ESL Placement Practice Test A2 – Test 1

Name: Class: Date: Score: / 36

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Read each question carefully and choose the one best answer (A, B, C or D).

Part 1: Sentence meaning

Choose the sentence that means the same as the first sentence, or the word that best completes the meaning.

1. "I'm hungry." Which sentence means the same?
   A I want to go to sleep. **B** I want a drink of water.
   C I want to eat something. **D** I am very tired.

2. The store opens at 9 a.m. and _____ at 6 p.m.
   A closes **B** opens **C** starts **D** begins

3. "My brother is older than me." Which sentence means the same?
   A I am older than my brother. **B** I am younger than my brother.
   C My brother and I are the same age. **D** My brother is younger than me.

4. Can you turn on the light? It's too _____ in here.
   A bright **B** quiet **C** loud **D** dark

5. "Maria usually takes the bus to work." Which sentence means the same?
   A Maria goes to work by bus most days. **B** Maria never takes the bus.
   C Maria drives to work every day. **D** Maria took the bus to work yesterday.

6. I need to see a doctor. I have a terrible _____.
   A haircut **B** paycheck **C** headache **D** vacation

7. "The class is full." Which sentence means the same?
   A The class has many empty seats. **B** There are no more seats in the class.
   C The class is finished. **D** The class is very easy.

8. "Kevin forgot his wallet at home." Which sentence means the same?
   A Kevin lost his wallet on the street. **B** Kevin bought a new wallet.
   C Kevin remembered his wallet. **D** Kevin didn't bring his wallet with him.

9. "You don't have to pay for parking here." Which sentence means the same?
   A Parking here is free. **B** You can't park here.
   C You must pay to park here. **D** Parking here is expensive.

10. Please _____ this form and give it to the front desk.
    A fill up **B** take off **C** fill out **D** turn off

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11. "I've worked at the hospital since 2019." Which sentence means the same?
    A I worked at the hospital only in 2019.
    B I started working at the hospital in 2019, and I still work there.
    C I stopped working at the hospital in 2019.
    D I want to work at the hospital one day.

12. "The apartment isn't big enough for our family." Which sentence means the same?
    A The apartment is too big for our family.
    B The apartment is perfect for our family.
    C Our family is too small for the apartment.
    D The apartment is too small for our family.

Part 2: Language use

Choose the correct word or words for each gap, or choose the correct sentence.

13. She _____ from Brazil.
    A is **B** are **C** am **D** be

14. We _____ dinner at 7 o'clock every evening.
    A has **B** having **C** have **D** are have

15. Choose the correct question.
    A Do your sister works on weekends?
    B Does your sister work on weekends?
    C Does your sister works on weekends?
    D Is your sister work on weekends?

16. Sorry, there aren't _____ eggs in the fridge.
    A some **B** much **C** a **D** any

17. Last summer, my family _____ to Florida.
    A went **B** goes **C** go **D** has gone

18. Look! The children _____ in the park.
    A play **B** plays **C** are playing **D** is playing

19. Find the mistake: "Yesterday he didn't went to class because he was sick."
    A Yesterday **B** didn't went **C** because **D** was sick

20. My new laptop is _____ than my old one.
    A lighter **B** more light **C** lightest **D** the lighter

21. I'm going to _____ my grandparents next weekend.
    A visiting **B** visited **C** visits **D** visit

22. Choose the correct sentence.
    A You should to wear a jacket. It's cold outside.
    B You should wearing a jacket. It's cold outside.
    C You should wear a jacket. It's cold outside.
    D You shoulds wear a jacket. It's cold outside.

23. While I _____ dinner, the phone rang.
    A cooked **B** was cooking **C** am cooking **D** were cooking

24. Have you ever _____ sushi?
    A ate **B** eat **C** eating **D** eaten

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Part 3: Reading – An email from a teacher

Read the email. Then choose the best answer to each question.

Subject: Welcome to English Class!

Hello everyone,

Welcome to the evening English class at Riverside Community Center. Our class meets on Mondays and Wednesdays from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in Room 12, on the second floor.

Please bring a notebook and a pen to every class. You don't need to buy a book. I will give you all the papers you need.

The parking lot behind the building is free after 5 p.m. You can also take the number 14 bus. It stops right in front of the center.

If you can't come to class, please send me an email or call the front office at (555) 201-3344. After three absences, you may lose your place in the class.

See you on Monday!

Ms. Linda Park

25. How many times a week does the class meet?
    A One time **B** Two times **C** Three times **D** Every day

26. Where is Room 12?
    A On the second floor **B** Behind the building
    C In front of the center **D** Next to the front office

27. What do students need to bring to class?
    A A book and a pen **B** Papers from the teacher
    C A notebook and a pen **D** A computer

28. "The parking lot behind the building is free after 5 p.m." What does this mean for students?
    A They can't park behind the building.
    B They must take the bus to class.
    C They have to pay for parking in the evening.
    D They don't have to pay to park when they come to class.

29. What should a student do if he or she can't come to class?
    A Come to the next class early **B** Tell the teacher or the front office
    C Find a new class **D** Take the number 14 bus

30. What can happen if a student misses three classes?
    A The student may lose his or her place in the class.
    B The student has to buy a book.
    C The student must pay for parking.
    D The student has to move to Room 14.

