ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

When – While – Where – As Soon As MCQ Test + PDF Exercise 2

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

Explanations

1. _____ when he was painting the ceiling.
✔ **E) He fell off the ladder**
The action in the **when** clause (**was painting the ceiling**) gives the situation, and you need an accident that fits it. People use a ladder to paint a ceiling, so **He fell off the ladder** is the logical answer.

2. It _____ since morning when we _____.
✔ **B) had been raining / went out**
Since morning shows an action that continued up to a moment in the past, so we use the past perfect continuous: **had been raining**. The past moment itself takes the past simple: **went out**. Not **has rained**, because the present perfect does not fit with a past moment (**went out**).

3. When I _____ back to the table, six soldiers _____ there.
✔ **A) came / were sitting**
The short completed action takes the past simple (**came**). The longer action already in progress at that moment takes the past continuous (**were sitting**).

4. When I _____ younger, I _____ an idea of a wife who _____ with me in my thoughts as well as aims.
✔ **B) was / had / would be**
The story is in the past (**When I was younger, I had an idea**). To talk about the future from that past point we use **would**, not **will**: **a wife who would be with me**.

5. When I _____ school I _____ the university.
✔ **D) finish / shall enter**
In a time clause with **when**, we use the present simple for the future (**finish**). The main clause uses the future (**shall/will enter**). Not **shall finish**, because we don't use **shall/will** after **when** in time clauses.

6. I visited my sister when she _____ in Moscow.
✔ **A) lived**
The visit happened in the past (**visited**), so the **when** clause is also in the past simple: **she lived**. Not **were living**, because **she** needs **was**, not **were**.

7. We _____ have our supper when our mother _____ from the market.
✔ **A) shall / comes**
The main clause is about the future: **shall have**. After **when** in a time clause, we use the present simple for the future: **when our mother comes**. Not **will come**, because we don't use will after **when** in time clauses.

8. The passengers _____ for the train for 20 minutes when it _____ into the station.
✔ **C) had been waiting / pulled**
For 20 minutes shows an action that continued up to a moment in the past, so we use the past perfect continuous: **had been waiting**. The past moment takes the past simple: **pulled**. Not **have waited**, because the present perfect does not fit with a past moment.

9. Yesterday when I _____ her, she _____ me about you.
✔ **E) met / told**
Yesterday shows finished past actions, and both happen one after the other, so both take the past simple: **met** and **told**. Not **have met**, because the present perfect is not used with **yesterday**.

10. When I came in, my mother _____ dinner.
✔ **E) was cooking**
The short action is **came in** (past simple). The longer action in progress at that moment takes the past continuous: **was cooking**. Not **cooked**, because that would mean she started cooking after I came in.

11. When I _____ home, I _____ a friend of mine.
✔ **A) was going / met**
The longer action in progress takes the past continuous (**was going**). The short action that happened during it takes the past simple (**met**). Not **were going**, because **I** needs **was**.

12. I _____ terrible when I _____ that morning.
✔ **C) felt / woke up**
That morning is in the past, so both verbs take the past simple: **felt** and **woke up**.

13. When they _____ about it, there _____ much trouble.
✔ **D) find out / will be**
This sentence is about the future. After **when** we use the present simple for the future (**find out**), and the main clause uses **will**: **there will be much trouble**. Not **found out / were**, because **trouble** is uncountable, so the verb should be **was**, not **were**.

14. Lane _____ through the morning papers when the telephone _____.
✔ **A) was looking / rang**
The longer action in progress takes the past continuous (**was looking**). The short action that interrupted it takes the past simple (**rang**). Not **were looking**, because **Lane** is one person.

15. A ship _____ near the Maltese Islands when the men on board _____ a dolphin in the water.
✔ **A) was fishing / noticed**
The longer action in progress takes the past continuous (**was fishing**). The short action that happened during it takes the past simple (**noticed**).

16. How fast _____ you _____ when the accident _____?
✓ **A) were / driving / happened**
We ask about an action in progress at a past moment, so we use the past continuous question form **were you driving**. The accident is the short action, so it takes the past simple: **happened**. Not **was … driving**, because **you** always takes **were**.

17. I _____ my hand when I _____ the dinner.
✓ **D) burnt / was cooking**
The short action takes the past simple (**burnt**). The longer action in progress takes the past continuous (**was cooking**). Not **was burning / cooked**, because the tenses are the wrong way round.

18. We _____ ready when you _____ home.
✓ **D) shall be / come**
This is about the future. The main clause uses **shall be**, and after **when** we use the present simple for the future: **come**. Not **will come**, because **will** is not used after **when** in time clauses.

19. Two hours ago, when the children _____ in the yard, a terrible storm _____.
✓ **A) were playing / began**
Two hours ago shows the past. The longer action in progress takes the past continuous (**were playing**), and the short action that happened during it takes the past simple (**began**).

20. It _____ for three hours when we _____ home.
✓ **E) had been raining / came**
For three hours shows an action that continued up to a moment in the past, so we use the past perfect continuous: **had been raining**. The past moment takes the past simple: **came**. Not **rained**, because the past simple does not show that the rain continued up to that moment.

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