

4. He _____ something at the roadside and started running as fast as he could. (1)
- A. sees B. ✓ saw
- C. was seen D. has bee

Answer: B

The second verb, *started*, is simple past, and the two actions happened one after the other in the same story. So the first verb must also be simple past: **saw**.

Sees puts the sentence in the present and clashes with *started*. *Was seen* is passive, which would mean somebody saw him, not that he saw something.

Rule: verbs joined by **and** in one story keep the same tense.

5. You say your friend has not been around for some time. _____ did you last see him? (1)
- A. Who B. Why
- C. Wherever D. ✓ When

Answer: D

The answer to this question would be a time, such as "last Monday". The question word that asks about time is **when**.

Who asks about a person, *why* about a reason, and *wherever* is not a question word at all.

Rule: match the question word to the missing information: who for a person, where for a place, why for a reason, **when** for a time.

- 6.** We didn't like the talk show _____ we switched to the movie channel. (1)
- A. as B. because
- C. so as D. ✓ **so**

Answer: D

The first clause gives the reason and the second gives the result: not liking the show caused the change of channel. **So** is the connector that puts the result second.

Because and *as* introduce a reason, so they would turn the sentence around and say we disliked the show because we changed channel. *So as* must be followed by *to* plus a verb.

Rule: reason + **so** + result; result + **because** + reason.

Textbook: Grade 12 English, Unit 2 Grammar (Expressing Result).

7. I like _____ sugar in my tea. Do have some, please? (1)
- A. ✓ a little B. any
- C. many D. a few

Answer: A

Sugar is uncountable, so it takes **a little**, meaning a small amount. The friendly offer that follows shows the speaker likes some sugar, not none.

A few and *many* only go with countable plural nouns such as spoons. *Any* belongs in questions and negatives.

Rule: a little + uncountable noun means a small but positive amount; plain **little** means almost none.

Textbook: Grade 10 English, Unit 8 Grammar (Quantifiers).

8. Members of the team sat down under a tree and rested because they were _____ tired after the long journey on foot.
- A. ✓ extremely B. hardly
- C. quickly D. fat

Answer: A

The blank modifies the adjective *tired*, so it needs an adverb of degree. **Extremely** tired fits a long journey on foot that forced the team to sit down and rest.

Hardly is the trap: *hardly* tired means almost not tired, which contradicts the resting. *Quickly* describes speed, and *fat* is an adjective, so it cannot describe another adjective.

Rule: to strengthen an adjective use a degree adverb such as **extremely**, **very** or **really**.

9. The country was able to register a significant economic growth _____ the negative impacts of both internal and external factors.
- A. in spite B. although
- C. ✓ despite D. even though

Answer: C

What follows the blank is a noun phrase, "the negative impacts of both internal and external factors", not a full clause.

Despite is the contrast word that takes a noun phrase directly.

In spite is incomplete because it must be written *in spite of*. *Although* and *even though* need a subject and a verb after them.

Rule: **despite** and **in spite of** take a noun; **although** and **even though** take a clause.

10. I hate going out for a walk -----the rainy season. (1)
- A. at
- B. ✓ during
- C. at the same time as
- D. while

Answer: B

"The rainy season" is a noun phrase naming a period of time, so the blank needs a preposition of time. **During** means all through that period.

While is the tempting one, but it must be followed by a subject and a verb, as in "while it is raining". *At* marks a point in time such as at six o'clock.

Rule: during + noun phrase, **while** + clause.

Textbook: Grade 12 English, Unit 4 Grammar (Adverbial Clauses of Time).

- 11.** Our housemaid is really a nice woman. She _____ a mother. (1)
- A. is as B. ✓ **is like**
- C. acts D. looks

Answer: B

The sentence compares the housemaid to a mother: she is not the children's mother, she only resembles one. **Is like** expresses that similarity.

Acts and *looks* also need *like* before a noun, so on their own they are wrong. *Is as* is not used for comparison with a single noun.

Rule: use **like** + noun for similarity, and **as** + noun for a real role or job, as in "He works as a driver".

