

EASY ENGLISH

**Model Questions from
Standard English Exams**

COMPREHENSION

GRAMMAR

ORAL

**with
answers and simplified
explanations**

Volume I

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INTRODUCTION

Thank you for buying this educative ebook from englishnaija.com.

This ebook gives answers to questions examiners ask year after year in local and international exams, but with a different approach.

It has three parts—COMPREHENSION, GRAMMAR and ORAL—with 150 questions in all. Here, every question has an answer, and every answer has a simplified but detailed explanation.

Basically, it's for everyone who wants to improve on their written and spoken English because the explanations provided are what we use every day.

Each part has short tips, short enough as not to bore you. Similarly, the passages under COMPREHENSION are relatively short (for easy reading), but the rules are the same, whether a passage is long or short.

Go ahead, study, and keep improving. We all keep learning every day.

May you find the knowledge you seek.

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PART 1

COMPREHENSION

TIPS

To perform exceptionally well in comprehension exams, take the following steps:

- **Build your vocabulary:** Every comprehension passage tests your knowledge of understanding words, sentences and larger components. Make sure you build your vocabulary—know words and their meanings. When you learn a new word, make sentences with it and you'll never forget. But don't rush yourself, learn bit by bit.
- **Read questions first:** Reading questions first helps to have a general insight into what you are about to read. When you start reading the passage, the answer to each question will flash through your mind.
- **Don't give answers from your head:** Whether you know about what has been written or not, do not bring your knowledge into it. Examiners want you to give answers on what you read, not what you know. Even if you don't agree with the writer, keep your opinion to yourself until you get back home.
- **Use the elimination method:** When you see the options of a particular question, delete the ones you think would never be the answer even in Jupiter. With that, you can easily spot the correct answer from the ones left.
- **Remember that replaced words must belong to the same part of speech:** If you want to replace a word with another, they must belong to the same part of speech, unless either of them is a group of words. So, a noun will replace a noun, an adjective will replace an adjective, and so on.

Comprehension

Passage 1

'The life of man is liable to so many changes, that necessity does not allow us to glory in prosperity, which may endure but for a time.'

Those were the words of a wise man who asserted that good things are not permanent. Pessimistic—I'd say—but those words are true.

No matter how hard you try to figure it all out, life will always be a puzzle: the good will be delectable, the bad will be repulsive.

But good things come to those who wait, so endure the bad times, and enjoy the good ones.

1. Changes occur ____.

- A. in a man
- B. in men
- C. in life
- D. in liability

Answer: C

According to the passage as a whole, it's in the 'life' of man that changes occur.

2. We do not glory in prosperity because of ____.

- A. necessity
- B. life of man
- C. endurance
- D. time

Answer: A

'...necessity does not allow us to glory in prosperity...'

3. The main attribute of prosperity is ____?

- A. stability
- B. transience
- C. permanency
- D. persistence

Answer: B

The noun ‘transience’ means ‘the attribute of lasting for only a short time’. According to the passage, ‘...necessity does not allow us to glory in prosperity, which may endure but for a time.’

Note: The noun ‘permanency’ is more formal but less frequently used than ‘permanence’.

4. The comma before 'and' in the last paragraph is the ____.

- A. Final comma
- B. Oxford comma
- C. Penultimate comma
- D. Grammatical comma

Answer: B

The Oxford Comma (also called Serial Comma) is the necessary comma before ‘and’ or ‘or’ to separate the last item on a list of three or more items from the one before it in order to avoid misinterpretation. It’s still a controversial concept, but it’s logical.

Look at this example from englishnaija.com:

1. *He bought Sharwama, pizza, eggs and grits, and broccoli soup.*
2. *He bought Sharwama, pizza, eggs and grits and broccoli soup.*

The meaning portrayed in 1 is that ‘eggs and grits’ is one meal, different from ‘broccoli soup’. In 2, we’re not sure whether ‘eggs’ is different from

'grits' and 'broccoli soup', or all three form a single meal, or any two form a single meal.

Passage 2

Enahoro came from a sporting background. He excelled in sports at King's College and is credited with being the first Nigerian National to gain membership of a golf club in Nigeria. He managed to bring his handicap down into single figures during his long golfing career.

He was also the driving force behind bringing FESTAC to Nigeria in the 1970s, during which time both Muhammad Ali and Pele visited the country to widespread acclaim.

All his children excelled at sports during their schooling and university years, playing Football, Rugby, Golf and Tennis.

Kenneth (1953-2017) and Eugene are avid golfers and founding members of the Saturday Society at Benin Golf Club. Annabella practices Pilates and Gabriel is an avid cyclist.

(Culled from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anthony_Enahoro)

1. Which of these is not true?
 - A. Enahoro was an excellent sportsman.
 - B. Enahoro brought golf to Nigeria.
 - C. Enahoro's children are good at sports.
 - D. Two of his children were founding members of the Saturday Society.

Answer: B

According to the passage, Enahoro did not bring golf to Nigeria. He was only ‘the first Nigerian National to gain membership of a golf club...’

2. Kenneth died in ____.

- A. 1993
- B. 1953
- C. 2009
- D. 2017

Answer: D

‘Kenneth (1953-2017) ...’

3. According to the passage, Enahoro had ____ children.

- A. 2
- B. 4
- C. 6
- D. 3

Answer: B

‘Kenneth (1953-2017) and Eugene are avid golfers and founding members of the Saturday Society at Benin Golf Club. Annabella practices Pilates and Gabriel is an avid cyclist.’

4. According to the passage, Enahoro played ____.

- A. golf and lawn tennis

- B. golf
- C. Pilates
- D. Football

Answer: B

Golf is the only sport mentioned as what Enahoro played.

Passage 3

Waterskiing and waterboarding both involve being pulled through the water by a fast boat. A waterskier wears one or two waterskis, but a waterboarder stands sideways on a waterboard.

Other extreme sports include skydiving, paragliding, parasailing and base jumping.

To attempt any of these, you should be focused and daring because at the end of the day, it's your choice that matters.

1. A waterboarder wears a waterboard.
 - A. True
 - B. False
 - C. Maybe
 - D. Absolutely

Answer: B

A waterboarder does not 'wear' but 'stands sideways on' a waterboard.

2. Which of these is an extreme sport?

- A. Waterskiing
- B. Paragliding
- C. Waterboarding
- D. All of the above

Answer: D

According to the passage, all are extreme sports.

3. Those who attempt extreme sports should ____.

- A. be ready to jump
- B. be ready to live
- C. concentrate and be brave
- D. be closer to their maker

Answer: C

'To attempt any of these, you should be focused and daring...'

