ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

When – While – Where – As Soon As MCQ Test + PDF Exercise 3

English Grammar Tests · 18 questions · Online test and questions PDF:
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1	**B**	2	**C**	3	**B**	4	**D**	5	**A**	6	**A**	7	**D**	8	**D**	9	**D**	10	**D**
11	**B**	12	**C**	13	**A**	14	**A**	15	**D**	16	**B**	17	**B**	18	**B**				

Explanations

1. While we _____ an article, Mother _____ dinner.
✓ **B) were translating / cooked**
The **while** clause describes a longer action in the past, so it uses the past continuous: **were translating**. The main clause tells what Mother did during that time, and the past simple **cooked** works here. Not **were translated**, because that is passive: we did the translating, nothing translated us.

2. He looked at the carpet while _____ for her answer.
✓ **C) waiting**
After **while** we can use the **-ing** form when the subject is the same in both parts: **while waiting** = **while he was waiting**. Not **having waited**, because that shows an action that was already finished, but he was still waiting.

3. While the woman _____, her children quickly passed her and _____ upstairs.
✓ **B) was talking / went**
The woman's talking was a longer background action, so it takes the past continuous: **was talking**. The children's actions are short, completed and in a sequence (**passed … and went**), so both of these verbs are past simple. Not **was going**, because it must match **passed**.

4. I understood that while the student _____ I couldn't enter the room.
✓ **D) was being examined**
The exam was in progress at that moment, and the student did not examine anyone; someone examined him. So we need the past continuous passive: **was being examined**. Not **was examined**, which shows a finished action, not one that was still happening.

5. While we _____ sightseeing, the students _____ the book.
✓ **A) went / were reading**
Both actions happened in the past at the same time. **Went sightseeing** gives the time period, and **were reading** (past continuous) shows what was in progress during it. Not **are reading**, because the story is in the past.

6. While you _____ a rest, we _____ the task.
✓ **A) were having / did**
The rest was a longer action in progress in the past, so it takes the past continuous: **were having**. The main clause shows what we did in that time: past simple **did**. Not **have / did**, because the two parts of the sentence must both be in the past.

7. While he _____ to school, his elder brother _____ from the Institute. His brother is a teacher now.
✓ **D) went / graduated**
Both actions are finished and in the past (**His brother is a teacher now**), so we use the past simple in both parts: **went** and **graduated**. Not **goes**, because the time is the past, not the present.

8. _____ while he was having breakfast.
✓ **D) He bit his tongue**
The sentence needs a short action that happened in the middle of breakfast. You can easily **bite your tongue** while eating. The other actions, like climbing a fence or painting a ceiling, don't make sense at the breakfast table.

9. Mary _____ Nick where he _____ after graduating from the university.
✓ **D) asked / would work**
This is a reported question in the past (**asked**). Nick's work was in the future from that moment, so **will work** changes to **would work**. Not **works**, because after **asked** the tenses move back into the past.

10. We _____ into the room where the old man _____. He was seriously ill.
✓ **D) went / was lying**
Went is a short finished action in the past. The old man's lying in bed was already happening, so it takes the past continuous: **was lying**. Not **is lying**, because the whole story is in the past.

11. Mrs. Black _____ into the room where her husband _____ and began to cry.
✓ **B) came / was sitting**
Came (past simple) is her short action. Her husband was already sitting there when she came in, so we use the past continuous: **was sitting**. Not **were sitting**, because **husband** is singular.

12. As soon as he _____ to Copenhagen, he _____ us a letter.
✓ **C) gets / will send**
After time words like **as soon as**, we use the present simple for the future (**gets**), not **will**. The main clause talks about the future, so it uses **will send**. Not **got**, because he hasn't arrived yet.

13. I _____ you as soon as we _____ the contract.
✓ **A) shall call / sign**
The main clause is about the future, so it uses **shall call** (or **will call**). After **as soon as** we use the present simple with future meaning: **sign**, not **will sign**. Not **would call**, because this is a real future plan, not an imaginary one.

14. As soon as I _____ the result, I _____ you know.
✔ **A) hear / shall let**
After **as soon as** we use the present simple for the future: **hear**. The main clause uses the future: **shall let** (or **will let**) you know. Not **will hear**, because **will** is not used after **as soon as**.

15. As soon as the guests _____, we _____ our party.
✔ **D) come / shall begin**
After **as soon as** we use the present simple with future meaning: **the guests come** (plural, so not **comes**). The main clause is about the future: **shall begin**. Not **will come**, because **will** is not used after **as soon as**.

16. I was in the supermarket. As soon as I _____ for the goods, somebody _____ me.
✔ **B) had paid / pushed**
The story is in the past. The past perfect **had paid** shows the paying was finished first, and then the push happened right after it: past simple **pushed**. Not **have paid**, because the present perfect does not fit a past story.

17. As soon as we _____ the house, we _____ into it.
✔ **B) build / shall move**
After **as soon as** we use the present simple for the future: **build**. The main clause is about the future, so it uses **shall move** (or **will move**). Not **will build**, because **will** is not used after **as soon as**.

18. As soon as he _____ to see me, we _____ chess.
✔ **B) comes / shall play**
After **as soon as** we use the present simple for the future: **he comes**. The main clause is about the future, so it uses **shall play** (or **will play**). Not **will come**, because **will** is not used after **as soon as**.

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