



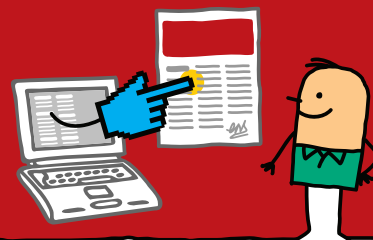
How good is your English?

1. These children _____ not responsible for their actions.
a. are b. is c. am
2. On _____, every dollar you spend on advertising generates \$15 in sales revenue for you.
a. the average b. average c. an average
3. They are cheap too, _____?
a. aren't they b. isn't it c. are they
4. Surila _____ her application.
a. passed up b. handed in c. handed up
5. _____, Singapore _____ have HDB flats.
a. Last time, never b. Previously, didn't c. Recently, hadn't
6. Many managers and executives _____ enhanced their skills after they attended our programmes.
a. had successfully b. has successfully c. successfully
7. What _____ if fire were to break out or some other incident were to take place?
a. will happen b. would happen c. happened
8. Yesterday, my brother _____ in bed all morning. He says he has the flu.
a. lay b. lied c. laid
9. _____ been a long time.
a. It's b. Its' c. Its
10. He liked _____ looks.
a. their b. there c. they're
11. Your ability to communicate clearly will _____ your income immensely.
a. affect b. effect c. reflect
12. No _____ allowed.
a. footwears b. footwear c. footwear's
13. The _____ been given to all the students.
a. stationeries have b. stationary has c. stationery has
14. The _____ are specialists, recruited from all over the world.
a. staff b. staffs c. stuff
15. I live in _____ flat.
a. an HDB b. a HDB c. HDB
16. Even after he _____ a good night's sleep, he did not feel better.
a. had had b. has had c. has
17. The threat of crime hasn't diminished – _____, it has increased.
a. on the contrary b. on the other hand c. nevertheless
18. The critic really did not like the performance and gave it two big _____ down.
a. thumb's b. thumbs c. thumbs'
19. Her creative _____ made her the envy of the class.
a. writings b. writing c. writing's
20. Despite being brothers, they _____ in many ways.
a. differ b. defer c. deafer
21. I _____ in the West for 10 years.
a. am living b. lived c. lives
22. I used to get home at _____.
a. half past seven o'clock b. half past seven c. half passed seven
23. I suggested _____ to Sentosa but no one else agreed.
a. to go b. going c. go
24. We _____ the holiday but I was not really paying attention.
a. discussed about b. discussed on c. discussed
25. The police will investigate _____.
a. into the theft b. the theft c. about the theft
26. I live in a small _____ HDB flat near Marsiling MRT.
a. furnish b. furnished c. unfurnish
27. I _____ in Toa Payoh but this year I am studying in Tampines.
a. usually study b. am usually studying c. usual study
28. Once you get this letter, _____.
a. revert back to me b. get back to me c. please revert back to me on this
29. All the _____ correct.
a. Informations are b. Information are c. Information is
30. She couldn't hear the teacher because the air-conditioner was very loud, so she asked her to _____ the question.
a. repeat b. repeat again c. repeating

Score:

/30

Answers



QUESTION 1

a is correct. The word 'children' is the plural form of 'child'. Therefore the form of the verb 'to be' – 'are' has to be used.

QUESTION 2

b is correct. In this sentence, the noun 'average' is a generalisation, which means it does not need the definite or indefinite articles, 'the' and 'a'.

QUESTION 3

a is correct. This is an example of a 'question tag'. This question form requires that the phrase after the comma, uses the opposite (in this case, negative) form of the verb before the comma.

QUESTION 4

b is correct. 'To hand something in' is a commonly used phrasal verb meaning 'to give something to a person in authority'. The phrasal verb, 'to pass something up' is usually used when someone does not take advantage of an opportunity. 'To hand something up', is not generally accepted in common English.

QUESTION 5

b is correct. Last time is used when a particular moment in time is being referred to. 'Recently' is used to refer to a time just before now. 'Previously' is correct here because it relates to the entire period before now. As for the second part of the sentence, we need an auxiliary verb to convey the tense. We cannot use 'hadn't' because the following verb would need to be a past participle, which would form the past perfect. That only leaves 'didn't' which makes this a past tense sentence.

QUESTION 6

c is correct. We cannot use 'had successfully' because this would make a past perfect clause. The past perfect is used to look further into the past from a point in the past.

While we can use the present perfect form, managers and executives are plural and so we need to use 'have', not 'has'. The best answer is 'successfully'. This makes a past tense clause, which we use to refer to a completed action in the past.

QUESTION 7

b is correct. This is an example of a 2nd conditional. When using the second conditional, we use the 'would' instead of 'will', and the main verb, in this case 'to be' using the past simple tense form.

QUESTION 8

a is correct. In this sentence, there is no direct object. Without a direct object we use 'lie' in its past tense form, which is 'lay.'

QUESTION 9

a is correct. The full form of this sentence is 'It has been a long time.' When we make a contraction, we use the apostrophe to take the place of the missing letters. In this case, we use the apostrophe to replace the 'ha' of 'has'. 'Its' is the possessive form of 'it'. (the possessive form of 'him' is 'his')

QUESTION 10

a is correct. 'Their' is the possessive form. 'There' is usually referring to a place. 'They're' is the contracted form of 'they are.'