Part 4: Reading – A new job

Read the text. Then choose the best answer to each question.

Ahmed moved to Chicago with his wife and two children six months ago. In his home country, he was an engineer, but in the United States he needed to improve his English before he could find a job

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in engineering.

Three months ago, Ahmed started working at a large supermarket. He works in the produce section, where he puts fruit and vegetables on the shelves. He also helps customers find things in the store. His shift starts at 5 a.m., so he has to get up very early. It is hard, but he likes his coworkers. They are friendly, and they often help him with new words.

In the afternoons, Ahmed takes English classes at a community college. He wants to take a computer course next year too. His manager, Rosa, is happy with his work. Last week, she asked him to train two new employees. Ahmed was surprised, but he felt proud.

Ahmed hopes to work as an engineer again one day. For now, he is learning a lot, and his family is happy in their new home.

31. What was Ahmed's job in his home country?

A Teacher **B** Store manager **C** Engineer **D** Computer student

32. What does Ahmed do at the supermarket?

A He manages the store.
B He teaches English to the other workers.
C He works at the front desk.
D He puts fruit and vegetables on the shelves and helps customers.

33. Why does Ahmed get up very early?

A Because his shift starts at 5 a.m.
B Because his English class is in the morning
C Because his children go to school early
D Because he lives far from Chicago

34. Which word in paragraph 2 means "people you work with"?

A customers **B** coworkers **C** vegetables **D** shift

35. Why did Ahmed feel proud last week?

A He finished his computer course.
B He found a job as an engineer.
C His manager asked him to train new employees.
D He learned a lot of new words.

36. Which sentence is true?

A Ahmed already works as an engineer in Chicago.
B Ahmed moved to Chicago alone.
C Ahmed doesn't like the people at his job.
D Ahmed is working and studying English at the same time.

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Answer key – ESL Placement Practice Test A2 – Test 1

1 C	2 A	3 B	4 D	5 A	6 C	7 B	8 D	9 A	10 C
11 B	12 D	13 A	14 C	15 B	16 D	17 A	18 C	19 B	20 A
21 D	22 C	23 B	24 D	25 B	26 A	27 C	28 D	29 B	30 A
31 C	32 D	33 A	34 B	35 C	36 D				

Explanations

1. **C** – Hungry means you want or need food.
2. **A** – The opposite of opens is closes, which describes the end of the business day.
3. **B** – If your brother is older, then you are younger.
4. **D** – You turn on a light when a room is dark.
5. **A** – Usually means most of the time, so she goes by bus most days.
6. **C** – A headache is a health problem, so it is a reason to see a doctor.
7. **B** – A full class has no space for more students.
8. **D** – If you forget something at home, you don't bring it with you.
9. **A** – Don't have to pay means paying is not necessary, so parking is free.
10. **C** – In American English you fill out a form, which means you complete it.
11. **B** – The present perfect with since shows an action that started in the past and continues now.
12. **D** – Not big enough means too small.
13. **A** – With he, she or it, the verb be is is.
14. **C** – Present simple with we uses the base form: we have.
15. **B** – Questions in the present simple use does + subject + base verb for he/she/it.
16. **D** – Any is used with plural nouns in negative sentences.
17. **A** – Last summer is a finished time in the past, so we use the past simple went.
18. **C** – Look! shows an action happening now, so we use the present continuous; children is plural, so are.
19. **B** – After didn't we use the base form: didn't go.
20. **A** – Short adjectives form the comparative with -er: lighter than.
21. **D** – Be going to is followed by the base form of the verb.
22. **C** – Should is followed by the base form without to, and it never takes -s.
23. **B** – The past continuous (was cooking) describes the longer action that was interrupted; I takes was.
24. **D** – The present perfect uses have + past participle, and the past participle of eat is eaten.
25. **B** – The class meets on Mondays and Wednesdays, which is two times a week.
26. **A** – The email says Room 12 is on the second floor.
27. **C** – The teacher asks students to bring a notebook and a pen; she will give them the papers.
28. **D** – The class starts at 6:30 p.m., after 5 p.m., so parking is free for students.
29. **B** – The email says to send the teacher an email or call the front office.
30. **A** – The email says that after three absences you may lose your place in the class.
31. **C** – The text says that in his home country he was an engineer.
32. **D** – Paragraph 2 says he puts fruit and vegetables on the shelves and helps customers.
33. **A** – His shift starts at 5 a.m., so he has to get up very early.
34. **B** – Coworkers are the people who work in the same place as you.
35. **C** – Rosa asked him to train two new employees, so he felt proud.
36. **D** – He works at the supermarket in the mornings and takes English classes in the afternoons.

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Notes for teachers: Give the test in one sitting of about 45 minutes without dictionaries. A score of 29/36 or higher suggests the learner is secure at A2; 20-28 means they are working within A2 and need more practice; below 20 suggests an A1 placement. The items target common errors such as double past forms (didn't went), 'should to', 'more light', missing auxiliaries in questions and confusing phrasal verbs like fill out/fill up. For follow-up, ask learners to correct their wrong answers in pairs and explain the rule.

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