ESL Placement Practice Test B1 – 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 has the same meaning as the first sentence, or choose the word or phrase that best completes the meaning.

1. "The library closes at 9 p.m. on weekdays." Which sentence means the same?
   A The library is open until 9 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.
   B The library opens at 9 p.m. from Monday to Friday.
   C From Monday to Friday, the library is not open after 9 p.m.
   D The library is closed all day on weekdays.

2. "Sorry, I'm running late." What does the speaker mean?
   A I will arrive after the planned time.
   B I am exercising right now.
   C I left home very early.
   D I can't come at all.

3. Maria can't come to class today because she is _____. She has a fever.
   A hungry **B** sick **C** bored **D** ready

4. "Please turn off your phone during the test." Which sentence means the same?
   A You can use your phone if you are quiet.
   B Bring your phone to the test.
   C Turn your phone on after the test starts.
   D Your phone must be off while you take the test.

5. "Ahmed used to work at a restaurant." Which sentence means the same?
   A Ahmed works at a restaurant now.
   B Ahmed worked at a restaurant before, but he doesn't now.
   C Ahmed is getting used to working at a restaurant.
   D Ahmed wants to work at a restaurant.

6. "I'd rather take the bus than drive downtown." Which sentence means the same?
   A I prefer taking the bus to driving downtown.
   B I drive downtown more often than I take the bus.
   C I don't like taking the bus downtown.
   D I can't drive, so I have to take the bus.

7. The apartment is _____ for a family of five; it only has one bedroom.
   A enough big **B** very large **C** too small **D** small enough

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8. "You don't have to bring lunch on Friday." Which sentence means the same?
   A You must not bring lunch on Friday.
   B You should bring lunch on Friday.
   C Lunch is not allowed on Friday.
   D It isn't necessary to bring lunch on Friday.

9. "Kim hasn't finished the report yet." Which sentence means the same?
   A Kim finished the report a short time ago.
   B Kim is still working on the report.
   C Kim will not write the report.
   D Kim finished the report before the deadline.

10. "The meeting was put off until next week." Which sentence means the same?
    A The meeting was canceled and will not happen.
    B The meeting was moved to an earlier date.
    C The meeting will now take place next week.
    D The meeting was shorter than usual.

11. "If I had more time, I would take an evening class." Which sentence is true?
    A I don't have enough time to take an evening class.
    B I take an evening class because I have time.
    C I had more time for an evening class last year.
    D I am going to take an evening class next month.

12. "Despite the heavy rain, the game continued." Which sentence means the same?
    A The game stopped because of the heavy rain.
    B The game continued after the rain stopped.
    C The game started before the heavy rain.
    D It rained hard, but the game didn't stop.

Part 2: Language Use

Choose the correct word or phrase to fill the gap, choose the grammatically correct sentence, or find the part of the sentence that is incorrect.

13. My sister _____ in Chicago since 2019.
    A lived **B** lives **C** is living **D** has lived

14. Choose the correct sentence.
    A She don't like coffee. **B** She doesn't likes coffee.
    C She doesn't like coffee. **D** She not like coffee.

15. When I got home, my roommate _____ dinner.
    A cooks **B** was cooking **C** is cooking **D** has cooked

16. Today is the _____ day of the year so far.
    A hottest **B** most hot **C** hotter **D** more hottest

17. We're _____ a picnic this Saturday if the weather is nice.
    A go to have **B** going have **C** will having **D** going to have

18. If it _____ tomorrow, we will stay inside.
    A will rain **B** rains **C** rained **D** raining

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19. Choose the correct sentence.
    A I'm waiting for the bus for twenty minutes.
    B I wait for the bus since twenty minutes.
    C I've been waiting for the bus for twenty minutes.
    D I've been waiting for the bus since twenty minutes.

20. The new community center _____ last year.
    A was built **B** built **C** is built **D** has build

21. Excuse me, can you tell me where _____?
    A is the post office **B** the post office is
    C does the post office be **D** the post office is it

22. Which part of this sentence is incorrect? "The teacher, who she is from Texas, gave us a lot of homework last night."
    A who she is **B** gave us **C** a lot of **D** last night

23. He asked me _____ I could help him move on Sunday.
    A that **B** if **C** what **D** unless

24. By the time we arrived at the theater, the movie _____.
    A already started **B** has already started
    C had already started **D** was already start

Part 3: Reading Skills – A Workplace Email

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

Subject: Schedule changes for next week

Hi everyone,

As you know, the store will be closed on Monday for the Labor Day holiday. Because of this, our weekly team meeting will move from Monday morning to Tuesday at 8:30 a.m. in the break room. Please arrive a few minutes early so we can start on time.

Also, we still need two people to work extra hours on Saturday, September 9. We are expecting a large delivery that morning, and we need help putting products on the shelves. If you are interested, please write your name on the list next to the time clock by Thursday. Extra hours will be paid at the usual rate plus $3 per hour.

Finally, a reminder: if you are sick and cannot come to work, call the store directly. Please do not send a text message to a coworker and ask them to tell me.

Thanks,

Denise Morales

Store Manager

25. Why is the team meeting moving to a different day?
    A Because the manager will be on vacation.
    B Because the store will be closed on Monday.
    C Because the break room is being cleaned.
    D Because a delivery is coming on Monday.

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26. When is the team meeting now?
    A Tuesday at 8:30 a.m.
    B Monday at 8:30 a.m.
    C Thursday morning
    D Saturday, September 9

27. Why does the store need extra workers on Saturday?
    A Many employees are sick.
    B The store is having a holiday sale.
    C A large delivery is arriving.
    D The store is opening a new section.

28. How can an employee ask to work the extra hours?
    A Send a text message to Denise.
    B Talk to a coworker.
    C Call the store on Saturday.
    D Write their name on a list by Thursday.