QUESTION 11

a is correct. The word following 'will' needs to be a verb which can be described using the adverb 'immensely'. 'Effect' is a noun. 'Reflect' cannot be described with 'immensely'.

QUESTION 12

b is correct. 'Footwear' is an uncountable noun. Therefore it does not have a plural form. The 's' here means that something belongs to the footwear, and not 'footwear is'.

QUESTION 13

c is correct. 'Stationary' means 'not moving'. Stationery is an uncountable noun, which means that it does not have a plural form.

QUESTION 14

a is correct. The noun 'staff' has two meanings. One meaning is 'a group of employees' and is considered 'uncountable'. The other meaning is 'a stick or rod', which is countable. So if you use 'staffs' you are saying that a collection of sticks were recruited.

QUESTION 15

a is correct. This object of this sentence is a non specific noun, and so requires the indefinite article, either 'an' or 'a'. Using 'a' or 'an' depends on the sound that the next word begins with and not the letter. For example; 'A university' is ok, because the sound the 'u' makes is not a vowel sound. The sound the 'H' makes in HDB, is a vowel sound and so we need to use 'an'.

QUESTION 16

a is correct. The past perfect is used to refer to an action completed in the past before another action in the past. As the sleep happened before the not feeling better, we need to use the past perfect tense. The past perfect is made by using the auxiliary verb 'had' with the past participle of the main verb. In this sentence the main verb is 'have'. Therefore, the answer is 'had' + the past participle of 'have', which is also 'had'. So the correct answer is 'had had'.

QUESTION 17

a is correct. 'On the contrary' is used when a statement is in opposition to what has been stated or what is expected. 'On the other hand' is something that you say when you are speaking about two different facts or two opposite ways of thinking about a situation. 'Nevertheless' has a similar meaning to 'however' and 'in spite of that'.

QUESTION 18

b is correct. The use of apostrophes here refers to the possession of something. In this case, we only need the simple plural of 'thumb'.

QUESTION 19

b is correct. 'Writing' here is a gerund and uncountable.

QUESTION 20

a is correct. Differ relates to differences. Defer means to delay. Deaf is the comparative form of deaf.

QUESTION 21

b is correct. This sentence refers to a complete action in the past. Therefore the past tense form of 'live' is required.

QUESTION 22

b is correct. When telling the time we use 'o'clock' when the time is exactly at the hour, e.g. 7:00 is seven o'clock. 'Passed' is the past tense of the verb 'to pass'. For example, 'the week passed quickly'. 'Past' here is a preposition meaning 'beyond in time'.

QUESTION 23

b is correct. The verb 'to suggest' is an unusual verb. It can only be used in the following ways:

1. Suggest + that clause + the subjunctive
 2. Suggest + noun
 3. Suggest + gerund
- 'to' is a preposition. 'go' is a verb and 'going' is a gerund.

QUESTION 24

c is correct. The verb 'discuss' behaves like the verbs 'consider' and 'examine'. It does not behave like 'talk' and 'think'. Therefore, it does not take the prepositions 'on' or 'about'.

QUESTION 25

b is correct. The verb 'investigate' behaves like the verbs 'consider' and 'examine'. It does not behave like 'look' and 'think'. Therefore, it does not take the prepositions 'on' or 'about'.

QUESTION 26

b is correct. In this sentence we need the verb 'furnish' to behave like an adjective. To do this we add 'ed', which means that someone in the past put furniture in the HDB.

QUESTION 27

a is correct. When we talk about a habitual action we use the present simple tense. We use the present continuous :

1. for something that is happening **at the moment of speaking**
2. for something which **we think is temporary**
3. for something which is **new** and **contrasts** with a previous state
4. to show that something is changing, growing or **developing**

QUESTION 28

b is correct. 'Revert' means 'to go back'. If you 'revert back' it means to go back back, or to revert again. "Get back to me" is the more common expression.

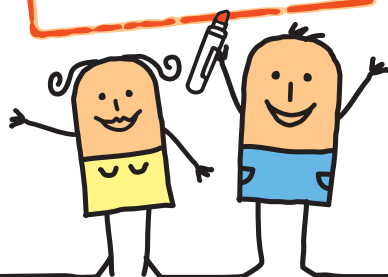
QUESTION 29

c is correct. 'information' is an uncountable noun. Therefore, it does not have a plural form and it uses the singular form of the verb 'to be'.

QUESTION 30

a is correct. 'Repeat' means 'to say again'. If you 'repeat again' it means to say again again, or to say it a third time. In English we do not put the continuous form after the preposition 'to'.

How Did You Do?



Top of the Class!

If you scored between 25 and 30 then you are really on the ball with your accuracy. You have a good understanding of grammar and vocabulary. Well done!

On the Right Track!

If you scored between 20 and 24 then you have a fairly good command of English. You need to concentrate a little more and aim for greater accuracy.

Could Do Better!

If you scored between 15 and 19 then you need to pay more attention to the language you are using. You tend to make too many common mistakes, and these are affecting the way you communicate.

Time to go back to the basics!

If you scored below 15 then you need to go back to the drawing board, your communication is suffering because of these common mistakes.

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