

ANSWER KEY & EXPLANATIONS

50 Solved MCQs

Tense, Modal Auxiliaries & "To" as a Preposition

50 Questions

5 Exercises

Fully Explained

SOURCE

Ilmi Intermediate English Grammar & Composition

Set I — Papers of Board Examinations 2008 to 2012

Exercise No. 1 (Special Exercise), and Exercises 2–5
(Board Papers: Lahore, Multan, Rawalpindi 2008)

Every option is shown, the correct answer is highlighted and ticked,
and a short grammar explanation follows each question.

Exercise No. 1

Special Exercise — "To" as a Preposition & Some Confusing Modal Auxiliaries

Q1 The First Man tells the Girl that it is a step to ____.

(a)remember ✓

(b)have remembered

(c)remembering

(d)remembered

Correct Answer: (a) remember

Explanation: Here "to remember" is an infinitive of purpose modifying the noun "step" (compare "a day to remember") — it is NOT the prepositional "to" this exercise is testing for. So the bare infinitive (base verb) is required.

Q2 We are looking forward to ____ a new project.

(a)start

(b)starting ✓

(c)have started

(d)starts

Correct Answer: (b) starting

Explanation: "Look forward to" is a fixed phrase in which "to" behaves as a preposition, so it must be followed by a gerund (-ing form), never the infinitive.

Q3 Before buying this bicycle, we used to _____ to school on foot.

(a)go ✓

(b)going

(c)have gone

(d)gone

Correct Answer: **(a) go**

Explanation: “Used to” (expressing a discontinued past habit) is followed by the bare infinitive — the base form of the verb.

Q4 He is quite used to _____ a situation like this.

(a)handle

(b)handled

(c)handles

(d)handling ✓

Correct Answer: **(d) handling**

Explanation: “Be used to” (meaning “accustomed to”) is different from habitual “used to”. Here “to” is a preposition, so it takes a gerund.

Q5 In addition to _____ the report, you are requested to submit it as well.

(a)finalizing ✓

(b)finalize

(c)finalized

(d)finalizes

Correct Answer: **(a) finalizing**

Explanation: “In addition to” is a prepositional phrase and is always followed by a gerund.

Q6 Subject to _____ the medical examination, he will be given this job.

(a) passed

(b) passing ✓

(c) pass

(d) passes

Correct Answer: (b) passing

Explanation: "Subject to" means "conditional upon" and functions as a preposition, so it takes a gerund.

Q7 In spite of _____ very hard, he could not succeed.

(a) work

(b) working ✓

(c) has worked

(d) worked

Correct Answer: (b) working

Explanation: "In spite of" is a preposition and must be followed by a gerund.

Q8 With a view to _____ you, I have come here.

(a) have met

(b) meet

(c) met

(d) meeting ✓

Correct Answer: (d) meeting

Explanation: "With a view to" means "with the purpose of". The "to" here is prepositional, so a gerund follows, not the infinitive.

Q9 Drive carefully lest you _____ an accident.

(a) might meet

(b) may meet

(c) would meet

(d) should meet ✓

Correct Answer: (d) should meet

Explanation: “Lest” (meaning “in case / for fear that”) is always followed by “should” + the base verb.

Q10 He had better _____ your permission before going there.

(a) seek ✓

(b) sought

(c) seeking

(d) been seeking

Correct Answer: (a) seek

Explanation: “Had better” is a modal-like expression that is always followed directly by the bare infinitive.

Exercise No. 2

Lahore Board 2008 — Group I & II

Q11 My friends _____ the Prime Minister yesterday.

(a) see

(b) sees

(c) saw ✓

(d) had seen

Correct Answer: (c) saw

Explanation: The time marker “yesterday” signals the simple past tense.

Q12 It started to rain while we _____ tennis.

(a) are playing

(b) played

(c) were playing ✓

(d) had played

Correct Answer: (c) were playing

Explanation: An action already in progress at a specific past moment, interrupted by another action, takes the past continuous tense.

Q13 The patient _____ before the doctor arrived.

(a) had died ✓

(b) will die

(c) died

(d) dies

Correct Answer: (a) had died

Explanation: The past perfect tense is used for an action completed before another past action ("arrived").

Q14 He loves to _____ in the afternoon.

(a) sleeping

(b) sleep ✓

(c) be slept

(d) have slept

Correct Answer: (b) sleep

Explanation: "Love to" is followed by the infinitive (base form) of the verb.