4. On the whole, extreme sports are ____.

- A. good sports
- B. bad sports
- C. not too bad
- D. matters of choice

Answer: D

The passage does not state whether extreme sports are good or bad, but that ‘...at the end of the day, it’s your choice that matters.’

Passage 4

Mary Onyali-Omagbemi performed exceptionally well at the All-Africa Games, winning a total of seven individual medals in the short sprints. She is the first Nigerian to compete at five Olympic Games.

All these have made her an outstanding athlete. Despite quitting the stage and living in America, she continues to contribute to the game.

She is a role model to athletes, a mother to wonderful children, and a wife to a proud husband.

Her story will be told at every moment of the game because she sacrificed so much for her fatherland.

1. Mary Onyali-Omagbemi is a wonderful athlete because _____.
A. she won medals
B. she competed at five Olympic games
C. A and B
D. she is a wonderful mother, a role model and a good wife

Answer: C

According to the passage, Mary Onyali-Omagbemi competed and won medals, which made her an ‘outstanding athlete’. Being a good wife and other virtues are not part of her athletic life.

2. Which of these is not true about Mary?
- A. She has a husband and wonderful children.
 - B. She competed at seven All-Africa Games.
 - C. She is a Nigerian.
 - D. She sacrificed so much for her fatherland.

Answer: B

All except B are correct because she ‘won’ seven individual medals at the All-Africa Games, not ‘competed at’ seven.

3. A role model is someone ____.
- A. you love as a mother
 - B. you admire and want to imitate
 - C. you want to satisfy
 - D. you love and intend to support

Answer: B

A role model is someone you look up to, and you want to be like them.

4. 'Her story will be told at every moment of the game because she sacrificed so much for her fatherland' is an example of ____.
- A. a compound sentence
 - B. a complex sentence
 - C. a simple sentence
 - D. an interrogative sentence

Answer: B

A complex sentence has one main (independent) clause and one or more subordinate (dependent) clauses. The above sentence uses 'because', which is a subordinating conjunction, to bring together the main clause at the beginning and the subordinate clause at the end.

A subordinating conjunction shows the importance of the main clause and provides a transition between the ideas in a sentence. Other subordinating conjunctions include: although, though, as long as, even if, if, once, unless.

Passage 5

Nigeria, which is officially the Federal Republic of Nigeria, is a federal constitutional republic and comprises thirty-six states and its Federal Capital Territory, Abuja.

The country is located in West Africa and shares land borders with the Republic of Benin in the west, Chad and Cameroon in the east, and Niger in the north. Its coast in the south lies on the Gulf of Guinea on the Atlantic Ocean.

The three largest and most influential ethnic groups in Nigeria are the Hausa, Igbo and Yoruba.

1. The clause '...which is officially the Federal Republic of Nigeria...' in the first sentence is an example of ____.

- A. a middle expression
- B. a defining relative clause
- C. a non-defining relative clause
- D. an independent clause

Answer: C

A non-defining relative clause is used to give extra information, but it's not necessary because its omission does not affect the meaning of the sentence. It does not define the clause, hence the term 'non-defining'. It is always introduced by a relative pronoun (who, whom, which or whose) and we use commas around it (before and after it). A defining relative clause is the opposite.

2. The location of Nigeria is in the ____ part of Africa.

- A. northern
- B. eastern
- C. western
- D. southern

Answer: C

According to the passage, it's located in 'West Africa'.

3. Nigeria has three ethnic groups.

- A. True
- B. False
- C. Maybe
- D. All of the above

Answer: B

The answer is 'false' because the expression 'three largest and most influential ethnic groups' means there are others.

4. How many times does 'Nigeria' appear in the passage?

- A. 3
- B. 2
- C. 4
- D. 1

Answer: A

The word 'Nigeria' appears twice in the first paragraph and once in the last.

PART 2

GRAMMAR

TIPS

To be competent in English language, try the following steps:

- **Start from simple to complex:** No one learns much from complex to simple in any field. Proficiency in English relies solely on your knowledge of smaller and simpler grammatical structures, so start from the beginning—learn the simple rules first.
- **Know who or where to learn from:** There are millions of teachers and teaching resources out there, so you have to know who or where to learn from. Double-check every new thing you learn from other sources because you can never be too sure.
- **Unlearn and relearn:** It's very easy to be misled in language learning. Sometimes, we realise that a particular knowledge we have is a misconception, and we might have cleaved to it for ages. Languages change in the course of time, that's why you should be willing to let go of some old knowledge, or learn some old concepts in new ways.
- **Don't be intimidated by know-olds:** A number of people only respond to your willingness to learn when you are wrong. They chastise and condemn you, then tell you what you 'must' say or write. No one learns much from intimidation. Remember: it's a free world—learn at your own pace and ignore those who insult your intelligence.

Grammar

1. He has a new car, ____?

- A. doesn't he
- B. hasn't he
- C. isn't he
- D. is he

Answer: A

When an auxiliary verb (a verb that helps the main verb) is absent in a question, we use the correct form of 'do' in the question tag. Here, 'has' is the only verb.

If the question is 'He has bought a car...', the question tag would be 'hasn't he?' because the main verb is 'bought'.

2. The secret of prosperity, success and happiness ____ persistence.

- A. is
- B. are
- C. were
- D. was

Answer: A

'The secret', a singular noun phrase, is the subject. The singular verb 'is' is appropriate.

3. One of the bathrooms ____ in bad condition.

- A. are
- B. were
- C. is
- D. am

Answer: C

'One of...' means 'one out of two or more', so a singular verb is appropriate.

4. Who is that?

- A. It is I.
- B. It is me.
- C. It is myself.
- D. I am he.

Answer: A

When you see this question in an exam or other formal settings, use 'It is I'. This is the rule of predicate nominative. The predicate nominative is a noun or pronoun that is at the object end of a linking verb.

Linking verbs are: is, was, am, has been, can be, will be, etc.

The rule is that the predicative normative should be in the subject form even in object positions. So, we'd say:

i. It is I.

ii. It was we.

This rule is based on Latin grammar, that's why some English grammarians do not support it.

However, it's natural for most of us (both native and non-native speakers) to say 'It is me.' Thus, this is acceptable in our everyday informal conversations.

5. That was the only ____ that disqualified him.

- A. criterion
- B. criterions
- C. criteria
- D. criterian

Answer: A

The noun 'criterion' is singular while 'criteria' is the plural form. 'criterions' and 'criterian' do not exist.

