

## Nonfiction Reading Test

### Mongoose

**Directions:** Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow. Refer to the text to check your answers when appropriate.

If you plan on going to Hawaii, don't bring any pets. Hawaiians are wary of letting in foreign animals. Your beloved Rex or Fi-fi could spend up to 120 days in quarantine. They have strict rules for importing animals. They carefully screen all incoming pets. Who could blame them? They've had problems with new animals in the past.

The black rat was introduced to Hawaii in the 1780s. These ugly suckers *originated* in Asia, but they migrated to Europe in the 1st century. Since then they've snuck on European ships and voyaged the world with them. These rats carry many diseases including the plague. They are also good at surviving and tend to displace native species. That means that after they infest an area, there will be fewer birds and more black rats. Most people prefer living around birds.

Since their arrival in Hawaii, black rats have been pests. They've feasted on sea turtle eggs. They've eaten tree saplings, preventing trees from being reforested. And they've been a leading cause in the extinction of more than 70 species of Hawaiian birds. They love to climb trees to eat bird eggs. They also compete with forest birds for food, such as snails, insects, and seeds.

Perhaps more troubling, black rats threaten humans. They spread germs and incubate disease. They are a vector for more than 40 deadly illnesses. Some think that rat-borne diseases have killed more people than war in the last 1,000 years. Rats also eat our food. They eat more than 20% of the world's farmed food. And that's why the mongoose was brought to Hawaii.

During the mid 1800s, the Hawaiian sugar industry was thriving. Americans were just realizing that they loved sugar. Hawaii was pretty much the only place in America where one could grow sugarcane. But those filthy vermin were tearing up the fields. Black rats were destroying entire crops. What's a plantation owner to do? The answer is simple. Import an animal known to kill rats. What could go wrong with that? In 1883 plantation owners imported 72 mongooses and began breeding them.

People *revere* the mongoose in its homeland of India. They are often kept tame in Indian households. Mongooses feed on snakes, rats, and lizards, creatures that most people dislike. They are also cute and furry. And they kill deadly cobras. What's not to love? Sadly, India is a much different place than Hawaii.

When the mongooses got to Hawaii, they did not wipe out the rats as plantation owners hoped. Instead, they joined them in ravaging the birds, lizards, and small plants that were native to Hawaii. It's not that the mongooses became friends with the rats. They still ate a bunch of them. But mongooses are not too different from most other animals: they go for the easy meal. In Hawaii they had a choice. Pursue the elusive black rat or munch on turtle eggs while tanning on the beach. Most took the easy route.

Now Hawaii has two unwanted guests defacing the natural beauty. The Hawaiians have learned their lesson. Talks of bringing in mongoose-eating gorillas have been tabled. So don't get uptight when they don't welcome your cat Mittens with open arms. They're trying to maintain a delicate ecosystem here.

1. Based on the text, which best explains how black rats were introduced to Hawaii?

- a. The native Hawaiians imported them to solve a problem with their crops.
- b. The Asians brought them to Hawaii when they first arrived.
- c. **The Europeans brought them on their ships.**
- d. The rats were able to swim to Hawaii from Asia.

2. Which best defines the word *originate* as it was used in the **second** paragraph?

- a. **To come from a place**
- b. To go to a place
- c. To become independent
- d. To wander the world

3. Which event happened **first**?

- a. The mongoose was introduced to Hawaii
- b. **The black rat was introduced to Hawaii**
- c. The black rat migrated to Europe
- d. Plantation owners bred mongooses

4. Which statement would the author most likely **disagree** with?

- a. Black rats threaten many creatures native to Hawaii.
- b. Mongooses threaten many creatures native to Hawaii.
- c. Mongooses were brought to Hawaii intentionally.
- d. **The only reason people dislike rats is because they are ugly.**

5. Which best express the author's main purpose in writing this text?

- a. To persuade readers to protect the endangered mongoose
- b. To describe the habits and hazards of the black rat
- c. To **inform readers about species that have invaded Hawaii**
- d. To entertain readers with tales of a mongoose's adventures

6. Which best expresses the main idea of the **sixth** paragraph?

- a. This paragraph is about Indian culture and wildlife.
- b. **This paragraph is about the mongoose's role in Indian society.**
- c. This paragraph is about the lifecycle of the mongoose.
- d. This paragraph is about how mongooses migrated to India.

