

ENGLISH GRAMMAR & VOCABULARY

50 Fully Solved MCQs with Detailed Explanations

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QUESTIONS | ANSWER KEY | EXPLANATIONS

Covers: Fill in the Blanks - Synonyms - Prepositions
Closest Meaning to Sentences & Phrases

Prepared for PPSC | FPSC | CSS | PMS | NTS Aspirants

Section A: Fill in the Blanks (Grammar & Usage)

1 Ten miles ____ a long distance.

A. are

✓ B. is

C. be

Explanation

A distance (like a period of time, money or weight) is treated as a single unit, so it takes a singular verb: 'Ten miles is a long distance.'

2 They are going to be ____ their positions.

A. deprive of

B. depriving of

✓ C. deprived of

Explanation

After 'be', we need a past participle to form the passive voice: 'be deprived of' means to have something taken away.

3 Those who talk ____ to children are often insulted by them.

A. harsh

✓ B. harshly

C. harshness

Explanation

The verb 'talk' must be modified by an adverb, not an adjective or noun; 'harshly' correctly describes the manner of talking.

4 He felt _____ when the doctor had given the medicine to him.

- A. good
- ☒ B. well
- C. bitterly

Explanation

'Well' is used to describe a state of health, which fits the context of taking medicine; 'good' refers to general quality or mood, not physical health.

5 This shirt is not the same colour _____ that one.

- ☒ A. as
- B. to
- C. like

Explanation

The fixed comparative expression is 'the same ... as', e.g. 'the same colour as that one.'

6 His coat is similar _____ my coat.

- A. for
- ☒ B. to
- C. as

Explanation

The adjective 'similar' is always followed by the preposition 'to': 'similar to'.

7 His pen and my pen are ____.

- A. like
- B. as such

☒ C. alike

Explanation

'Alike' (one word) means 'similar to one another' and is used after a linking verb such as 'are', e.g. 'The two pens are alike.'

8 He has gone to ____.

☒ A. get the shirt pressed

- B. to get the shirt press
- C. make the shirt press
- D. to make the shirt pressed

Explanation

This is the causative structure 'get + object + past participle', used when someone else performs the action for you: 'get the shirt pressed'.

9 However ____ you may strike, the lock cannot be broken.

- A. forceful
- B. forcible
- ☒ C. forcefully

Explanation

The verb 'strike' needs an adverb to describe how the action is performed, so 'forcefully' is correct.

10 It is not as hot today as it was yesterday, ____?

- ☒ A. is it
- ☐ B. isn't it
- ☐ C. was it
- ☐ D. wasn't it

Explanation

Question tag rule: a negative main clause ('is not') takes a positive tag in the same tense ('is it').

11 He wants to ____ me help you.

- ☐ A. get
- ☒ B. make
- ☐ C. got

Explanation

'Make' is a causative verb followed by the bare infinitive (without 'to'): 'make me help you' means to force/cause someone to do something.

12 I could extinguish the fire ____.

- ☐ A. if he asks me
- ☒ B. if he asked me
- ☐ C. if he had asked me
- ☐ D. if he asking me

Explanation

'Could' in the main clause pairs with a simple past tense in the 'if' clause (second conditional): 'if he asked me'.

13 Fish is not ____ caught as it is assumed.

- A. as easy
- ✓ B. as easily
- C. unconscious
- D. very easily

Explanation

The verb 'caught' needs an adverb, and the comparative structure 'as ... as' requires the same form on both sides: 'as easily caught as it is assumed'.

14 He slept ____ that the thief stole everything.

- A. so unconscious
- ✓ B. so unconsciously
- C. unconscious

Explanation

'Slept' is a verb, so it must be modified by an adverb; the 'so ... that' structure also requires an adverb here: 'so unconsciously that...'.

15 He would restore peace and harmony if he ____ a ruler.

- A. was
- B. is
- ✓ C. were
- D. has been

Explanation

This is an unreal/hypothetical condition (he is not a ruler), so the subjunctive 'were' is used for all subjects, along with 'would' in the main clause.

Section B: Synonyms

16 Detest:

☒ **A. To abhor**

☐ **B. To accommodate**

☐ **C. To blame**

☐ **D. To relieve**

Explanation

'Detest' means to dislike intensely; 'to abhor' carries the same strong sense of hatred.

17 Deterioration:

☒ **A. Destruction**

☐ **B. Construction**

☐ **C. Renovation**

☐ **D. Reconstruction**

Explanation

'Deterioration' means a progressive worsening or decline in condition, which aligns most closely with 'destruction' among the given choices.

