

Quiz 2. Testing Your ESL Grammar Knowledge

For each of these 20 multiple choice questions, choose the one answer that best answers or completes the item. Answering these 20 questions should not take more than ten minutes, which allows approximately 30 seconds per question. If you need more time than this, then you do not know this material well enough yet. (Answers are on p. 14. For detailed explanations, see the Keys or other text reference indicated in the margin next to each question in the quiz.)

1. Adding the letter *-s* to a word in English can be confusing to an ESL learner because the letter *-s* means
 - A. plural for nouns but singular for adjectives.
 - B. plural for count nouns and singular for non-count nouns.
 - C. plural for nouns but singular for verbs.
 - D. plural for nouns but singular for possessives.
 - E. plural for nouns and singular for irregular verbs.

2. In English, we use *a few* (instead of *a little*) with
 - A. non-count nouns.
 - B. count nouns.
 - C. negative nouns.
 - D. certain adjective phrases.
 - E. certain adverb phrases.

3. Which of these verbs is in the past perfect tense?
 - A. *had eaten*
 - B. *was eating*
 - C. *was eaten*
 - D. *had been eating*
 - E. *would have eaten*

4. When adding a suffix such as *-ing* or *-ed* to a verb, we may double the last letter of the original verb if
 - A. those last three letters are Consonant + Vowel + Consonant.
 - B. those last three letters are Vowel + Vowel + Consonant.
 - C. those last three letters are Vowel + Consonant + Vowel.
 - D. those last three letters are Consonant + Consonant + Vowel.
 - E. those last three letters are Consonant + Vowel + Vowel.



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5. Why do we use these prepositions after these adjectives: *accustomed to*, *composed of*, *famous for*, *interested in*, and *responsible for*?
- A. It depends on the number of syllables in the adjective.
 - B. It depends on the number of vowels in the adjective.
 - C. It depends on the first letter of the adjective.
 - D. It depends on the tense of the verb used in the sentence where the adjective occurs.
 - E. There is no reason. Learners must memorize these usages.



6. *Had better*, *will*, and *ought to* are
- A. infinitives.
 - B. modals.
 - C. gerunds.
 - D. phrasal verbs.
 - E. idioms.



7. In general, *the* is not used with the names of countries, but an exception is
- A. Asian and European country names.
 - B. country names that begin with a vowel letter.
 - C. country names that begin with a vowel sound.
 - D. country names that seem plural.
 - E. country names with 3 or more syllables.



8. Choose the underlined verb that is in a tense that does not match the time normally associated with that particular tense.
- I got up early, drove to the post office, and mailed that box to Sue this morning. When she gets it, I am sure that she will call me.*
- A. got up
 - B. drove
 - C. mailed
 - D. gets
 - E. will call

9. Choose the one sentence in which the capitalized word is **not** a pronoun.
- A. *They have their check, but the waiter took OURS.*
 - B. *YOU have seen that movie twice, haven't you?*
 - C. *Does Jane have HER paper with her today?*
 - D. *Excuse me. Is this phone card yours or MINE?*
 - E. *I don't know HIM very well, but I have known his brother for ages.*

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10. Which sentence has an intransitive verb?
- A. *In the storm, the small bird plunged from the tree.*
 - B. *In spite of the rain, we enjoyed the party a lot.*
 - C. *Every student in the class uses a number 2 pencil for the weekly tests.*
 - D. *Upon hearing all of the evidence, the jury reached a unanimous verdict.*
 - E. *Who murdered the robber?*
11. Which of these animal names ends in the sound /s/?
- A. monkeys
 - B. lions
 - C. tigers
 - D. hippos
 - E. giraffes
12. Which of these is the least useful grammar category for English learners (and is therefore almost never covered in any ESL grammar book for students)?
- A. articles
 - B. clauses
 - C. adjectives
 - D. conjunctions
 - E. interjections
13. *Stop* becomes *stopping*; *listen* becomes *listening*. The *p* in *stopping* is doubled, but the *n* in *listening* is not. Why is the *n* not doubled to *listennning*?
- A. The last letter in *listen* is *n*.
 - B. The last letter in *listen* is a consonant.
 - C. The word *listening* is a gerund.
 - D. The word *listen* has two syllables.
 - E. The first syllable of *listen* is stressed.
14. In this sentence from an autobiography, *When I was a kid, I would play with my imaginary friends*, *would* is used because it refers to
- A. permission to do an action.
 - B. a desire to do the action.
 - C. very polite language for the action.
 - D. past repeated actions.
 - E. conditional situations.

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15. When an action word occurs after any preposition (except *to*), that word is usually
- an infinitive.
 - a past participle.
 - a gerund.
 - a base form.
 - a present participle.



16. In which sentence is *light* used as a non-count noun?
- She put on her light green sweater because it was cold.*
 - We need more light in this office.*
 - Please turn off the light when you are done.*
 - The fire began to light up the entire room.*
 - Will Janet light the furnace before she leaves?*



17. For English learners, which of these pairs of words exemplifies a whole group of adjectives that are immensely problematic in mastering English?
- chosen vs. selected*
 - economy vs. economical*
 - fried vs. baked*
 - annoyed vs. annoying*
 - Polish vs. polish*



18. Which of these sentences has a phrasal verb?
- On our way to work today, the traffic held us up.*
 - The cat may have been sleeping since noon.*
 - Mark will work harder, together we can finish this job.*
 - Joe typed the memo, put it in an envelope, and mailed it.*
 - Joe typed the memo, Sue put it in an envelope, and I mailed it.*

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19. When we talk about a contrary-to-fact condition for right now, what does the verb in the *if* clause look like?
- A. simple present tense
 - B. simple past tense
 - C. present progressive tense
 - D. *would* + VERB
 - E. *would have* + VERB
20. Which of these CAPITALIZED parts is an adjective clause?
- A. No one is certain of WHAT THE OUTCOME OF THAT MEETING WILL BE.
 - B. WHAT THAT BANK FAILED TO DO was to inform the clients of the approaching deadline.
 - C. In spite of the scientific knowledge clearly available at that time, THAT RATS AND OTHER RODENTS COULD SPREAD DISEASE was discounted.
 - D. Geologists had warned for decades OF THE POSSIBILITY OF A CATASTROPHIC EARTHQUAKE IN THAT REGION.
 - E. The mechanic did his best to save the parts of the car THAT WERE SALVAGEABLE, but in the end, little could be saved.

Your Score: ____/20



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