ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Straightforward Quick Placement and Diagnostic Test

English Level Tests · 50 questions · Online test and questions PDF:
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Explanations

1. I _____ from France.
✔ **C) am**
With **I** we use **am**: **I am from France.**

2. This is my friend. _____ name is Peter.
✔ **D) His**
Peter is a man, so we use **his**: **His name is Peter.**

3. Mike is _____.
✔ **A) my sister's friend**
To show that something belongs to a person, we add **'s** to the person: **my sister's friend** (the friend of my sister).

4. My brother is _____ artist.
✔ **B) an**
We use **a/an** before a job. **Artist** starts with a vowel sound, so we say **an artist**. Not **a**, because **a** comes before a consonant sound.

5. _____ 20 desks in the classroom.
✔ **D) There are**
Use **there are** to say that many things exist in a place: **There are 20 desks. There is** is for one thing.

6. Paul _____ romantic films.
✔ **C) doesn't like**
With **he/she/it** in the present simple negative we use **doesn't** + verb: **Paul doesn't like romantic films.**

7. Sorry, I can't talk. I _____ right now.
✔ **B) 'm driving**
Right now shows an action happening at this moment, so we use the present continuous: **I'm driving**.

8. She _____ at school last week.
✔ **C) wasn't**
Last week is past. The past of **is not** with **she** is **wasn't**. Not **weren't**, because that is for **you/we/they**.

9. I _____ the film last night.
✔ **D) liked**
Last night is past, so we use the past simple: **liked**.

10. _____ a piece of cake? No, thank you.
✔ **B) Would you like**
We use **Would you like ...?** to offer something politely. Not **Do you like**, because that asks if you enjoy cake in general.

11. The living room is _____ than the bedroom.
✔ **D) bigger**
Short adjectives make the comparative with **-er** + **than**: **big → bigger**. We don't use **more** with **bigger**.

12. The car is very old. We're going _____ a new car soon.
✔ **A) to buy**
For plans we use **be going to** + verb: **We're going to buy a new car.**

13. Jane is a vegetarian. She _____ meat.
✔ **B) never eats**
A vegetarian doesn't eat meat at all, so she **never eats** meat.

14. There aren't _____ buses late in the evening.
✔ **B) any**
In negative sentences we use **any**: **There aren't any buses.** Not **no**, because **aren't** is already negative.

15. The car park is _____ to the restaurant.
✔ **A) next**
The preposition is **next to**. **Opposite** and **behind** are not followed by **to**, and **in front** needs **of**.

16. Sue _____ shopping every day.
✔ **D) goes**
Every day shows a habit, so we use the present simple. With **she** we add **-s/-es**: **Sue goes**.

17. They _____ in the park when it started to rain heavily.
✔ **B) were walking**
The past continuous (**were walking**) describes a longer action in progress when a shorter action (**it started to rain**) interrupted it.

18. _____ seen fireworks before?
✔ **C) Have you ever**
Seen is a past participle, so we need the present perfect: **Have you ever seen ...?** for life experience.

19. We've been friends _____ many years.
✔ **D) for**
With the present perfect we use **for** + a period of time (**for many years**) and **since** + a point in time (**since 2010**).

20. You _____ pay for the tickets. They're free.
✔ **C) don't need to**
They're free means it isn't necessary to pay, so we use **don't need to**. Not **doesn't have to**, because the subject is **you**.

21. Jeff was ill last week and he _____ go out.
✓ **D) couldn't**
Last week is past, and we talk about ability, so we use **couldn't** (the past of **can't**).

22. These are the photos _____ I took on holiday.
✓ **A) which**
We use **which** (or **that**) for things in relative clauses: **the photos which I took**. **Who** is for people.

23. We'll stay at home if it _____ this afternoon.
✓ **B) rains**
In the first conditional we use the present simple after **if**: **if it rains**. Not **will rain**, because we don't use **will** in the **if** clause.

24. He doesn't smoke now, but he _____ a lot when he was young.
✓ **C) used to smoke**
Used to + verb describes a past habit that is no longer true: **he used to smoke** (but he doesn't now).

25. Mark plays football _____ anyone else I know.
✓ **D) better than**
Good/well has the irregular comparative **better**, followed by **than**: **better than anyone else**.

26. I promise I _____ you as soon as I've finished this cleaning.
✓ **A) will help**
After **I promise** we use **will** for a promise about the future: **I will help you**. Not **going to help**, because it lacks **am**.

27. This town _____ by lots of tourists during the summer.
✓ **D) is visited**
The town doesn't visit; tourists visit it. So we need the present simple passive: **is visited** (by lots of tourists).