12. Many more books _____ for the school library next year.

(1)

- A. buy B. will buy
C. are bought D. ✓ **will the bought**

Answer: D

The books do not buy anything, they receive the action, so the sentence is passive. "Next year" makes it future, so the form is **will be + past participle**, that is "will be bought".

Will buy is active and would mean the books do the buying. *Are bought* is present passive and clashes with next year.

Rule: future passive = **will be + past participle.**

Textbook: Grade 12 English, Unit 8 Grammar (Active and Passive Voice).

13. All the participants of the meeting _____ to express their opinions freely.

(1)

- A. allowed B. ✓ were allowed
C. were allow D. allow

Answer: B

The participants received the permission, so the verb is passive, and the meeting is over, so it is past. Past passive is **were + past participle**: were allowed.

Allowed alone would mean the participants gave permission to someone else. *Were allow* mixes a passive helper with a base verb, which is never correct.

Rule: past passive = was or were + past participle.

Textbook: Grade 12 English, Unit 8 Grammar (Active and Passive Voice).

14. I think they _____ the issue at the next meeting.

(1)

- A. ✓ are going to discuss B. will be going to discuss
C. discussing D. going to discuss

Answer: A

The speaker reports a plan that is already decided for the next meeting, and English marks a plan with **be going to + base verb**.

Will be going to discuss is not an English form. *Discussing* and *going to discuss* are missing the helping verb *are*.

Rule: am, is, are + going to + base verb for an intention or a plan already made.

Textbook: Grade 10 English, Unit 4 Grammar (using be going to and will).

15. Although the doctor has warned him several times, he hasn't stopped _____ yet.

(1)

- A. to drink B. drinks
C. to get drunk D. ✓ drinking

Answer: D

After **stop**, a verb in the **-ing** form names the habit that is being given up. The doctor's warnings are about the habit of drinking, so "hasn't stopped drinking" is right.

To drink is the trap: "stop to drink" means pause in order to have a drink, which is the opposite idea.

Rule: stop + verb-ing means quit the activity; **stop + to + verb** means pause in order to do it.

Textbook: Grade 12 English, Unit 5 Grammar (Gerunds, Infinitives and Participles).

- 16.** If he _____ more carefully, he wouldn't have had the accident. (1)
- A. ✓ **had driven**
- B. drove
- C. would drive
- D. has driven

Answer: A

The result clause is *wouldn't have had*, which is the third conditional, used for a past situation that cannot be changed. Its if-clause must be past perfect: **had driven**.

Drove is the tempting one, but simple past belongs to the second conditional, which pairs with *would drive*, not *would have had*.

Rule: third conditional = **If + had + past participle, would have + past participle.**

Textbook: Grade 12 English, Unit 3 Grammar (Tense Balance in Conditional Sentences); also Grade 9, Unit 5.

- 17.** The place is a long way from here. I think we _____ take a taxi. (1)
- A. ✓ **should** B. should have
C. ought D. had

Answer: A

The speaker is advising the best thing to do about a long distance, and advice takes **should + base verb**.

Ought is the near miss: it is only correct as *ought to take*. *Should have* talks about a past action that did not happen.

Rule: for advice use **should + base verb** or **ought to + base verb**.

Textbook: Grade 10 English, Unit 10 Grammar (Modal auxiliaries: ought to, should, must, have to).

- 18.** The new park is really _____, You should go and see it. (1)
- A. fascinated B. fascinates
- C. ✓ **fascinating** D. fascination

Answer: C

The park causes the feeling, so it takes the **-ing** adjective: **fascinating**.

Fascinated is the classic trap, but the *-ed* form describes the person who feels something, as in "I was fascinated by the park". *Fascination* is a noun and *fascinates* is a verb.

Rule: the thing is **interesting, boring, fascinating**; the person is **interested, bored, fascinated**.

- 19.** My mobile phone is missing. I _____ dropped it somewhere. (1)
- A. would have B. ✓ **might have**
- C. couldn't have D. haven't dropped

Answer: B

The phone is missing and the speaker is guessing about what happened earlier. A guess about the past is **might have + past participle**.

Couldn't have denies the possibility, which contradicts the missing phone. *Would have* needs a condition, and *haven't dropped* flatly denies it.

Rule: may or might have + past participle for something that possibly happened in the past.