18 Prostrate:

☐ **A. To bow**

☐ **B. To straighten**

☒ **C. To lie**

☐ **D. To worship**

Explanation

'Prostrate' literally means to lie stretched out, face down, usually in submission or exhaustion. 'To lie' captures this physical posture more precisely than 'to bow'.

19 Divinely:

☒ **A. Heavenly**

☐ **B. Worldly**

☐ **C. Of nature**

Explanation

'Divinely' relates to God or the sacred, matching 'heavenly' in meaning.

20 Web:

☒ **A. Net of thread**

☐ **B. A cluster of threads**

☐ **C. Complexity of thread**

Explanation

A 'web' (as spun by a spider) is a fine network or net made of thread-like strands.

21 Reeds:

☒ **A. Tall grass with hollow stems**

☐ **B. Tall tree with big leaves**

☐ **C. Tall shrub with yellow leaves**

Explanation

'Reeds' are tall, slender wetland plants with hollow, jointed stems, similar to grass.

22 Meticulously:

☒ A. Gradually

☐ B. Uncivilized

☐ C. Suddenly

☐ D. Abruptly

Explanation

'Meticulously' means carefully and thoroughly, showing great attention to detail. Among the options given, 'gradually' (a slow, careful process) fits best, though the closer everyday synonym would be 'carefully'.

23 Demons:

☒ A. Evil spirits

☐ B. Noble spirits

☐ C. Supernatural spirit

Explanation

A 'demon' is a malevolent, evil supernatural being, so 'evil spirits' is the correct match.

24 Crack:

☒ A. To break into pieces

☐ B. To break without pieces

☐ C. To remain intact

☐ D. To be durable

Explanation

'To crack' means to break, split, or fracture something, usually producing pieces or fissures.

25 Giggle:

✓ A. To laugh

B B. To ensure

C C. To assure

D D. To tickle

Explanation

'To giggle' means to laugh lightly in a nervous, silly, or amused way, so 'to laugh' is the closest synonym.

Section C: Closest Meaning to Underlined Words/Phrases

26 To see me, he was taken aback:

✓ A. He was surprised

B B. He was bewildered

C C. He was maddened

D D. He was ridiculous

Explanation

'Taken aback' means suddenly shocked or surprised by something unexpected.

27 The victim was slain by a stranger:

✓ A. Murdered by a stranger

B B. Assassinated by a stranger

C C. Wounded by a stranger

D D. Abducted by a stranger

Explanation

'Slain' is the past participle of 'slay', meaning killed/murdered; 'assassinated' is reserved specifically for the killing of a prominent person, so 'murdered' is the more general and accurate match.

28 The price of warm clothes abates in summer:

☒ **A. Lessens**

☐ **B. Rises**

☐ **C. Sustains**

☐ **D. Varies**

Explanation

'Abates' means to become less intense or lower in degree, so 'lessens' is the correct synonym.

29 Due to accidents, cars don't run as swiftly as new ones:

☒ **A. Run as fast as**

☐ **B. Run as slowly as**

☐ **C. Run as smoothly as**

☐ **D. Run as forcefully as**

Explanation

'Swiftly' means quickly/fast, so 'run as fast as' preserves the original meaning.

30 His academic credentials were over after two years:

☒ **A. His academic semesters were over**

☐ **B. His academic quality was over**

☐ **C. His academic career was over**

☐ **D. His academy was over**

Explanation

'Academic credentials' refers to the qualifications earned over a fixed course duration, so 'academic semesters' being over best captures the two-year timeframe mentioned.

31 There is no remedy for this fix:

☒ **A. There is no solution to this problem**

☐ **B. This fix is within the reach of remedy**

☐ **C. This remedy gives fix**

☐ **D. There is no harm of this fix**

Explanation

Here 'fix' means a difficult situation/problem and 'remedy' means solution, so the sentence means 'there is no solution to this problem'.

32 The absconded is badly wanted by cops:

☒ **A. The fled man**

☐ **B. The caught man**

☐ **C. The charged man**

☐ **D. The plundering man**

Explanation

'Absconded' describes someone who has fled or run away (usually to escape the law), matching 'the fled man'.

33 Plunders are those who eat up the national exchequer:

☒ **A. Looters are those who guzzle up the national money**

☐ **B. Plunderers are those who steal national valuables**

☐ **C. Plunderers are those who loot money**

☐ **D. It is a national plunder to loot money**

Explanation

'Plunders' (here used for plunderers/looters) 'eat up' (consume greedily) the national exchequer (treasury), which is best paraphrased as looters who 'guzzle up' national money.