6. How many alphabet(s) are there in English language?

- A. 24
- B. 26
- C. 1
- D. 25

Answer: C

English has 26 letters but only one alphabet. An alphabet is a set of language letters arranged in a fixed order. A-Z is a fixed order, so these letters are altogether called the English alphabet.

7. I wish you the best. More ____ to your elbow.

- A. power
- B. grease
- C. muscle
- D. strength

Answer: A

The expression ‘more power to your elbow’ is an old saying used to encourage or support someone to achieve something. However, ‘elbow grease’ is the effort used in physical work, especially in polishing or cleaning.

8. Which of these is not a verb?

- A. is
- B. attack
- C. enough
- D. pretend

Answer: C

The word ‘enough’ could be a determiner, pronoun or an adverb, but it’s not a verb.

9. We ____ continue to be oppressed, we must fight.

- A. do not
- B. should
- C. can not
- D. cannot

Answer: D

Both ‘cannot’ and ‘can not’ are acceptable, but ‘cannot’ is much more usual as the opposite of ‘can’.

‘can not’ is usually used when it forms part of another construction that starts with ‘not’ such as ‘...can not only sing, but also...’

10. The adjective ‘viscous’ describe which of these?

- A. banana
- B. carrot
- C. weed
- D. okra

Answer: D

When something is viscous, it’s thick and sticky. Okra is a perfect example. It’s ‘okra’ in the UK, United States and the Philippines, but spelt ‘okro’ in Nigerian and Caribbean varieties of English, according to Wikipedia.

11. 'American' derived from 'America' is ____.

- A. a demonym
- B. a deronym
- C. a synonym
- D. an antonym

Answer: A

The term 'demonym' is used to describe the natives or inhabitants of a city, state, country, etc.

synonym: a word or phrase that has the same or almost the same meaning as another.

antonym: a word opposite in meaning to another.

'deronym' does not exist.

12. A person who pays too much attention to small details is ____.

- A. precocious
- B. pedantic
- C. pompous
- D. conspicuous

Answer: B

A pedantic person is excessive concerned with small or minor details and rules.

A precocious person is a child who behaves as if they are older than they are; a pompous person behaves as if they are more important than they are; a conspicuous person or thing is easily noticeable, often in an unwanted way.

13. This red dot between these paragraphs ____ the only sign we need.

- A. were
- B. is
- C. am
- D. was

Answer: B

'This red dot' is what is being referred to as 'the only sign', not the paragraphs, so a singular verb is appropriate. 'was' could only be appropriate if the sentence is in the past, but 'need' represents the present.

14. Which is the correct spelling?

- A. interpret
- B. interprete
- C. interpretet
- D. intercreat

Answer: A

The correct spelling is 'interpret'. It's one of the most misspelt words in English.

15. ____ , Nigeria is under the administration of President Muhammadu Buhari.

- A. On present
- B. At present
- C. Presentatiously

D. Now now

Answer: B

'At present' in British English means 'now', while 'presently' means 'soon'. In American English, 'presently' can be used as both 'now' and 'soon'.

16. He has been found guilty, so he's now ____.

- A. a sentenced man
- B. an accused
- C. a sinner
- D. a convict

Answer: D

A 'convict' is a person who has been declared guilty of an offence by a court of law. A 'convict' can also mean a 'prisoner'.

17. An emu is a ____.

- A. car
- B. tree
- C. tool
- D. bird

Answer: D

An emu is a large Australian bird with legs, long necks and grey or brown feathers. Emus cannot fly, but they can run fast.

18. A kleptomaniac has a strong desire to ____.

- A. rob
- B. embezzle
- C. steal
- D. commit crimes

Answer: C

Kleptomania is considered to be a mental illness that propels a strong wish to steal, especially without purpose.

19. If you want to ____ your job, go on a trip without permission.

- A. loose
- B. lose
- C. lost
- D. loosen

Answer: B

The word ‘lose’ (pronounced /lu:z/) is a verb that means ‘to no longer have something’. The past tense and past participle form is ‘lost’. It is also an uncommon noun, meaning ‘an instance of losing’ or ‘praise’.

It is often confused with ‘loose’ /lu:s/. As an adjective, ‘loose’ means ‘not held firmly together’ or ‘not exact’; as a verb, it means ‘to release’, ‘make something loose’ or ‘to relax one’s grip’; as a noun, it usually occurs in ‘on the loose’, meaning ‘having escaped from somewhere or a confined place’. The past tense and past participle form is ‘loosed’.

20. He asked ____.

- A. if I know him
- B. if I knew him
- C. if I known him
- D. if I'm knowing him

Answer: B

When you report a yes/no question, use 'if' or 'whether' + simple past because it's already in the past.

21. Just put the letter in an ____.

- A. envelop
- B. envelope
- C. envelopment
- D. envelopy

Answer: B

An 'envelope' (noun) is a square or rectangular paper container that encloses a letter or other documents

'envelop' is its verb form, e.g. I'll envelop your promotion letter immediately. 'envelopment' and 'envelopy' do not exist.

23. To impeach is to ____.

- A. remove from office
- B. accuse of a serious crime
- C. send away on a mission
- D. attack an opposition party

Answer: B

To impeach is to formally accuse a public officer of a serious crime that is connected to his job. It doesn't mean they have been removed from office, though it might eventually lead to that.

24. A sanctimonious person is ____.

- A. self-righteous
- B. disciplined
- C. holy
- D. easily satisfied

Answer: A

A sanctimonious person acts as if they are more righteous or morally better than others.

25. He has given her the wallet, ____?

- A. doesn't he
- B. hasn't he
- C. don't he
- D. isn't it

Answer: B

When an auxiliary verb is present in a question, we use its opposite form in its question tag— 'has' will change to 'hasn't', 'hasn't' will change to 'has'.

26. Which of these is true about direct speech?

- A. It is exactly what someone said.
- B. It is what you think someone said.
- C. It is a declarative sentence.
- D. It is a direct statement from your friend.

Answer: A

A direct speech is exactly what someone said; an indirect speech reports it.

Examples:

- i. ‘Do you like Shawarma?’ he asked. (*direct*)
- ii. He asked if I liked Shawarma. (*indirect*)

27. The phrase 'in the garden' is an example of a ____.

- A. verb phrase
- B. noun phrase
- C. place phrase
- D. prepositional phrase

Answer: D

A prepositional phrase is preposition+ modifier (optional) + noun, pronoun, gerund or clause. Examples: with him, at home, with excessive swimming, etc.

