ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

When – While – Where – As Soon As MCQ Test + PDF Exercise 1

English Grammar Tests · 20 questions · Online test and questions PDF:
https://englishtestsonline.com/when-while-where-as-soon-as-test-1/

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

Explanations

1. _____ you tell him about it when you _____ him?
✔ **C) will / see**
This question asks about the future, so the main clause uses **will**: **Will you tell him…?** After **when** we use the present simple for the future, not **will**: **when you see him**.

2. Tomorrow when you _____, the sun _____.
✔ **C) wake up / will be shining**
Tomorrow shows the future. After **when** we use the present simple (**wake up**), not **will**. The future continuous **will be shining** describes something already in progress at that future moment. Not **will wake up**, because **will** is not used after **when** in time clauses.

3. When my sister _____ at the college 2 years ago, she _____ to learn several foreign languages.
✔ **A) was studying / tried**
2 years ago is a finished past time, so we need past tenses, not the present perfect. The past continuous **was studying** gives the longer background situation, and the past simple **tried** tells us what she did during that time.

4. When I _____ that morning the sun _____ high in the sky.
✔ **D) woke up / was shining**
That morning is in the past. The short action **woke up** is in the past simple. The longer action that was already in progress, **was shining**, is in the past continuous.

5. When I _____ the letter, I wondered what _____.
✔ **A) got / had happened**
Got (past simple) is the past action. Whatever happened came before I got the letter and wondered about it, so we use the past perfect: **had happened**. Not **has happened**, because the story is in the past.

6. I _____ to know when you _____.
✔ **A) don't want / will come**
Here **when you will come** is not a time clause. It is a question inside the sentence (**I don't want to know** + **When will you come?**), so **will** is correct after **when**. Not **doesn't want**, because the subject is **I**: **I don't want**.

7. When I _____ home, my mother _____ me that my friend _____ me an hour before.
✔ **C) came / told / had called**
Came and **told** are past actions in sequence (past simple). The call happened earlier, **an hour before**, so it takes the past perfect: **had called**. Not **has called**, because the present perfect does not fit a past story.

8. I _____ still when you _____.
✔ **B) shall be working / return**
The future continuous **shall be working** describes an action in progress at a future moment. After **when** we use the present simple for the future: **when you return**. Not **am working / will return**, because **will** is not used after **when**.

9. When Harris _____ her, she _____ Paris.
✔ **B) met / was leaving**
The short past action **met** is in the past simple. The longer action already in progress at that moment, **was leaving**, is in the past continuous. So she was in the middle of leaving Paris when he met her.

10. When he _____ in London, it _____ heavily.
✔ **C) arrived / was raining**
The short past action **arrived** is in the past simple. The background action in progress, **was raining**, is in the past continuous.

11. It _____ when we _____ home.
✔ **C) was raining / came**
Was raining (past continuous) is the background action already in progress. **Came** (past simple) is the short action that happened during it.

12. When we _____ the beach, the rain _____ already _____.
✔ **C) left / had / started**
Left is a past action. The rain started before that, and **already** is the clue, so we use the past perfect: **had already started**. Not **have started**, because the present perfect does not fit a past story.

13. What _____ you _____ when I _____ tomorrow?
✔ **C) will / be doing / return**
Tomorrow shows the future. The future continuous **will be doing** asks about an action in progress at that moment. After **when** we use the present simple: **when I return**.

14. When I _____ him up, they said that he _____ an hour earlier.
✔ **E) called / had left**
Called is the past action. He left before that, **an hour earlier**, so we use the past perfect: **had left**. Not **has left**, because after the past verb **said** the present perfect changes to the past perfect.

15. When you _____ me up yesterday it _____ hard.
✔ **B) rang / was raining**
Yesterday shows the past. The short action **rang** is in the past simple. The longer background action in progress, **was raining**, is in the past continuous.

16. When the woman was out, a postman _____ a letter.
✔ **C) brought**
The sentence is about the past (**was out**), so the single finished action uses the past simple: **brought**. Not **had brought**, because the letter came while she was out, not before.

17. I hope it _____ when you _____ to London.
✔ **C) won't be raining / get**
After **when** we use the present simple for the future: **when you get**. The main clause is about a future moment, so the future continuous **won't be raining** fits. Not **doesn't rain / will get**, because **will** cannot follow **when** in a time clause.

18. When the lesson _____ we _____ home.
✔ **C) is over / shall go**
After **when** we use the present simple for the future: **the lesson is over**. The main clause uses the future: **shall go** (or **will go**). Not **will be over**, because **will** is not used after **when** in time clauses.

19. What _____ you _____ when your father returned?
✔ **B) were / doing**
Returned is a short past action. To ask about the action in progress at that moment, we use the past continuous: **What were you doing?**

20. When we _____ in Seville we _____ sightseeing.
✔ **B) were / went**
Both actions are in the finished past, so both verbs use the past simple: **were** and **went**. Not **were / go**, because both verbs must be in the past.

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