ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Self Study Guide – Test Your English Grammar Part 20

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1	**D**	2	**B**	3	**A**	4	**A**	5	**D**	6	**B**	7	**B**	8	**B**	9	**C**	10	**C**
11	**D**	12	**D**	13	**D**	14	**C**	15	**A**	16	**A**	17	**A**	18	**C**	19	**C**	20	**A**
21	**A**	22	**B**	23	**A**	24	**A**	25	**B**										

Explanations

1. _____ seems foggy today.
✔ **D) It**
Use **it** as an empty subject to talk about weather: **It seems foggy today.** Not **It's**, because **It's seems** has two verbs.

2. _____ must have been a lot of fog then.
✔ **B) There**
Use **there** + be to say that something existed: **There must have been a lot of fog. Their** means 'belonging to them'.

3. _____ nothing much to do in this town.
✔ **A) There's**
There's nothing means 'nothing exists' here. Not **There's not**, because **not** + **nothing** makes a double negative.

4. Suddenly _____ a strange figure dressed all in black.
✔ **A) there entered**
In literary style, **there** can come before verbs of arriving or appearing: **Suddenly there entered a strange figure. There come in** has the wrong verb form.

5. Do you think _____ snow?
✔ **D) it is likely to**
Weather verbs like **snow** take **it** as subject: **It is likely to snow.** Not **there is likely to snow**, because **there** cannot be the subject of **snow**.

6. _____ drinks if you wait for a bit.
✔ **B) There will be**
Use **there will be** to say that something will exist in the future: **There will be drinks.** Not **There are**, because **if you wait** points to the future.

7. _____ terrible – everybody's got colds, and the central heating isn't working.
✔ **B) It's**
Use **it's** (= it is) + adjective to describe a situation: **It's terrible. Its** without an apostrophe means 'belonging to it'.

8. _____ trouble when she gets his letter.
✔ **B) There might be**
There might be + noun says that something may happen or exist: **There might be trouble. There be** is not a correct verb form.

9. _____ nothing more to be done.
✔ **C) There is**
Use **there is** + **nothing** to say that nothing exists: **There is nothing more to be done. It remains nothing** is not correct English.

10. _____ has been nothing in the newspaper about the accident.
✔ **C) There**
There has been (present perfect of **there is**) says that something has or hasn't existed up to now: **There has been nothing in the newspaper.**

11. _____ will be snow on high ground.
✔ **D) There**
There will be + noun talks about something existing in the future: **There will be snow.** Not **There's**, because **There's will be** has two verbs.

12. If the police didn't close the road, _____ a bad accident.
✔ **D) there could be**
Use **there could be** + noun to say that something might happen: **there could be a bad accident.** Not **it could happen**, because **it** cannot introduce the noun **a bad accident** this way.

13. In a small town in Germany _____ a poor shoemaker.
✔ **D) there once lived**
In stories, **there once lived** + noun introduces a character: **There once lived a poor shoemaker. It** cannot be used here.

14. _____ might be rain later.
✔ **C) There**
Rain is a noun here, so use **there might be** + noun: **There might be rain later.** Compare **It might rain later** (verb).

15. Are _____ tigers in South America?
✔ **A) there**
In questions with **there are**, put **are** first: **Are there tigers in South America? Their** means 'belonging to them'.

16. _____ no need to worry – everything will be all right.
✔ **A) There's**
The fixed phrase is **There's no need** to do something. **Theirs** means 'belonging to them'.

17. _____ some beer in the fridge.
✔ **A) There's**
Use **there's** (= there is) to say that something is in a place: **There's some beer in the fridge.** Not **It's**, because we are saying the beer exists there, not describing it.

18. Isn't _____ lovely here!
✔ **C) it**
Use **it** to describe a place or situation: **It's lovely here.** As an exclamation: **Isn't it lovely here!**

19. _____ was somebody looking at her in the room.
✓ **C) There**
There was somebody + -ing says that a person was in a place doing something: **There was somebody looking at her.**

20. _____ seems to be no time left.
✓ **A) There**
There seems to be + noun is like **there is**: **There seems to be no time left.** Not **It**, because the real subject is **no time**.

21. _____ is only one thing left to do now.
✓ **A) There**
Use **there is** + noun to say that something exists: **There is only one thing left to do.** Not **It**, because the sentence introduces **one thing**.

22. Put a coat on, _____ a cold wind blowing outside.
✓ **B) there's**
Use **there's** + noun + -ing to say that something is happening: **there's a cold wind blowing.** Not **it's**, because **it's** cannot introduce the noun **a cold wind**; compare **it's windy**.

23. _____ a hole in my sock. Give me another pair.
✓ **A) There's**
Use **there's** (= there is) to say that something exists now: **There's a hole in my sock. It's** or **It is** cannot introduce the noun **a hole** here.

24. _____ is hard to believe that Peter is already three years old.
✓ **A) It**
Use **it** as a 'preparatory' subject before an adjective + **that** clause: **It is hard to believe that…** Not **There**, because **there** doesn't go with adjective + **that** clause.

25. I believe _____ be solved.
✓ **B) it can**
It refers to a problem or situation: **I believe it can be solved. There** and **one** cannot be the subject of the passive **be solved** here.

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