Textbook: Grade 10 English, Unit 10 Grammar (Modal auxiliaries).

20. Many people do not _____ it is easy to find jobs these days. (1)
- A. count
B. ✓ think
C. mean
D. dare

Answer: B

What follows the blank is an opinion clause, "it is easy to find jobs these days". The verb that takes an opinion clause here is **think**.

Mean reports what words signal, not what people believe. *Count* and *dare* do not fit this pattern at all.

Rule: opinion verbs such as **think**, **believe** and **feel** are followed by a clause, and English usually makes *think* negative rather than the clause.

Textbook: Grade 10 English, Unit 9 Grammar (State verbs: thoughts and opinions).

21. If you practice regularly, there is not doubt that your English _____ much better. (1)
- A. has been
B. is
C. ✓ will be
D. was

Answer: C

This is a real future possibility, so it is the first conditional: **if + present simple** in the if-clause and **will + verb** in the main clause. You practise now, and the result comes later.

/s keeps the result in the present, which clashes with "if you practice regularly" pointing forward. *Was* and *has been* put the improvement in the past.

Rule: first conditional = **If + present simple, will + base verb**.

Textbook: Grade 12 English, Unit 3 Grammar (Tense Balance in Conditional Sentences).

22. Next time you come to class don't forget _____ your textbook. (1)
- A. ✓ to bring
B. brining
C. having brought
D. bring

Answer: A

After **forget**, a **to-infinitive** is used for a duty in the future. The sentence warns about the next class, so it is "don't forget to bring your textbook".

Brining is the trap: "forget bringing" would mean losing the memory of a past event. *Bring* and *having brought* do not follow *forget*.

Rule: **forget or remember + to + verb** looks forward; **forget or remember + verb-ing** looks back.

Textbook: Grade 12 English, Unit 5 Grammar (Gerunds, Infinitives and Participles).

23. There is a lot of dissatisfaction at present, but _____ that things will improve in the coming years. (1)
- A. I'm looking
B. I'm not sure
C. ✓ I'm certain
D. I'm worried

Answer: C

The connector **but** demands a contrast. The first half is negative, so the second half must be hopeful: **I'm certain** that things will improve.

I'm not sure and *I'm worried* repeat the gloomy idea, so nothing is contrasted. *I'm looking* is incomplete because it needs "forward to".

Rule: after **but**, expect the opposite idea to the one before it.

24. Girum: Let's go to the theatre this afternoon. There is a new play at the National Theatre.

(1)

Mihiret: I wish I _____ a lot of work today the time. I have

A. ✓ **had**

B. have

C. have had

D. will have

Answer: A

The words of this item were printed out of order by the source. Read Mihiret's reply as: "I wish I had the time. I have a lot of work today."

She is refusing because of a present situation she cannot change, and **wish** takes a past tense verb for present unreality: **had**.

Have is the trap, but "I wish I have" is never correct in English.

Rule: wish + past simple talks about a present situation you want to be different.

Textbook: Grade 12 English, Unit 9 Grammar (Pattern of the Verb with wish).

25. You have _____ to do at home this afternoon, so you can't go out

(1)

A. nothing

B. anything

C. not

D. ✓ **something**

Answer: D

The reason for staying at home is that work exists, so the sentence is positive: you have **something** to do.

Nothing is the trap, but having nothing to do would be a reason to go out, not to stay. *Anything* belongs in questions and negatives, and *not* cannot follow *have* like this.

Rule: use **something** in positive statements and **anything** in questions and negatives.

Textbook: Grade 10 English, Unit 4 Grammar (the indefinite pronouns some and any).

26. Have all the committee members arrived? _____ the meeting.

(1)

A. They have started

B. It is not possible to conduct

C. ✓ **It is about time we started**

D. It is the chairman who called

Answer: C

The first speaker checks whether everyone has arrived, so the natural reply is that the meeting is now overdue. **It is about time we started** says exactly that.

Notice the past form *started* after "it is about time", even though the meaning is present. *They have started* contradicts the question, and the other options answer nothing that was asked.

Rule: after **it is time**, **it is high time** and **it is about time**, use a past tense verb for something that should already be happening.

