.**
After **I don't know** we use an indirect question with statement word order and a full stop: **why he told this story to everybody**. Not **why did he tell…?**, which is a direct question.

**16.** I asked what _____
✓ **B) Peter's address was.**
In a reported question the subject comes before the verb and there is no question mark: **I asked what Peter's address was.** Not **Peter's address was?**, because a reported question is a statement.

**17.** I asked: "_____"
✓ **A) Do you have this costume in size 8?**
The quotation marks show direct speech, so we need the exact words of a real question: **Do you have this costume in size 8?** Not the options with **if** or **whether**, because they are only used in reported questions. Not **Did you had**, because after **did** we use the base form **have**.

**18.** I wondered _____
✓ **B) where the bus station was.**
After **I wondered** we use an indirect question with statement word order and a full stop: **where the bus station was**. Not **where was the bus station**, because the verb must come after the subject.

**19.** You wanted to know if _____
✓ **A) I had met George Lamb.**
A reported yes/no question uses **if** + statement word order and a full stop: **You wanted to know if I had met George Lamb.** Not **had I met**, because inversion is only used in direct questions.

**20.** The driver asked _____
✓ **B) whether I wanted to go to the town centre.**
A reported yes/no question uses **whether** (or **if**) + statement word order, and the tense moves back after **asked**: **The driver asked whether I wanted to go to the town centre.** Not the option with a question mark, because a reported question is a statement.

**21.** How _____
✓ **C) you get there is your problem.**
The clause **How you get there** is the subject of **is your problem**, so it has statement word order and no **do**. The sentence is a statement and ends with a full stop. Not **do you get there**, which is question word order.

**22.** The government has announced _____.
✓ **C) that taxes will be raised**
After **announce** we use a **that**-clause with statement word order: **that taxes will be raised**. Not **will the taxes be raised**, because that is question word order.

**23.** He's got a job in a new firm, _____.
✓ **D) where they don't work such long hours**
**Where** starts a relative clause about the firm, and relative clauses use statement word order: **where they don't work such long hours**. Not **where don't they work**, because that is question word order.

**24.** Nobody told me why _____
✓ **D) I had to sign the paper.**
After **Nobody told me why** we use an indirect question with statement word order and a full stop: **why I had to sign the paper**. Not the option with a question mark, because the sentence is a statement.

**25.** I'm surprised at _____
✓ **C) how fast she can run.**
After **I'm surprised at** we use a wh-clause with statement word order: **how fast she can run**, ending with a full stop. Not **how fast can she run**, which is question word order.

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