29. In the sentence "Extra hours will be paid at the usual rate plus $3 per hour," the word "rate" is closest in meaning to:
    A speed **B** amount of pay **C** schedule **D** job title

30. What should an employee do if they are sick and cannot work?
    A Call the store.
    B Text a coworker.
    C Email Denise the next day.
    D Find another employee to work.

Part 4: Reading Skills – A Short Article

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

Learning English at Night

When Thanh Nguyen moved to Houston three years ago, she could read English fairly well, but she had trouble understanding people when they spoke quickly. "At the bank or the doctor's office, I always asked people to repeat things," she remembers. "I felt embarrassed, so sometimes I just said yes and hoped for the best."

Thanh works at a hotel during the day, so she couldn't attend regular classes. Then a coworker told her about free evening English classes at a nearby adult education center. The classes meet three nights a week, from 6:00 to 8:30, and the center also offers child care for students with young children.

At first, Thanh was nervous about speaking in front of the other students. However, her teacher put everyone into small groups, and they practiced real situations, such as making appointments and talking to a landlord. "Everyone made mistakes, so nobody laughed," she says.

After a year, Thanh passed a placement test and moved into a higher level. Last month, she applied for a front desk position at her hotel, a job that requires strong communication skills. She got it. Now she is planning to take a college course in hotel management next fall. "The evening classes didn't just improve my English," she says. "They gave me confidence."

31. What was Thanh's main problem with English when she arrived in Houston?
    A She couldn't read English at all.
    B She didn't understand people who spoke quickly.
    C She didn't know how to get to the bank.
    D She couldn't find a doctor.

32. Why did Thanh sometimes say "yes" when she did not understand?
    A She understood everything.
    B She was in a hurry.
    C She felt embarrassed to ask again.
    D People were rude to her.

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33. Why did Thanh take evening classes?

A She works at a hotel during the day.
B Day classes were too expensive.
C Her children go to school at night.
D Her coworker teaches in the evening.

34. What helped Thanh feel less nervous about speaking in class?

A The teacher corrected every mistake.
B She practiced alone at home.
C Students worked in small groups on real-life situations.
D There were only a few students in the class.

35. What can we infer about Thanh's new job at the hotel?

A It pays less than her old job.
B She will use her English skills more than before.
C She will work there only at night.
D Her teacher helped her find it.

36. What is the main idea of the article?

A Hotels in Houston need more workers.
B Adult education centers should offer more child care.
C Placement tests are difficult for most students.
D Evening classes helped a working adult improve her English and her life.

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Answer key – ESL Placement Practice Test B1 – Test 1

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

Explanations

1. **C** – Weekdays are Monday to Friday, and "closes at 9 p.m." means it is not open after that time.
2. **A** – "Running late" means you will arrive later than planned.
3. **B** – A fever is a sign of being sick.
4. **D** – "Turn off" means the phone must not be on during the whole test.
5. **B** – "Used to" describes a past situation that is no longer true.
6. **A** – "I'd rather A than B" means you prefer A to B.
7. **C** – One bedroom is not enough space for five people, so the apartment is "too small."
8. **D** – "Don't have to" means something is not necessary; it does not mean it is forbidden.
9. **B** – "Hasn't finished yet" means the work is still in progress.
10. **C** – "Put off" means postponed, or moved to a later time.
11. **A** – The second conditional describes an unreal present situation, so the speaker does not have enough time now.
12. **D** – "Despite" shows contrast: the rain did not stop the game.
13. **D** – Use the present perfect with "since" for a situation that started in the past and continues now.
14. **C** – With he, she, or it, use "doesn't" followed by the base form of the verb.
15. **B** – The past continuous describes an action in progress when another past action happened.
16. **A** – Short adjectives form the superlative with "the" + -est.
17. **D** – Use "be going to" + base verb for future plans.
18. **B** – In the first conditional, the if-clause uses the present simple, not "will."
19. **C** – Use the present perfect continuous with "for" + a length of time.
20. **A** – Workers built the center, so the sentence needs the past simple passive: was + past participle.
21. **B** – Indirect questions use normal statement word order: subject + verb.
22. **A** – "Who" is already the subject of the clause, so "she" is not needed: "who is from Texas."
23. **B** – Reported yes/no questions are introduced with "if" or "whether."
24. **C** – The past perfect shows that one past action happened before another past action.
25. **B** – The email says the store is closed on Monday for Labor Day, so the meeting moves.
26. **A** – The meeting moves "to Tuesday at 8:30 a.m. in the break room."
27. **C** – The email says they are "expecting a large delivery that morning."
28. **D** – Interested employees should write their names on the list next to the time clock by Thursday.
29. **B** – Here "rate" means the amount of money paid per hour.
30. **A** – The email says to "call the store directly" and not to text a coworker.
31. **B** – The text says she read fairly well but "had trouble understanding people when they spoke quickly."
32. **C** – She says, "I felt embarrassed, so sometimes I just said yes."
33. **A** – She works during the day, so she couldn't attend regular classes.
34. **C** – The teacher used small groups to practice real situations, and everyone made mistakes.
35. **B** – A front desk job "requires strong communication skills," so she will use more English.
36. **D** – The article shows how the classes improved Thanh's English, her confidence, and her career.

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Notes for teachers: Use the total score as a guide. About 29 or more correct (80%) suggests the learner is secure at B1. A score between 22 and 28 suggests partial control. Below 22 points to A2-level placement. Part 1 checks common misunderstandings, such as "don't have to" vs. "must not" and "used to" vs. "be used to." Part 2 targets frequent tense and word-order errors, including "since" vs. "for" and indirect questions. As a follow-up, ask learners to explain their wrong answers orally, or to write their own sentences with the structures they missed.

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