7. Which statement is **false** according to information in the text?

- a. Rats eat lots of vegetation and crops.
- b. Mongooses eat sea turtle eggs.
- c. Rats climb trees and eat bird eggs.
- d. **Mongooses have spread more than 40 diseases.**

## “The Transfers”

### Reading Comprehension – Short Stories

*Directions: Read the story. Then answer the questions below.*



Loren had been **surreptitiously** moving money from the accounts of his bank’s wealthiest clients to one he created for himself in the Cayman Islands for over 8 years. He had every reason to believe that no one suspected a thing, and he knew the money would be safe in an offshore account.

He had been prudent with all the money he had embezzled from Signet Bank. He wore secondhand suits to his job as a bank teller there. He rode his bike from Anacostia—the squalid, blighted neighborhood he called home—to his Dupont Circle branch each day.

He rarely traveled outside of the Washington, DC area. He did nothing at all to **raise a red flag**. He appeared as nothing more than an 18-dollar-an-hour bank employee in a town where many made millions.

No one, he was sure, had ever scrutinized the **myriad** of transactions that had taken place – dozens, sometimes hundreds of small transfers that amounted to \$9,000 every other week. Otherwise, the truth would have surely come to light a long time ago.

“Nine thousand dollars every other week is just a **drop in the bucket** to these rich folks,” Loren reasoned. This assuaged his guilt.

In Loren’s mind, it was the greedy people who got caught doing these things. It was the **ostentatious** ones, too. It was the guys who built multi-million dollar homes with 24 rooms on a pauper’s salary.

To him, the bank was **fraught** with idiots; no one was capable of unraveling his master plan. No – it was too late for them.

Today was the day Loren would begin reaping the benefits of all his patience and cunning and begin living in blissful obscurity.

After an ordinary day at work, Loren got on his bike and road over the river to National Airport.

As the plane lifted off the runway for the Caribbean, Loren watched intently out the window. He had close to \$2 million collecting interest in the bank and had managed to pull it off, unnoticed.

As the plane landed, Loren finally allowed himself to fully dream of the carefree

life he was about to begin. He moved down the airplane steps, across the tarmac and headed toward the airport. The balmy air felt comforting to his skin.

He breathed in slowly and deeply with anticipation, and then he was surprised to hear a familiar voice.

“Hey, Loren. Not so fast.”

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### Questions:

1) As used in paragraph 1, which is the best synonym for **surreptitiously**?

- A. easily
- B. carefully
- C. overtly
- D. **secretly**

2) *"He had been prudent with all the money he had embezzled from Signet Bank."*

Which of the following is the best way to rewrite the above sentence from paragraph 2 while keeping its original meaning as used in the story?

- A. He had been showy with the funds he had taken from Signet Bank.
- B. He had saved all the money he had deposited into Signet Bank.
- C. He had felt guilty about all the money he had taken from Signet Bank.
- D. **He had been discreet with all the money he had stolen from Signet Bank.**

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3) What were some of the things Loren did to not raise suspicion?

- I. He wore secondhand suits.
- II. He rode a bicycle to work.
- III. He only made a certain number of transactions per week.

- A. I only
- B. **I and II**
- C. I and III
- D. I, II, and III

4) The expression *"to raise a red flag"* (from paragraph 3) means to

- A. be guilty
  - B. appear impoverished
  - C. seem very smart
  - D. **give a warning signal**
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Questions (continued):

- 5) What made Loren feel confident his crime would go undetected?
- I. The stolen money was being held in the Cayman Islands.
  - II. He felt no one would suspect a bank teller of fraud.
  - III. He had done nothing to show that he had become wealthy.
- A. I only
  - B. I and II
  - C. I and III
  - D. I, II, and III
- 6) If Loren carried out his scheme for exactly 8 years, how much money would he have stolen?
- A. \$9000
  - B. \$2,000,000
  - C. \$72,000
  - D. \$1,872,000

- 7) What kind of expression is "*drop in the bucket*" (from paragraph 5)?
- A. demonstrative, characterized by the open expression of emotion
  - B. idiomatic, characterized by the use of figurative, not literal, language
  - C. sarcastic, characterized by the use of harsh or bitter derision, or irony
  - D. understatement, characterized by an expression that is weaker than the facts would bear out
- 8) As used in paragraph 4, which is the best synonym for **myriad**?
- A. overflow
  - B. number
  - C. multitude
  - D. shortage