28. The noun 'fridge' from 'refrigerator' is an example of ____.

- A. blending
- B. clipping
- C. cutting
- D. removing

Answer: B

Clipping is the reduction of a word to one of its parts. Blending is the combination of different words after some parts have been removed (e.g. cybernetic+organism=cyborg).

29. He ____ me before I came into the room.

- A. has seen
- B. have seen me
- C. had saw
- D. had seen

Answer: D

We use 'had' with the past participle of other verbs to form the past perfect. We use the past perfect to talk about something that happened before another action, so it's like a 'past past' tense.

30. He went into coma after he was knocked out by a blow____ the head.

- A. at
- B. on
- C. in
- D. to

Answer: D

One takes a blow ‘to...’ when one is given a powerful stroke with a hand, weapon, or hard object on a particular part of the body.

31. The word 'quite' is ____.

- A. a verb
- B. an adverb
- C. an adjective
- D. a noun

Answer: B

The word ‘quite’ can function as an adverb and a predeterminer, but not as a verb, an adjective or a noun.

32. The word 'isn't' is an example of ____.

- A. cutting
- B. contraction
- C. contrition
- D. abbreviation

Answer: B

A contraction is usually between words—a noun or pronoun and verb, or verb and ‘not’. It is pronounced as a word, e.g. hasn’t (has not), couldn’t (could not), won’t (will not).

An abbreviation is a short form of a word or phrase, e.g. Afr. (Africa), anecd. (anecdotes), approx. (approximate). In British English, a full stop is

only used when the last letter of an abbreviation is not the last letter of the full word.

A contraction is pronounced as written, but an abbreviation usually isn't because it might not be meaningful.

33. A proper noun is all of these except ____.

- A. a name of a person
- B. a name of place
- C. it ends with a full stop
- D. it starts with a capital letter

Answer: C

A proper noun is a name of a person, name of a place, and always starts with a capital letter. It can only end with a full stop if it ends a sentence.

34. He looked at her and sighed.

'sighed' is ____.

- A. a transitive verb
- B. an intransitive verb
- C. a noun
- D. a demonstrative adjective

Answer: B

An intransitive verb does not have or need an object. An object is the receiver of the action in a sentence. You cannot 'sigh' something, so sigh cannot be followed by an object.

To 'sigh' is to breathe out slowly in order to express pleasure, worry, sadness, etc.

A transitive verb, in contrast, requires a direct object, i.e. something that receives its action. Examples: kick (a ball), knock (on/at a door), go (home), clean (a floor).

35. A comma is best described as ____.

- A. a hesitation
- B. a surprise
- C. a little time
- D. a pause

Answer: D

A comma represents an intentional pause.

36. 40% of the land ____ given to the chairman of the company.

- A. was
- B. we're
- C. were
- D. are

Answer: A

If a percentage is used with an uncountable noun, such as 'land' in the above context, we generally use a singular verb.

37. ____ is a punctuation mark written as '...'.

- A. a dot

- B. a triple full stop
- C. an ellipsis
- D. a stop

Answer: C

An ellipsis (...) is used to show that something is missing in a text. It could be a hesitation, a pause, or an intentional omission. It's usually represented by three dots; a fourth is a full stop.

38. We ____ our glasses and celebrated the victory.

- A. clash
- B. clicked
- C. clinked
- D. cut

Answer: C

To clink is to cause a make a short ringing sound by striking metals or glass lightly together.

39. Shoplifting is ____.

- A. the crime of borrowing from a shop owner without paying back
- B. the crime of moving a shop from its original position
- C. the act of changing the goods in a shop
- D. the crime of stealing from a shop

Answer: D

Shoplifting is the illegal act of taking goods from a shop while pretending as a customer but not paying for them.

40. The discovery of electricity was a ____ breakthrough for humanity.

- A. historical
- B. historic
- C. Hispanic
- D. historicist

Answer: B

A historic event is important, famous or significant in history; a historical event is just connected to history, the study of history or past events.

41. He gave him the book.

The direct object in the above sentence is ____.

- A. the book
- B. he
- C. him
- D. gave

Answer: A

The direct object is directly affected by the action of the transitive verb. He gave what? The book. The indirect object is to whom the action of the verb is performed, as well as who receives the direct object.

42. He has _____ a wonderful father to his daughter.

- A. being
- B. been
- C. be
- D. bean

Answer: B

Been is a past participle of 'be'. It is used with has, have, had, would have, will have and their other forms. Don't forget that has, have and had are always followed by past participles.

Being is a present participle of 'be'. It is used with is, was, am, are and were.

43. 'Be that as it may' is an expression that means _____.

- A. in order to
- B. in response to
- C. despite that
- D. in lieu of

Answer: C

'Be that as it may' is the same as 'despite that'. It is used to mean that you accept a piece of information, but it doesn't change your opinion.

44. We saw _____ in his garage.

- A. a red, big, exotic, American car
- B. an exotic, big, red, American car
- C. an American, big, red, exotic car

- D. an exotic, big, red, American car

Answer: B

Answer: exotic (opinion), big (size), red (colour), American (origin).

Order of adjectives: opinion (unusual, awesome)+ size (big, small)+ physical quality (rough, slim)+ shape (square, round)+ age (old, youthful)+ colour (black, red)+ origin (Nigerian, Indian)+ material (wooden, metallic)+ type (general-purpose, home-made)+ purpose (cooking, welding).

45. The stadium was filled with jubilation by the ____.

- A. audience
- B. spectators
- C. crowd
- D. mob

Answer: B

Spectators are people who watch an activity, especially a sport event.

An audience is a group of people who gather in a place to watch a play, film, someone speaking, etc, or attend a formal meeting with an important person; a crowd is a large number of people who have come together; a mob is an angry crowd that could easily become violent.

46. When you recapitulate, you ____.

- A. summarise
- B. return
- C. go back to your former job
- D. say what you think

Answer: A

To recapitulate or recap is to summarise what you have said earlier.

47. A parsnip is a ____.

- A. car
- B. vegetable
- C. gun
- D. piece of cloth

Answer: B

A parsnip is a long cream-coloured root of plant and it's eaten as a vegetable.

48. The press secretary talks too much, she is ____.

- A. voquacious
- B. voracious
- C. loquacious
- D. speakacious

Answer: C

loquacious (adjective) describes the act of talking a lot.

voracious describes being very eager for something, especially a lot of food. Options A and D do not exist.

49. The criminals were ____ by the police after the shootout.

- A. rounded off
- B. rounded up
- C. rounded in
- D. rounded around

Answer: B

To round up is to surround in order to arrest, or to find and gather animals, people or things together.