Q15 Money _____ the mare go.

(a) makes ✓

(b) make

(c) will make

(d) made

Correct Answer: (a) makes

Explanation: This is the well-known proverb “Money makes the mare go” — present simple, agreeing with the singular subject “Money.”

Q16 Uneasy _____ the head that wears a crown.

(a) lie

(b) lied

(c) lay

(d) lies ✓

Correct Answer: (d) lies

Explanation: A quotation from Shakespeare’s Henry IV (“Uneasy lies the head that wears a crown”) — present simple, third-person singular “lies.”

Q17 If I _____ here, I shall come to you.

(a) is

(b) are

(c) am ✓

(d) was

Correct Answer: (c) am

Explanation: First conditional: the if-clause takes the present simple; “I” takes “am.”

Q18 I work hard so that I ____.

(a) may not fail ✓

(b) may fail

(c) should fail

(d) should not fail

Correct Answer: **(a) may not fail**

Explanation: A purpose clause expressing negative intention uses “may not” + base verb.

Q19 She ____ to us next week.

(a) will be coming

(b) came

(c) comes

(d) is coming ✓

Correct Answer: **(d) is coming**

Explanation: The present continuous is commonly used to express a fixed, already-arranged future plan (“next week”).

Q20 He speaks as if he ____ mad.

(a) is

(b) was

(c) will be

(d) were ✓

Correct Answer: **(d) were**

Explanation: “As if” introducing an unreal/hypothetical comparison takes the subjunctive “were” for all persons.

Exercise No. 3

Multan Board Annual 2008 — Group I & II

Q21 When you came in, I _____ a letter.

(a) had written

(b) was writing ✓

(c) am writing

(d) write

Correct Answer: (b) was writing

Explanation: An action already in progress when another past action occurred takes the past continuous tense.

Q22 _____ a good film lately?

(a) Did you see

(b) Have you seen ✓

(c) Will you see

(d) Are you seeing

Correct Answer: (b) Have you seen

Explanation: "Lately" is a classic signal word for the present perfect tense.

Q23 If he _____ hard, he will pass the examination.

(a) work

(b) works ✓

(c) will work

(d) worked

Correct Answer: (b) works

Explanation: First conditional: the if-clause uses the present simple even though it refers to future time.

Q24 I _____ here since 1995.

(a) live

(b) am living

(c) **have been living** ✓

(d) was living

Correct Answer: (c) **have been living**

Explanation: “Since” + a point in time signals the present perfect continuous tense.

Q25 We _____ well in the last test.

(a) done

(b) **did** ✓

(c) were doing

(d) will do

Correct Answer: (b) **did**

Explanation: “In the last test” places the action firmly in the simple past.

Q26 _____ the sums?

(a) **Do you solve** ✓

(b) Did you solved

(c) Can you solved

(d) May you solved

Correct Answer: (a) **Do you solve**

Explanation: This is the only grammatically correct option — an auxiliary (do/did/can/may) must be followed by the bare infinitive, never “solved.”

Q27 They _____ him two days ago.

(a) will be burying

(b) bury

(c) will bury

(d) buried ✓

Correct Answer: (d) buried

Explanation: "Two days ago" signals the simple past tense.

Q28 I _____ the examination yet.

(a) has taken

(b) took

(c) have not taken ✓

(d) is not taking

Correct Answer: (c) have not taken

Explanation: "Yet" in a negative sentence signals the present perfect tense.

Q29 The children were frightened as it _____ dark.

(a) was getting ✓

(b) gets

(c) will get

(d) has got

Correct Answer: (a) was getting

Explanation: A gradually developing action running parallel to another past action takes the past continuous tense.

Q30 _____ me your camera tomorrow?

(a) Will you lend ✓

(b) Have you lent

(c) Did you lend

(d) Had you lent

Correct Answer: **(a) Will you lend**

Explanation: "Tomorrow" signals the simple future tense.

Exercise No. 4

Multan Board Supplementary 2008 — Group I & II

Q31 He _____ an essay by now.

(a) writes

(b) wrote

(c) will have written ✓

(d) will write

Correct Answer: **(c) will have written**

Explanation: "By now / by this time" (a future deadline) signals the future perfect tense.

Q32 The Hindus _____ their dead bodies.