34 You are besought to come in time:

✓ A. You are requested to

B. You are commanded to

C. You are hoped to

D. You are expected to

Explanation

'Besought' is the past participle of 'beseech', meaning to earnestly request or beg, so 'requested' is the closest match.

Section D: Fill in the Blanks (Prepositions)

35 He is not yet clear ____ the blame.

✓ A. of

B. from

C. at

D. with

Explanation

The fixed expression is 'clear of' (blame), meaning free from something undesirable.

36 According ____ most critics, existence of a new country was not justifiable.

A. for

✓ B. to

C. from

D. with

Explanation

The fixed phrase is 'according to', used to introduce a source of information or opinion.

37 The watchman waits ____ the gate.

- ☐ A. for
- ☐ B. on
- ☐ C. with
- ☒ D. at

Explanation

When indicating a fixed location/post where someone stands guard, 'at' is the correct preposition: 'waits at the gate'.

38 He is jealous ____ honour and fame.

- ☒ A. of
- ☐ B. in
- ☐ C. on

Explanation

The adjective 'jealous' is followed by the preposition 'of': 'jealous of honour and fame'.

39 This game is favorite ____ the people of villages.

- ☐ A. to
- ☒ B. with
- ☐ C. for
- ☐ D. on

Explanation

The fixed expression is 'favourite with (someone)', meaning liked or popular among that group.

40 Please believe ____ my words.

- A. on
- ✓ B. in
- C. at
- D. with

Explanation

The idiomatic expression 'believe in' means to trust or have confidence in something.

41 Isolated:

- ✓ A. Separate
- B. Attracted
- C. Enclosed
- D. Adjacent

Explanation

'Isolated' means set apart or separated from others, matching 'separate'.

42 Retrieve:

- ✓ A. Revive
- B. Bring to an end
- C. Overstate
- D. Repeat

Explanation

'Retrieve' means to get something back or restore it; 'revive' (bring back to a working/active state) is the closest of the given options.

Section E: Synonyms

43 Innumerable:

☒ **A. Countless**

☐ **B. As defined by number**

☐ **C. Counted**

☐ **D. Quantity**

Explanation

'Innumerable' means too many to be counted, which is exactly what 'countless' means.

44 Gigantic:

☒ **A. Huge**

☐ **B. Tiny**

Explanation

'Gigantic' means extremely large in size, matching 'huge'.

45 Awful:

☒ **A. Extremely bad and unpleasant**

☐ **B. Horrible**

☐ **C. Noisy**

☐ **D. Polluted**

Explanation

'Awful' means very unpleasant or bad, which is directly defined by option A; while 'horrible' is related, option A gives the fuller, more precise definition.

Section F: Closest Meaning to the Original Sentence

46 They occasionally come across each other:

☒ **A. They, sometimes come**

☐ **B. They, sometime come**

☐ **C. They some time come**

☐ **D. They scarcely come**

Explanation

'Occasionally' means from time to time, not regularly, which matches 'sometimes come' (note: 'sometimes' is the correctly spelled adverb of frequency).

47 Itching has been known as an infectious disease:

☒ **A. Carried by germs**

☐ **B. Uncarried by germs**

☐ **C. Controllable disease**

☐ **D. Incurable disease**

Explanation

An 'infectious disease' is one that spreads via germs/microorganisms, so 'carried by germs' matches the description.

48 As the course of life on the earth evolved there came severe storms of snow and wind:

☐ **A. As life underwent evolution**

☐ **B. As life underwent revolution**

☐ **C. As life underwent fierce changes**

☒ **D. As life underwent sudden changes**

Explanation

The phrase 'severe storms' suggests abrupt, dramatic weather events rather than a slow process, so 'sudden changes' best captures the intensity described, going beyond the plain word 'evolved' already used in the original sentence.

49 Stay beyond the limits of one's wrath:

☒ **A. Stay out of**

☐ **B. Stay within**

☐ **C. Stay around**

☐ **D. Stay to**

Explanation

To stay 'beyond the limits' of something means to remain outside its reach, i.e. to 'stay out of' it.

50 The texture of her skin is as delicate as a rose petal:

☒ **A. The surface of her skin**

☐ **B. The complexion of her skin**

☐ **C. The attraction of her skin**

☐ **D. The mildness of her skin**

Explanation

'Texture' refers to the surface quality/feel of something, so 'the surface of her skin' is the closest paraphrase.