28. He said that his friends _____ to speak to him after they lost the football match.
✓ **C) didn't want**
In reported speech after **he said**, the present moves back to the past: **don't want** becomes **didn't want**.

29. How about _____ to the cinema tonight?
✓ **A) going**
How about is followed by the **-ing** form: **How about going to the cinema?**

30. Excuse me, can you _____ me the way to the station, please?
✓ **C) tell**
The fixed phrase is **tell someone the way**. Not **say**, because **say** is not followed directly by a person (**me**).

31. I wasn't interested in the performance very much. _____.
✓ **B) Neither was I.**
To agree with a negative sentence we use **Neither** + auxiliary + subject. The auxiliary matches the original (**wasn't**), so: **Neither was I.**

32. Take a warm coat, _____ you might get very cold outside.
✓ **A) otherwise**
Otherwise means 'if you don't': take a coat; if you don't, you might get very cold. Not **in case**, which is normally followed by the present simple (**in case it gets cold**), not **might**.

33. _____ this great book and I can't wait to see how it ends.
✓ **C) I've been reading**
The present perfect continuous (**I've been reading**) shows an activity that started in the past and is still unfinished. Not **I've read**, because that means the book is finished, but the speaker doesn't know the ending yet.

34. What I like more than anything else _____ at weekends.
✓ **C) is playing golf**
What I like more than anything else is the subject of the sentence, so it needs the verb **is**, followed by a gerund: **is playing golf**.

35. She _____ for her cat for two days when she finally found it in the garage.
✓ **C) had been looking**
The past perfect continuous (**had been looking**) shows an action continuing for a period (**for two days**) up to a moment in the past (**when she finally found it**).

36. We won't catch the plane _____ we leave home now! Please hurry up!
✓ **D) unless**
Unless means 'if ... not': we won't catch the plane if we don't leave now. Not **if**, which gives the opposite, illogical meaning.

37. If I hadn't replied to your email, I _____ here with you now.
✓ **B) wouldn't be**
This is a mixed conditional: an unreal past condition (**If I hadn't replied**) with a present result (**I wouldn't be here now**). **Now** shows the result is in the present.

38. Do you think you _____ with my mobile phone soon? I need to make a call.
✓ **C) will have finished**
The future perfect (**will have finished**) describes an action that will be completed before a future time (**soon**).

39. I don't remember mentioning _____ dinner together tonight.
✓ **D) going for**
Mention is followed by the **-ing** form: **I don't remember mentioning going for dinner.** Not **to go for**, because **mention** doesn't take an infinitive.

40. Was it Captain Cook _____ New Zealand?
✓ **A) who discovered**
This is a cleft sentence for emphasis: **It was ... who + past simple**. So: **Was it Captain Cook who discovered New Zealand?** Not **who was discovering**, because discovering is a single completed action.

41. You may not like the cold weather here, but you'll have to _____, I'm afraid.
✓ **C) put up with it**
Put up with something means to accept something unpleasant without complaining: **You'll have to put up with the cold. Put off** means to postpone.

42. It's cold so you should _____ on a warm jacket.
✓ **A) put**
The phrasal verb is **put on** (a jacket). Not **wear**, because **wear** is used without **on**: **wear a jacket**.

43. Paul will look _____ our dogs while we're on holiday.
✓ **D) after**
Look after means to take care of: **Paul will look after our dogs. Look for** means to try to find.

44. She _____ a lot of her free time reading.
✓ **B) spends**
We say **spend time** + **-ing**: **She spends her free time reading.**

45. Hello, this is Simon. Could I _____ to Jane, please?
✓ **D) speak**
On the phone we say **Could I speak to …, please?** Not **say** or **tell**, which are not used with **to** + person in this way.

46. They're coming to our house _____ Saturday.
✓ **C) on**
We use **on** with days: **on Saturday**.

47. I think it's very easy to _____ debt these days.
✓ **D) get into**
Get into debt means to start owing money: **Many students get into debt.** Not **become**, because **become** needs an adjective or noun (**become poor**), not **debt** alone.

48. Come on! Quick! Let's get _____!
✓ **B) cracking**
Let's get cracking! is an informal expression meaning 'let's start quickly'. The clue is **Come on! Quick!**

49. I phoned her _____ I heard the news.
✓ **D) the moment**
The moment means 'as soon as': **I phoned her the moment I heard the news.** Not **minute**, because it needs **the** (**the minute**).

50. I feel very _____. I'm going to go to bed!
✓ **C) sleepy**
Sleepy is an adjective meaning 'tired and wanting to sleep': **I feel very sleepy.** Not **asleep**, which means already sleeping.

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