Round-up (noun) is the act of bringing together people, animal, things, etc. It could also mean a summary of the most important points in the news, etc.

To round off is to finish or complete something.

50. When you are able to understand quickly and accurately, you are ____.

- A. wonderful
- B. perspicacious
- C. lascivious
- D. grandiloquent

Answer: B

To be perspicacious is to be able to notice, understand and judge things accurately

To be lascivious is to openly show sexual interest or desire; to be ‘grandiloquent’ is to use language in a complicated way to impress or make someone or something seem important.

51. To 'go Dutch' is to ____.

- A. behave like a Dutch
- B. shoot someone
- C. share the cost of something with someone
- D. play football for a Dutch club

Answer: C

To go Dutch is to agree to share the cost of something (especially food) with someone equally.

52. An example of a reflexive pronoun is ____.

- A. his
- B. that
- C. himself
- D. ours

Answer: C

A reflexive pronoun refers back to the subject of a sentence. They are: myself, himself, herself, themselves, ourselves, yourself, yourselves, itself and oneself.

53. The daughter of your father's brother is your ____.

- A. niece
- B. cousin
- C. daughter-in-law
- D. personal person

Answer: B

Your father or mother's brother is simply your uncle; his child is your cousin. Your cousin is also the child of your aunt (your father or mother's sister).

54. An American asked a Nigerian, "You are not from Ghana?" He replied, "... ."

- A. Yes, I'm not
- B. No, I'm not
- C. No, I was
- D. Yes, I aren't

Answer: B

Always remember that negative answers should be negative throughout, and positive should be completely positive. You can't say 'Yes, I'm not' or 'No, I am'.

55. The word 'past' is all of the following except ____.

- A. a noun
- B. an adjective
- C. a preposition
- D. a verb

Answer: D

Past can be a noun (e.g. We can tell you about the past but we don't know what is coming ahead.), an adjective (e.g. My past experience with him was

awesome.), a preposition (e.g. He ran past me.), an adverb (e.g. A week went past and we still didn't see her.), but never a verb.

56. When you're able to use your left and right hands equally well, you are _____.
A. ambiguous
B. ambidextrous
C. megadextrous
D. didextrous

Answer: B

The adjective ‘ambidextrous’ is derived from Latin ambidexter—ambi (on both sides)+dexter(right-handed).

*‘ambiguous’ means ‘having or expressing more than one meaning’.
Options C and D do not exist.*

57. If someone is unreasonable, they are _____.
A. without brain
B. not generous
C. archaic
D. not fair

Answer: D

To be unreasonable is to be unfair or not guided by good sense.

58. We worked for him and learnt from his ____ of experience.
A. load

- B. reservoir
- C. weight
- D. wealth

Answer: D

The noun ‘wealth’ in this context is a plentiful supply of a desirable thing. Other examples: wealth of information, wealth of prolific writers, wealth of intelligence, etc.

59. Xerox (noun) is another word for ____.

- A. cancellation
- B. sale
- C. copy
- D. attack

Answer: C

Xerox as a noun is a trademark for a xerographic copying process, a machine that does this, or a copy made by a photographic process. As a verb, it means ‘to make a copy of a document using Xerox or other copying machine’.

60. The fear of being in confined spaces is called ____.

- A. agoraphobia
- B. claustrophobia
- C. apiphobia
- D. haemophobia

Answer: B

The term ‘claustrophobia’ is the phobia (extreme fear, especially one that cannot be explained) of being in closed or confined spaces. The opposite is

agoraphobia: the fear of going outside and being in open spaces or public places.

‘apiphobia’ is the fear of bees; ‘haemophobia’ is the fear of blood.

61. The man wearing a black suit is wealthy.

What is the subject of the above sentence?

- A. The man
- B. The man wearing a black suit
- C. the black suit
- D. wealthy

Answer: B

The subject of a sentence is who or what is being talked about or the performer of an action. The name of the person or thing and all the attributes that he/it has before the main verb is part of the subject. Another example: The man who seems to know everything we don't know about ourselves is here.

62. Which of these is a modal verb?

- A. is
- B. am
- C. can
- D. run

Answer: C

We use modal verbs to show that we believe something is or isn't likely, possible or certain. They are also used to show ability, permission, obligation, requests or to advise. They are: can/could, will/would, may/might, must, shall, should, ought and their negative forms.

63. A _____ is a place where a helicopter can take off and land.

- A. heliport
- B. helium
- C. helicopter
- D. helipad

Answer: D

A helipad is a place where a single helicopter can take off or land. A heliport is an airport for helicopters, not 'a helicopter'.

A helicopter can also be called a 'chopper' (informal).

Helium is a chemical element used in balloons, airships, etc.

64. I prefer English ____ Mathematics.

- A. than
- B. to
- C. apart from
- D. against

Answer: B

When you prefer something to another, you like the former better.

65. Dry ____ fell from the trees and littered the street.

- A. leafs
- B. leaves
- C. leave
- D. leaf

Answer: B

The plural form of 'leaf' is 'leaves'. Similar words are: calf/calves, half/halves, loaf/loaves, shelf/shelves, thief/thieves, etc.

66. The ____ against him were enough to put him behind bars for a long time.

- A. evidences
- B. more evidences
- C. pieces of evidence
- D. piece of evidences

Answer: C

The noun ‘evidence’ (proof) is an uncountable noun—we cannot form its plural form by adding ‘s’. However, we could use: pieces of evidence, a lot of evidence, etc.

67. A group of boats or small ships sailing together is a ____.

- A. flotilla
- B. boater
- C. shipment
- D. largesse

Answer: A

A flotilla is a large group of boats and ships.

A boater is a flat-topped hat made from straw.

Shipment is the action of shipping goods, or a large quantity of goods shipped to a place.

Largesse is money given by the rich to the poor, or willingness to give money.

68. A clause can be a sentence.

- A. True
- B. False
- C. Never

D. If it has a logical subject.

Answer: A

An independent clause is a simple sentence. Example: The children were singing.

69. They lack the skill required, so their ____ affected the project.

- A. inequity
- B. infatuation
- C. ineptitude
- D. nepotism

Answer: C

The noun ‘ineptitude’ means ‘lack of skills or effectiveness’.

‘inequity’ simply means ‘unfairness’; infatuation is a strong feeling of love that doesn’t usually last; nepotism is the act of using power or influence to get good jobs or undeserved opportunities for your family members.

70. The essence of last week’s training and the preventive action ____ to sabotage the effort of the terrorists.

- A. are
- B. was
- C. we're
- D. were

Answer: D

The subject ‘essence of the training and the preventive action’ is plural because it combines two things with ‘and’. The sentence is also a past event. Thus, the appropriate answer is a plural past tense verb.

