

English Mock Test 1 Answers

Q#	Answer	Explanation
1	C	Lines 3-6 say that Darzee, the Tailorbird, helped him and Chuchundra, the muskrat, gave him advice , but Rikki-tikki did the real fighting. The first option swaps the two animals round, which is the slip a quick reader makes. The war was fought single-handed, so nobody fought alongside him.
2	B	The opening sentence announces a great war before we have even met the hero. Knowing a fight is coming, the reader wants to discover who the enemy is and how the fight goes, so it builds anticipation. Calling a mongoose's fight a great war is playful, not a history of real countries, and nothing here says he loses: Rikki-tikki did the real fighting.
3	D	Line 7 says plainly: He was a mongoose . He is only compared with a cat (his fur and tail) and a weasel (his head and habits). Chuchundra is the muskrat and Darzee is the Tailorbird.
4	E	Something restless cannot stay still or at rest, so his nose was always twitching and moving, which suits an animal that wants to find out about everything. It was pink, but that is what the rest of the sentence says, not what restless means, and a good sense of smell is a guess the word does not give us.
5	B	A simile compares one thing with another using like or as. Here the fluffed-up tail is compared with a bottle brush using the word like. A metaphor would say the tail was a bottle brush, with no like or as.
6	A	Line 14 says a high summer flood washed him out of the burrow and carried him down a roadside ditch. He did not choose to leave; he only met the boy after the flood left him on the garden path.
7	C	Draggled (like bedraggled) describes something left wet, dirty and messy. That fits a mongoose just carried down a ditch by a flood. It looks like dragged, which is the trap, but it describes how he looked, not how he moved. He had been lying in the hot sun, but he was not yet dry.

8	E	In lines 19-20 the boy says, 'Here's a dead mongoose. Let's have a funeral.' A funeral is only held for someone who has died, so he believed Rikki-tikki was dead .
9	D	The passage does not say why, so we work it out. He had just been swept down a ditch by a flood and clung on until he lost his senses, so he would have swallowed water . The raw meat comes later, and the big man only picked him up gently between his finger and thumb.
10	B	Each word is an action: he scuttled , he clung , they wrapped him, he sneezed . Words that tell us what someone does are verbs , here all in the past tense. Clung is the past tense of cling.
11	A	Straight after the warning, the narrator tells us it is the hardest thing in the world to frighten a mongoose , because he is so curious. The narrator is gently showing that the big man's care was unnecessary. Rikki-tikki proves it by running round the table and jumping on Teddy's shoulder.
12	C	To be eaten up with a feeling is to be overwhelmed by it, and from nose to tail means every bit of him. Together they say curiosity fills him completely. Nothing has actually eaten or bitten him; the phrase is not meant literally.
13	D	Line 32 gives the motto as ' Run and find out '. Stay and find out is a trap: Rikki-tikki says he will stay and find out much later, in line 48, but that is his own plan, not the family motto.
14	B	Lines 33-35 list his actions in order: he decided the cotton wool was not good to eat, ran all round the table , sat up and put his fur in order, scratched himself, and jumped on the boy's shoulder. He sneezed earlier, when he first opened his eyes.
15	E	Immensely means hugely or to a very great degree, so he liked the meat very much . It comes from immense, meaning enormous. It says nothing about when he liked it (at once, eventually) or whether he hid it (secretly).

16	C	In lines 46-48 he gives his own reason: there are more things to find out about in this house than all his family could find out in all their lives. It is curiosity, as the family motto promised. Gratitude sounds likely, but he never mentions it, and he does not know about the snakes yet.
17	A	Line 51 lists lime and orange trees among the roses, bamboos and high grass. Each wrong option keeps one of the right fruits or swaps in a similar one, so only a careful check of the line gets both.
18	D	To cultivate land is to plant and tend it. Half cultivated means only part is cared for, and the rest of the description proves it: thickets of high grass and bushes as big as summer-houses have been left to grow wild, which is why it makes a splendid hunting-ground.
19	B	He licks his lips as he looks at the garden, and at once says, 'This is a splendid hunting-ground ', while his tail goes bottle-brushy at the thought. He is imagining the prey he could catch. Hunger is the trap: he has just eaten and felt better, and the gesture comes from looking at a place to hunt, not from a meal.
20	E	A tailor sews cloth into clothes. Lines 57-59 say the birds pulled two big leaves together and stitched them up the edges with fibres, so the bird is named for sewing like a tailor. The word looks as if it contains tail, which is the trap.
21	A	In lines 63-64 Darzee says one of their babies fell out of the nest yesterday and Nag ate him . The fourth option has only the first half of the answer: the baby was not lost, it was eaten. The nest itself was still whole and swaying.
22	C	Lines 67-68 say they cowered down without answering, for from the grass at the foot of the bush came a low hiss. Nag was right beneath them, so they were too frightened to speak. They clearly knew Nag, as he had eaten their baby. Rikki-tikki calls himself a stranger, but the birds never show distrust of him.