(a) burn ✓

(b) burnt

(c) have burnt

(d) are burning

Correct Answer: **(a) burn**

Explanation: A general, habitual/customary fact takes the present simple tense.

Q33 If you _____ hard, you would have passed.

(a) worked

(b) will work

(c) would work

(d) had worked



Correct Answer: (d) had worked

Explanation: Third conditional (unreal past): the if-clause takes the past perfect tense.

Q34 I _____ this poem some days ago.

(a) have learnt

(b) had learnt

(c) learnt



(d) will learn

Correct Answer: (c) learnt

Explanation: "Some days ago" signals the simple past tense.

Q35 I wish I _____ a king!

(a) am

(b) was

(c) were



(d) will be

Correct Answer: (c) were

Explanation: "Wish" expressing an unreal present desire is followed by the subjunctive "were" for all persons.

Q36 A bad workman always _____ with his tools.

(a) quarrels ✓

(b) is quarrelling

(c) quarreled

(d) quarrel

Correct Answer: (a) quarrels

Explanation: A proverb stating a general truth takes the present simple, agreeing with the singular subject "a bad workman."

Q37 If you _____ hard, you would pass.

(a) work

(b) works

(c) worked ✓

(d) will work

Correct Answer: (c) worked

Explanation: Second conditional (unreal present/future): the if-clause takes the simple past tense.

Q38 The patient had died before the doctor _____.

(a) reaches

(b) reached ✓

(c) had reached

(d) will reach

Correct Answer: (b) reached

Explanation: Since the main clause already uses the past perfect ("had died"), the later action simply takes the simple past.

Q39 It _____ since morning.

(a) is raining

(b) was raining

(c) has been raining ✓

(d) rains

Correct Answer: (c) has been raining

Explanation: “Since morning” signals the present perfect continuous tense.

Q40 He should not _____ his time.

(a) wasted

(b) waste ✓

(c) wasting

(d) wastes

Correct Answer: (b) waste

Explanation: The modal “should” is always followed by the bare infinitive.

Exercise No. 5

Rawalpindi Board 2008 — Group I & II

Q41 She was _____ the purse slung across her shoulder.

(a) carried

(b) carrying ✓

(c) has been carrying

(d) will be carrying

Correct Answer: (b) carrying

Explanation: The past continuous tense describes an action in progress at a particular past moment.

Q42 The teacher _____ his lecture since morning.

(a) prepared

(b) will be preparing

(c) had prepared

(d) has been preparing ✓

Correct Answer: (d) has been preparing

Explanation: "Since morning" signals the present perfect continuous tense.

Q43 Jorkens said if a man _____ determined, he got it.

(a) were

(b) was ✓

(c) is

(d) are

Correct Answer: (b) was

Explanation: This narrates a general past truth within the story, so ordinary past-tense agreement is used: "if a man was determined."

Q44 She _____ up her mouth for an instant.

(a) will open

(b) opened ✓

(c) had opened

(d) will have opened

Correct Answer: (b) opened

Explanation: The narrative is written in the simple past tense, describing a completed action.

Q45 They _____ to Murree tomorrow.

(a) shall go

(b) would have gone

(c) will go ✓

(d) will be going

Correct Answer: (c) will go

Explanation: "Tomorrow" signals the simple future tense; "will" (not "shall") is used with the third-person subject "they."

Q46 He _____ exercise since morning.

(a) takes

(b) is taking

(c) has been taking ✓

(d) took

Correct Answer: (c) has been taking

Explanation: "Since morning" signals the present perfect continuous tense.

Q47 If he _____, he will pass.

(a) work

(b) works ✓

(c) working

(d) worked

Correct Answer: (b) works

Explanation: First conditional: the if-clause takes the present simple tense.

Q48 Always _____ the poor.

(a) be helped

(b) helps

(c) helping

(d) help ✓

Correct Answer: (d) help

Explanation: This is an imperative sentence, which always takes the bare infinitive (base verb).

Q49 Be _____.

(a) seated ✓

(b) seating

(c) being seated

(d) was seating

Correct Answer: (a) seated

Explanation: A passive-imperative expression; “seated” (past participle) is used, as in the common command “Be seated.”

Q50 When do the dogs _____?

(a) barks

(b) barked

(c) bark ✓

(d) will bark

Correct Answer: (c) bark

Explanation: The auxiliary “do” always requires the bare infinitive of the verb that follows it.