71. When you interpolate, you ____.

- A. intervene
- B. intersect
- C. interrupt
- D. discuss

Answer: C

To interpolate is to interrupt someone, or add words to a text.

To intervene is to intentionally involve oneself in a situation in order to help or improve; to intersect is to divide into smaller parts by crossing with straight lines.

72. The principal admitted ____ competent teachers last week.

- A. to not have
- B. to have no
- C. to not have had
- D. to not having

Answer: D

When you admit to something, you accept that it is true. The principal admitted to something that was still ongoing at that particular time, so 'not having' is appropriate.

73. The ____ arrested the thief and locked him up.

- A. policeman
- B. police man
- C. police-man
- D. policed-man

Answer: A

'Policeman' is a single word without a hyphen.

74. Nobody knew his _____.

- A. whereabout
- B. whereabouts
- C. wherabouts
- D. whereabuots

Answer: B

We use 'whereabouts' (always ends in 's') as a noun and an adverb. It is a noun in the above sentence. It simply means the place where a person or thing is.

'Whereabouts is your house?' is an example of its adverb form. Here, it is used to ask in what part or area something is.

75. ____ the successful completion of your training.

- A. Congratulations on
- B. Congratulation on
- C. Congratulations for
- D. Congratulation for

Answer: A

We say 'congratulations on' something that someone achieved. Note that the word is usually written as 'congratulations' when we express good wishes to anyone.

76. The spelling of the word 'labour' is _____.

- A. American

- B. British
- C. Spanish
- D. Italian

Answer: B

The ‘-our’ form is British and ‘-or’ is American. Examples: saviour/savior, labour/labor, savour/savor. Americans tend to use the shorter word forms. This is why the saying ‘two nations divided by a common language’ is used to refer to British and American English differences.

77. His brother and sister are fond of fighting ____.

- A. one another
- B. each other
- C. all of the above
- D. one and each

Answer: C

Contrary to popular notion, ‘one another’ and ‘each other’ are now used interchangeably. They are used to say that each person or thing does something to the other or others, and are used for two or more people.

According to the British Council:

*‘Traditionally, **each other** refers to two people and **one another** refers to more than two people, but this distinction is disappearing in modern English.’*

78. ____ going to the mall.

- A. am
- B. I am
- C. I'm
- D. B and C

Answer: D

Both B and C are correct. When you refer to yourself, you cannot use ‘am’ alone, it’s always ‘I am’ or ‘I’m’.

79. Politicians are _____, don't trust them.

- A. cunning
- B. cunny
- C. cunnie
- D. cuny

Answer: A

Cunning people usually trick others to get what they want; the word also describes things that are cleverly made for a particular purpose. Cunning is both an adjective (e.g. He's a cunning man.) and a noun (e.g. He showed some cunning, that's why we neglected him).

Cunny (noun): a vulgar word for a woman's genital, or women in general when considered sexually.

Cunnie and cuny do not exist.

80. We will ____ him after the prayer.

- A. annoint
- B. anoinnt
- C. anoint
- D. annoinnt

Answer: C

The verb ‘anoint’ has two n’s and they’re not together. To anoint is to make someone holy by putting oil or holy water on them. It can also mean making someone king or queen, mostly as part of a religious ceremony.

81. Doctors said he was _____ because of the scar around his neck.

- A. strangled
- B. maimed
- C. killed
- D. murdered

Answer: A

The most appropriate answer is ‘strangled’. To strangle is to kill someone by pressing their neck so that they can no longer breathe.

82. A person's last name is their _____.

- A. husband's name
- B. surname
- C. maiden name
- D. pet name

Answer: B

A person’s last name is their surname—the name they share with other members of their family. ‘Last name’ is mainly American; ‘surname’ and ‘second name’ are mainly British.

A maiden name is a woman’s surname before she marries; a pet name is an informal name given to someone by their family or friends to express endearment or familiarity.

83. A willowy person is _____.

- A. attractively tall and slim
- B. attractively short and big
- C. thin and ugly
- D. smaller than usual

Answer: A

A willowy person (especially a woman) is tall, attractive and slim.

84. We realised that singing was the best we could do.

'singing' in the above sentence is ____.

- A. a gerund
- B. a verb
- C. an adjective
- D. an interjection

Answer: A

The word 'singing' is a gerund in the above sentence because it names an action. Gerunds are verbs that act as nouns, and they always end in -ing.

Look at these examples:

- i. *We realized that (the act of) singing is good. (gerund)*
- ii. *We were (doing the act of) singing when he came in. (progressive verb)*

Note that as a gerund, it shows that act, but as a progressive verb, it completes the verb 'were'.

85. Have you served the guests ____ the high table?

- A. on
- B. at
- C. in
- D. with

Answer: B

People sit 'at' a high table—a table at a formal meal where the most important people sit.

86. The word 'reverie' means ____.

- A. a state of thinking about something pleasant
- B. a state of sleeping peacefully
- C. an act of kindness
- D. redemption

Answer: A

Reverie (noun) is a state of dream-like pleasant thought.

87. Did she ____ the terms and conditions?

- A. understands
- B. understand
- C. understood
- D. understanding

Answer: B

When we ask a question with do/does/did, the verb form should be in its base form. Simply put, the verb remains in its original form without '-s', '-ed', etc. This is because do/does/did will take care of the tense and number agreement: do (you, they, we), does (he, she, it), did (past tense, goes with all).

88. He was advised to ____.

- A. temper justice with mercy
- B. tamper justice with mercy
- C. tender justice with mercy
- D. tinder justice with mercy

Answer: A

*To temper justice with mercy is to give a lighter punishment for an offence.
Note that it's 'temper', not 'tamper'.*

89. We were ____ with different instruments.

- A. equipped
- B. equiped
- C. equipeded
- D. equipen

Answer: A

The past tense and past participle form of 'equip' is 'equipped'.

90. Polite attention given to women by men is ____.

- A. masochism
- B. gallantry
- C. marriage
- D. date

Answer: B

Gallantry can represent courageous behaviour in battle, or the polite attention men give to women in public.

Masochism is the activity of getting sexual pleasure from being hurt, or the enjoyment of something people find unpleasant.

91. To aver is to ____.

- A. deny
- B. assert
- C. protest
- D. refuse

Answer: B

To aver is to state or assert that something is certainly true, e.g. He averred that he wasn't at the party.