27. My younger brother is very much interested _____ studying robotics.

(1)

A. on

B. ✓ **in**

C. for

D. at

Answer: B

The adjective *interested* is always followed by **in**. Here the interest is in studying robotics.

On, *for* and *at* go with other adjectives, such as good at or famous for, but never with interested.

Rule: learn adjective and preposition pairs as one unit: **interested in**, **afraid of**, **good at**, **proud of**.

Textbook: Grade 10 English, Unit 3 Grammar (Prepositions).

28. Muktar went to Jimma _____ old friends. see his (1)
- A. for B. because
C. as to D. ✓ in order to

Answer: D

The scraped stem prints the words out of order; it should read "Muktar went to Jimma _____ see his old friends."

The blank answers the question why he travelled, and a purpose before a base verb is shown by **in order to**.

For would need a noun after it, as in "for his old friends". *As to* is not used for purpose; the fixed phrase is *so as to*.

Rule: to give a purpose use **to**, **in order to** or **so as to** plus the base verb.

Textbook: Grade 10 English, Unit 6 Grammar (Adverb clauses of purpose).

29. I wish I _____ a pilot so that I can travel to different parts of the world. (1)
- A. have been B. am
C. ✓ were D. can be

Answer: C

The speaker is not a pilot, so this is an imaginary present situation. After **wish**, English uses **were** for every subject, including I and he.

Am is the trap because it sounds natural, but "I wish I am" is never used. *Have been* and *can be* also break the wish pattern.

Rule: **I wish I were, he wishes he were**, for something untrue right now.

Textbook: Grade 12 English, Unit 9 Grammar (Pattern of the Verb with wish).

30. If you don't want to be broke, you _____ your money wisely. (1)
- A. ought to do B. has used
C. ✓ ought to use D. ought have used

Answer: C

The sentence advises a wise habit, and advice is expressed with **ought to + base verb**. The verb that goes with money here is *use*, so "ought to use your money wisely".

Ought to do picks the wrong verb, *ought have used* is missing *to* and points to the past, and *has used* is not advice at all.

Rule: **ought to** always keeps *to*, and the verb after it stays in the base form.

Textbook: Grade 10 English, Unit 10 Grammar (Modal auxiliaries: ought to, should, must, have to).

31. Students who came late this morning _____ to report to the Unit Leader's office. (1)
- A. have told B. told
C. would tell D. ✓ were told

Answer: D

The students received the instruction from someone else, so the verb is passive, and the morning is over, so it is past: **were told**.

Told and *have told* are active and would mean the latecomers gave the order. *Would tell* points to an unreal or future action.

Rule: when the subject receives the action, use **be + past participle**, matching the tense of the sentence.

Textbook: Grade 12 English, Unit 8 Grammar (Active and Passive Voice).

32. The girl is _____ herself. to take care of

(1)

- A. young
B. enough old
C. ✓ **old enough**
D. old

Answer: C

The sentence says the girl has reached the age at which she can look after herself. That idea is built as **adjective + enough + to + verb**, so it is **old enough** to take care of herself.

Enough old is the trap: *enough* comes before a noun but after an adjective. *Young* and plain *old* leave out the ability the sentence needs.

Rule: **adjective + enough** (tall enough, old enough), but **enough + noun** (enough money).

33. They are working very hard on the project, and _____ they will complete it in time.

(1)

- A. convinced
B. ✓ **I am sure that**
C. hesitate
D. I have no point

Answer: B

The word **and** joins two complete clauses, so the second one needs its own subject and verb. **I am sure that** supplies both and matches the confident tone of hard work.

Convinced and *hesitate* have no subject, so the clause is broken. *I have no point* is not an English expression of opinion.

Rule: each clause joined by **and** must have its own subject and verb.

34. My friend says that she _____ all her assignments already.

(1)

- A. ✓ **has done**
B. will be doing
C. will be done
D. will do

Answer: A

The word **already** shows that the work is finished at some time before now, which is the present perfect: **has + past participle**.

Will do and *will be doing* point to the future, which contradicts *already*. *Will be done* is future passive and does not fit "she" as the doer.

Rule: use the present perfect with **already**, **just** and **yet** for actions finished before now.

— END OF MARKING KEY —

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