ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Self Study Guide – Test Your English Grammar Part 18

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Explanations

1. What _____
✓ **C) effect does the speed of telling the joke have on its success or failure?**
In a direct question, the auxiliary **does** comes before the subject: **What effect does the speed … have …?** The noun **effect** goes straight after **What**, and the sentence needs a question mark. Not **does the speed … effect have**, because **effect** cannot be separated from **What**.

2. Why _____
✓ **C) did you laugh at the last joke that you heard?**
A past simple question needs **did** + subject + base verb: **Why did you laugh …?** A direct question also ends with a question mark. **You laughed** keeps statement word order, so it is wrong.

3. _____ they live in?
✓ **C) Whose house do**
Whose asks about the owner (**Whose house do they live in?**). **Who's** means **who is** or **who has**, so it is wrong here. The question also needs the auxiliary **do** before the subject.

4. _____ you wanted for your birthday?
✓ **C) What did you say**
What did you say you wanted …? asks about a thing with no fixed set of choices. The question part needs **did** + subject + base verb. **What you said** has no auxiliary, so it is wrong.

5. What _____
✓ **C) are the factors that make a joke funny to someone?**
In a direct question with **be**, the verb comes before the subject: **What are the factors …?** The sentence must end with a question mark. **The factors are** is the word order of an indirect question, as in **I wonder what the factors are**.

6. Why _____ go out for a meal tonight?
✓ **C) don't we**
Why don't we …? is a common way to make a suggestion: **Why don't we go out for a meal tonight?** The auxiliary **don't** comes before **we**. Not **we don't**, because a question needs the auxiliary first.

7. _____ today?
✓ **C) Is William feeling any better**
In questions, we use **any** before a comparative: **Is William feeling any better?** It means 'even a little better'. **Some better** is not standard English.

8. _____ him, Andrey or Andrew?
✓ **A) What did you call**
To ask about a name, we say **What did you call him?**, with **did** + subject + base verb. Not **How you called**: English uses **what**, not **how**, to ask about a name, and the question also needs **did**.

9. _____ do you wish that you had married, then?
✓ **D) Who**
Who asks about a person: **Who do you wish that you had married?** Here **who** is the object of **married**. **Whose** asks about the owner of something, and **Why** asks for a reason.

10. "Don't touch that!"

"Why _____?"
✓ **A) shouldn't I**
Someone says **Don't touch that!** and the other person asks for the reason: **Why shouldn't I (touch it)?** The short question repeats the negative idea. **Why should I?** would answer a request to **do** something, not an order not to.

11. Ann's very unhappy. But _____ care?!
✓ **C) why should I**
Why should I care? is a common way to say 'I don't care' or 'it's not my problem'. **Should** comes before the subject **I**. **Why have I to** is not correct English.

12. Which _____ more – the blue one or the grey one?
✓ **C) costs**
Which is the subject of this question, so we use no auxiliary: **Which costs more?** We use the present simple because we are talking about the price now. Not **does cost**: **do/does** is only used in subject questions for emphasis.

13. How many people _____ in your office?
✓ **C) work**
How many people is the subject of the question, so there is no **do/did**: **How many people work in your office?** The present simple describes a general fact now. Not **do work**, because subject questions do not normally use an auxiliary.

14. What _____ most help, your textbook or your dictionary?
✓ **D) gives you**
What is the subject here, so there is no auxiliary **do/does**: **What gives you most help?** The verb takes **-s** because **what** is singular. **Does you give** is wrong: the auxiliary is not needed, and **you** is not the subject.

15. _____ do you think we should wait?
✓ **C) How long**
How long asks about time: **How long do you think we should wait?** (for example, **ten minutes**). **How much** and **How many** ask about amounts and numbers, not time.

16. _____ time to go to London this weekend?
✓ **B) Have you got**
With **have got**, the question is made by putting **have** before the subject: **Have you got time …?** We can also say **Do you have time?**, but never **Do you have got**. **Do you have to** means 'is it necessary', and it does not fit before **time**.

17. "It was a terrible party."

"_____"
✓ **D) Was it?**
A short reply question shows interest or surprise. It repeats the auxiliary of the statement: **It was … → Was it?** Not **Did it?**, because the statement uses **was**, not a main verb with **did**.

18. – I've never seen Ann. What _____?

– She is very pretty.
✓ **D) is she like**
What is she like? asks for a description of a person's character or appearance. That is why the answer is **She is very pretty**. **What does she do?** asks about her job.

19. – What _____?

– He is a writer.
✓ **B) does Ben do**
What does Ben do? asks about someone's job, so the answer is **He is a writer**. Not **What is Ben doing?**, which asks about an action happening now.

20. – _____?

– Much better now.
✓ **C) How is Helen getting on**
How is Helen getting on? asks about someone's progress or situation, so it matches the answer **Much better now**. **What does Helen do?** asks about a job, and **Who is Helen?** asks about her identity.

21. _____ are you looking after?
✓ **D) Who**
Look after means 'take care of', and we usually look after a person. So we ask **Who are you looking after?** The preposition **after** stays at the end of the question.

22. – What _____? Is he a writer?
✓ **B) does Ben do**
What does Ben do? asks about someone's job, and the clue is the next question, **Is he a writer?** We use the present simple for permanent facts like jobs. **Is Ben doing** asks about an action now.

23. _____ are those men laughing at?
✓ **D) What**
Laugh at needs an object, so we ask **What are those men laughing at?** The preposition **at** stays at the end. Not **Why**, because **why** does not need **at** after the verb.

24. – _____

– Much better now.
✓ **D) How are you getting on at school?**
How are you getting on at school? asks about someone's progress, so the answer **Much better now** fits. The other options use the wrong word order or punctuation, for example **How your school is?**, which has no verb before the subject.

25. – _____?

– Short, dark and cheerful-looking.
✓ **C) What does your sister look like**
What does your sister look like? asks about a person's appearance, so it matches **Short, dark and cheerful-looking**. **How's your sister?** asks about her health or situation.

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