92. The past tense form of 'outshine' is ____.

- A. outshine
- B. outshined
- C. outshoned
- D. outshone

Answer: D

The past tense and past participle form of 'outshine' is 'outshone'.

93. The part of speech that shows emotion is ____.

- A. preposition
- B. adjective
- C. verb
- D. interjection

Answer: D

Interjections are words that show sudden expression of emotions.

Examples: hey, ah, oh, ouch, hooray, ugh, wow, etc. Most interjections are sounds, rather than actual words.

94. If one is prepared, ____ will do the tasks comfortably.

- A. he/she
- B. he
- C. one

D. he

Answer: C

The pronoun ‘one’ refers to any person, so we cannot use ‘he’ or ‘she’ because a gender is not stated.

95. Registration of students was an exacting task for them.

'exacting' means ____.

- A. encouraging
- B. discouraging
- C. demanding
- D. compulsory

Answer: C

When something is exacting, it demands a lot of effort, care, attention or resources.

96. What have you been doing in the past *fortnight*?

'fortnight' is ____.

- A. four days
- B. two weeks
- C. one year
- D. four months

Answer: B

A fortnight is a period of two weeks.

97. He directed a barrage of ____ statements towards her.

- A. insulting
- B. insult
- C. insultive
- D. insulted

Answer: C

The adjective form of ‘insult’ is ‘insulting’, not ‘insultive’.

98. A word is said to be polysemous if it ____.

- A. has more than one meaning
- B. is useful in English and other languages
- C. has more than one spelling
- D. is difficult to explain

Answer: A

A polysemous word has more than one distinct meaning. For example, ‘rash’ can mean a red spot on a person’s skin, or a series of unpleasant things that happen within a short time.

The noun form is ‘polysemy’.

99. The bill is ready, but the governor's ____ might be delayed.

- A. ascent
- B. accent
- C. assent
- D. asset

Answer: C

An assent is an approval of something or an official agreement to it.

An accent is the distinctive way someone pronounce words in a language that shows where they come from. It can also mean a special importance given to something, or the emphasis given to part of a word (stress).

An ascent is an upward movement or progress.

An asset is someone or something that is valuable to someone. It can also mean a thing of value (especially property) that a person or company owns.

100. None of the work _____ done until the supervisor showed up.

- A. were
- B. we're
- C. is
- D. was

Answer: D

When we use 'none of' with an uncountable noun, the verb is usually singular.

However, when we use 'none of' with a singular noun referring to a group of people or things, or with plural noun or pronoun, we can use either a singular noun or pronoun.

In British English, the singular form is used in formal situations.

Example: None of his family is/are here.

None of them was/were given food.

PART 3

ORAL ENGLISH

TIPS

This aspect of English is really scary to most of us, but it's not as difficult as living in Mercury—not even close. Be that as it may, these tips will surely help:

- **Know your sounds:** Speaking is the production of speech sounds. Learn about English vowels and consonants and how they are pronounced. Watch appropriate videos that will give you first-hand information on pronunciation. Movies and English teachers' videos will help, but you must know who and where you learn from.
- **Know your preference:** You cannot learn British accent if you listen to Americans more often, and vice versa. Know your preference, then learn extensively. When you're competent in an accent, you can study the other.
- **Speak, speak, and speak:** The best way to learn about pronunciation and its dynamism is to speak. If you learn something new, pronounce it a couple of times. You'll learn faster when you speak—you sure will.
- **Again, don't be intimidated by know-olds:** As advised earlier, know-olds are everywhere. Do not allow anyone to undermine your confidence when you speak—needless to say, they learnt what they know too.

Oral

1. Which of these words has a lateral sound?

- A. walk
- B. work
- C. world
- D. weak

Answer: C

/l/ is a lateral sound. It is only pronounced in 'world' /wɜːld/ above. A lateral sound is made when airflow is blocked in the middle but flows to the sides. Pronounce /l/ to confirm.

2. The word ‘climb’ rhymes with ____.

- A. clime
- B. claim
- C. clim
- D. clime

Answer: A

Both ‘climb’ and ‘clime’ are pronounced as /klaim/. A ‘clime’ is a region where the weather is different in a particular way. It’s usually in plural—climes.

Words that have silent /b/ like ‘climb’ are: bomb, comb, thumb, etc.

3. Which of these is true?

- A. English vowels are voiced sounds.
- B. English vowels are voiceless sounds.
- C. English vowels have voiced and voiceless sounds.
- D. None of the above.

Answer: A

All vowel sounds in English are voiced because they are produced with vibration of the vocal cords, unless you’re whispering.

However, voiceless vowels are used in Japanese, Quebecois, or Comanche and Cheyenne of North America.

To know if a sound is voiced or not, put your index finger (the finger next to the thumb) on your throat when you pronounce it.

4. Every English word has _____ when pronounced.

- A. one primary stress
- B. two primary stresses
- C. three primary stresses
- D. no stress

Answer: A

Every English word has a primary stress. This is the syllable that is pronounced with greater force than others.

5. A lisp is _____.

- A. a pain in the ankle
- B. a swollen lip
- C. a speech defect
- D. the combination of consonant and vowel sounds in a syllable

Answer: C

A lisp (also called sigmatism) is a treatable speech impediment involving mispronunciation of sibilant sounds. Sibilants are speech sound produced with a hissing effect, e.g. s, z, sh.

Do you know someone who put their tongue between their upper and lower teeth when they pronounce /s/, /z/, then pronounce 'th' (as in think)? That's a lisp.

6. /ju:/

- A. Jew

- B. Joe
- C. you
- D. young

Answer: C

'you' is pronounced as /ju:/. Letter 'y' is written as /j/ in oral English.

7. /ei/ is the diphthong in ____.

- A. fall
- B. vain
- C. fine
- D. Neil

Answer: B

The only word above with the /ei/ sound is 'vain'.

fall /fɔ:/

fine /fain/

Neil /ni:l/

8. /h/ is absent in the pronunciation of ____.

- A. hotel
- B. hospital
- C. honour
- D. historical

Answer: C

/h/ is pronounced at the beginning of 'hotel', 'hospital' and 'historical'. The word 'honour' is pronounced without /h/ as /ɒnə/.

9. The first sound on the English language vowel chart is ____.

- A. /e/
- B. /i:/
- C. /i/
- D. /u/

Answer: B

Long vowel /i:/ is the first sound on the English vowel chart. The symbol (:) is used after a vowel that is pronounced longer than others. Consonants do not have this symbol.