23	D	Inch by inch makes Nag appear a little at a time, so the reader waits, with Rikki-tikki, to see how big he is, and the slow reveal builds suspense until we learn he is five feet long. He is certainly not small, and the distance Rikki-tikki jumped was two clear feet, given separately.
24	A	An adjective describes a noun. In very sorrowful voices, sorrowful describes the voices, so it is the adjective. Immensely is an adverb (it tells us how much he liked the meat), sunshine is a noun, scratch is a verb, and between is a preposition.
25	D	'hopefull' should be spelled 'hopeful'. When full becomes a suffix it loses an l: hope + ful, like careful and thankful. The mistake is in group D.
26	B	'dissapear' should be spelled 'disappear'. It is the prefix dis- added to appear, so it has one s (from dis) and two p letters (from appear). The mistake is in group B.
27	C	'especialy' should be spelled 'especially'. The word is special + ly, and special already ends in l, so the two letters meet to make ll. The mistake is in group C.
28	A	'yatch' should be spelled 'yacht'. The silent letters come in the order c-h-t: y-a-c-h-t. The mistake is in group A.
29	C	'misterious' should be spelled 'mysterious'. It comes from mystery, which is spelled with a y after the m. The mistake is in group C.
30	B	'sufficent' should be spelled 'sufficient'. The sh sound in the middle is spelled ci, followed by -ent, as in efficient and ancient: suf-fi-cient. The mistake is in group B.
31	E	There is no mistake. Each tricky word is spelled correctly: column ends with a silent n, soldiers has the d-i-e-r pattern, and island has a silent s. So the answer is E.
32	D	'lightening' should be spelled 'lightning'. Lightening is a real word, meaning making lighter, but the flash in a storm is lightning, with no e. The mistake is in group D.
33	A	'gaurd' should be spelled 'guard'. The u is silent and comes straight after the g, as in guess and guide: g-u-a-r-d. The mistake is in group A.

34	B	'a mongoose in the wild' ends a question, so it needs a question mark: a mongoose in the wild? Few people in Britain have. Few already has its capital letter, so the only thing missing is the question mark. The mistake is in group B.
35	E	There is no mistake. The comma between small and quick is right, because both words describe the hunters. The list Africa, Asia and southern Europe needs a comma only between the first two items, and southern takes no capital because it is a direction, not part of a name. So the answer is E.
36	D	'the indian grey mongoose.' needs a capital letter. Indian comes from the name of a country, India, so it is a proper adjective: the Indian grey mongoose. The mistake is in group D.
37	C	'cousins is fearless' is missing a comma after cousins. The words like its cousins are an aside dropped into the sentence, so they need a pair of commas round them. The opening one is there after mongoose, but the closing one is missing: like its cousins, is fearless. The mistake is in group C.
38	A	'It's thick fur' should be Its thick fur. It's is short for it is, and it is thick fur makes no sense here; the fur belongs to the mongoose, so the possessive its, with no apostrophe, is needed. Its speed in group C is correct. The mistake is in group A.
39	D	'harm a mongoose?' should end with a full stop. The sentence tells us what scientists wondered; it does not ask the reader anything. A reported question like this is a statement, so it takes a full stop: harm a mongoose. The mistake is in group D.
40	B	'sugar farmers fields' needs an apostrophe to show the fields belong to the farmers. Farmers is a plural ending in s, so the apostrophe goes after the s: sugar farmers' fields. The mistake is in group B.
41	C	'no less rats' should be no fewer rats. Rats can be counted one by one, so a smaller number of them is fewer; less is for things that cannot be counted, such as less water. The mistake is in group C.

42	B	'(while mongooses sleep,' is missing the closing bracket. A bracket that opens after night must close once the extra information is finished, after sleep: night (while mongooses sleep), so the two rarely met. The mistake is in group B.
43	C	The word than tells us two things are being compared, so we need the comparative form, earlier . Earliest and most early are superlatives, used for the top one of a group. More early is not used, because early already takes -er, and early alone cannot go with than.
44	A	The filling was finished before Amara came downstairs, which is itself in the past, so we need the past perfect, had filled . Has filled and fills are present tenses and clash with came, will have filled is future, and was filling would mean he was still filling it while also waiting by the door.
45	D	This is an imaginary situation, as Grandad cannot really be Amara, so formal English uses were after if I, as in if I were you. Was is often heard in speech but is not the best choice. Am does not match would, had been would need would have packed, and would be cannot follow if in this way.
46	B	The phrase is except for , meaning apart from: the only sound was the reeds. Apart would need from, not for. Besides for and other for are not English, and unless joins a whole clause, not a noun like the reeds.
47	E	Hérons can be counted one by one, so a smaller number of them is fewer herons. Less is used for things that cannot be counted, like less mud. Least and lesser do not go with than here, and few cannot make a comparison.
48	B	Grandad is asking a yes-or-no question in reported speech, and that is introduced by whether (or if): Grandad asked whether she had heard it. That is used for a statement, not a question. What and which would leave the verb heard without its object, since the bittern is already named, and unless makes no sense after asked.
49	A	The saying is to freeze in your tracks , meaning to stop completely still in the spot where you stand. It is a fixed phrase, so only in will do; on, at, by or off their tracks spoil the idiom.

50	C	The neck belongs to the bird, so we need the possessive whose : a bird whose neck was stretched up. Who's means who is, which makes a bird who is long neck. Which and that would need a verb after them, and its would join two sentences with no joining word.
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