10. A ____ sound is produced without vibration of the vocal cords.

- A. voiced
- B. voiceless
- C. non-voiced
- D. aspirated

Answer: A

When we produce a sound without vibration of the vocal cords, it's a voiceless sound. The opposite is a voiced sound.

11. 'sun' and 'son' are ____.

- A. homophones
- B. homonyms

- C. microphones
- D. monophonies

Answer: A

Homophones are words that sound the same when pronounced but have different spellings or meanings, or both. Both ‘sun’ and ‘son’ are pronounced as /sʌn/.

12. /ɜ:/ is ____.

- A. a voiced consonant
- B. a voiceless consonant
- C. an open vowel
- D. a central vowel

Answer: D

The /ɜ:/ sound is a long vowel sound that is produced while the mouth is relaxed. Bring your tongue low and to the centre of your mouth, then put your mouth in that unrounded position as if you want to smile and pronounce it. It’s the sound in ‘burn’, ‘work’, ‘word’, ‘dirty’, ‘girl’, etc.

Note that it is neither /e/ nor /ɔ:/.

13. The final sound in 'of' is ____.

- A. /v/
- B. /f/
- C. /ʌ/
- D. /x/

Answer: A

The word 'of' is pronounced as /ɒv/ (British) and /a:v/ (American). However, 'off' is pronounced as /ɒf/ (British) and /a:f/ (American). To remember this, think of 'of' as sharp and 'off' as double 'f' that maintains that sound.

Note: Americans pronounce /ɒ/ (short form) as /a:/ (long form), that's why 'God' is /ga:d/, 'pot' is /pa:t/ and 'rock' is /ra:k/.

14. The initial sound in 'about' is a ____ sound.

- A. schwa
- B. schema
- C. diphthong
- D. glottal

Answer: A

A schwa /ə/ sound occurs in unstressed (not pronounced with force) syllables in English. Any vowel in English can be pronounced as schwa if it is unstressed. Basically, the schwa sound is the most common sound in English.

The schwa sound is that quick 'ah' you pronounce at the beginning of 'against', 'around', 'alive', etc.

15. The final sound in 'walked' is ____.

- A. /t/
- B. /di/
- C. /d/
- D./di:/

Answer: A

The verb 'walked' is pronounced /wo:kt/. The voiceless /k/ attracts the voiceless /t/.

16. The final sound in 'pin' is ____ sound.

- A. a glottal
- B. a palatal
- C. an alveolar
- D. a nasal

Answer: D

/n/ is a nasal sound— air flows out through the nose when pronounced.

17. Which word has same sounds as 'hair'?

- A. hare
- B. fear
- C. here
- D. hear

Answer: A

'hair' and 'hare' are pronounced the same way. They have the /h/ sound and diphthong /eə/.

A diphthong is produced as one syllable but contains two sounds which are produced almost together.

hare: British/hɛə/; /her/American

hair: British/hɛə/; /her/American

here: British/hɪə/; /hir/American

hear: British/hɪə/; /hir/American

18. /h/ is a ____.

- A. glottal sound
- B. fricative sound

- C. A and B
- D. voiced sound

Answer: C

/h/ is both a glottal sound (produced in the glottis) and a fricative sound (produced with a friction of breath in a narrow opening).

19. The word 'jail' sounds exactly like ____.

- A. yale
- B. gaol
- C. gail
- D. gal

Answer: B

Both 'jail' and 'gaol' are pronounced as /dʒeɪl/. 'gaol' is actually the old-fashioned word for 'jail'.

20. An example of a fricative sound is ____.

- a. /g/
- b. /s/
- c. /m/
- d. /u:/

Answer: B

/s/ is the only fricative sound in the options above.

A fricative is a consonant sound produced with air build-up that escapes through a small opening.

21. /k/ is a ____.

- A. velar sound
- B. glottal sound
- C. affricate sound
- D. closed sound

Answer: A

A velar sound is a consonant sound produced when the back of the tongue touches the velum (also called soft palate).

That soft tissue hanging down from your throat when you open your mouth wide is the velum.

/k/, /g/ and /h/ are velar sounds.

22. The vowel sound in ‘cup’ is ____.

- A. /ʌ/
- B. /ɔ:/
- C. /ɒ/
- D. /a:/

Answer: A

When you produce the vowel sound /ʌ/, your tongue is low, and it is positioned towards the back of the mouth. It is present in: hut, but, some, one.

23. The initial sound in ‘judge’ is ____.

- A. /j/
- B. /dʒ/
- C. /ð/
- D. /θ/

Answer: B

The /dʒ/ sound is a palatal sound (produced with the palate). The palate is the top part of the inside of your mouth. /dʒ/ is present in Jesus, June, jug, sergeant, merge, etc. It's a consonant sound.

24. /hɔ:s/

- A. hose
- B. horse
- C. hearse
- D. Horsed

Answer: B

The /ɔ:/ sound is a long vowel. When 'or' is stressed, it's usually represented by /ɔ:/. This sound can occur in other different words, such as 'call' and 'talk'.

25. /ʒ/ is pronounced in ____.

- A. mission
- B. vision
- C. reaction
- D. shun

Answer: B

/ʒ/ is a palatal sound just like /dʒ/. It's a consonant sound.

26. The first sound in 'psychology' is ____.

- A. /k/
- B. /p/
- C. /z/
- D. /s/

Answer: D

/s/ is the first sound because /p/ is silent. Psychology is one of those borrowed words. It was said to have been coined by Marko Marulić from Ancient Greek before evolving into Latin 'psychologia'.

27. The first sound in 'champagne' is ____.

- A. /tʃ/
- B. /s/
- C. /ʃ/
- D. /ch/

Answer: C

Despite the 'ch' spelling, champagne starts with consonant sound /ʃ/, which is also the initial sound of 'shoe' and 'shout'.

28. /a:/ is ____ vowel sound.

- A. a closed
- B. an open
- C. a half-open
- D. a half-closed

Answer: B

/a:/ is an open vowel sound because it is produced with the tongue far from the roof of the mouth—the tongue is at a low level.

29. /ga:dn/

- A. gardening
- B. garden
- C. gardened
- D. gardener

Answer: B

This pronunciation of ‘garden’ shows how ‘ar’ is usually pronounced as /a:/ when the syllable it appears in is stressed.

30. It is _____ historic event they won’t forget in a long time.

- A. an
- B. a
- C. some
- D. few

Answer: B

The /h/ sound in ‘historic’ is pronounced, so ‘a’ is appropriate. The use of ‘a’ or ‘an’ depends solely on how a word is pronounced, not how it is spelt.

This is why we say ‘a hunter’ but ‘an hour’.

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