- 9) Which line from the passage best serves as its climax?
- A. "Hey, Loren. Not so fast." (the final paragraph)
  - B. Otherwise, the truth would have surely come to light a long time ago. (paragraph 4)
  - C. Now it was too late for them. (paragraph 7)
  - D. After an ordinary day at work, Loren got on his bike and road over the river to National Airport. (paragraph 9)
- 10) Loren's attitude toward his bank colleagues was
- A. benevolent
  - B. disdainful
  - C. accepting
  - D. fearful



1. \_\_\_ you tell him about it when you \_\_\_ him?  
A) did / see                      B) does / saw  
C) **will / see**                      D) would / see  
E) do / will see
2. Tomorrow when you \_\_\_ the sun \_\_\_\_ .  
A) woke up / shines              B) have woken up / was shining  
C) **wake up / will be shining**      D) will wake up / will shine  
E) woke up / shined
3. When my sister \_\_\_ at the college 2 years ago she \_\_\_ to learn several foreign languages.  
A) **was studying / tried**              B) studies / tries  
C) studied / was trying              D) was studying / was trying  
E) studies / trying
4. When I \_\_\_ that morning the sun \_\_\_ high in the sky.  
A) will wake up / had shone      B) have waken up / shines  
C) shall wake up / was shining    D) **woke up / was shining**  
E) woke up / will be shining
5. When I \_\_\_ the letter I wondered what \_\_\_\_ .  
A) **got / had happened**              B) get / happens  
C) got / happened                      D) had got / had happened  
E) got / has happened
6. I \_\_\_ to know when you \_\_\_\_ .  
A) **don't want / will come**              B) shall want / come  
C) want / had come                      D) didn't want / come  
E) didn't want / are coming
7. When I \_\_\_ home my mother \_\_\_ me that my friend \_\_\_ me an hour before.  
A) had come / told / had called  
B) came / told / called  
C) **came / told / had called**  
D) was coming / told / called  
E) came / was telling / had called
8. I \_\_\_ still, when you \_\_\_\_ .  
A) am working / will return  
B) **shall be working / return**  
C) was working / are returning  
D) shall have been working / have returned  
E) was working / are returned
9. When Harris \_\_\_ her she \_\_\_ Paris.  
A) is meeting / was leaving      B) **met / was leaving**  
C) had met / left                      D) meets / left  
E) met / will leave
10. When he \_\_\_ in London, it \_\_\_ heavily.  
A) arrive / rains                      B) arrives / rained  
C) **arrived / was raining**              D) will arrive / rains  
E) arrived / is raining
11. It \_\_\_ when we \_\_\_ home.  
A) rained / came                      B) rained / was coming  
C) **was raining / came**                      D) will rain / came  
E) rained / shall come
12. When we \_\_\_ the beach the rain \_\_\_ already \_\_\_\_ .  
A) leave / has / started              B) will leave / have / started  
C) **left / had / started**                      D) left / have / started  
E) are leaving / was / starting
13. What \_\_\_ you \_\_\_ when I \_\_\_ ?  
A) did / do / returned              B) are / doing / shall return  
C) **will / be doing / return**              D) do / do / return  
E) have done / am returning
14. When I \_\_\_ him up they said that he \_\_\_ an hour ago.  
A) call / left                              B) called / has left  
C) should call / has left              D) call / leaves  
E) **called / had left**
15. When you \_\_\_ me up yesterday it \_\_\_ hard.  
A) rings / will rain                      B) **rang / was raining**  
C) will rang / will rain              D) ring / rains  
E) had rung / had rained
16. When the woman was out a postman \_\_\_ a letter.  
A) brings                                  B) bring  
C) **brought**                                  D) had brought  
E) has brought
17. I hope it \_\_\_ when you \_\_\_ to London.  
A) doesn't rain / will get              B) is raining / get  
C) **won't be raining / get**              D) will rain / will get  
E) rained / have got
18. When the lesson \_\_\_ we \_\_\_ home.  
A) are over / go                          B) is over / goes  
C) **is over / shall go**                          D) will be over / go  
E) will be over / shall go
19. What \_\_\_ you \_\_\_ when your father returned?  
A) will / do                                  B) **were / doing**  
C) was / do                                  D) will / be doing  
E) were / do
20. When we \_\_\_ in Seville we \_\_\_ sightseeing.  
A) are / went                              B) **were / went**  
C) shall be / go                          D) are / go  
E) had been / go
21. \_\_\_ when he was painting the ceiling.  
A) He found his passport              B) He burnt his hand  
C) He bought a new car                  D) He wrote a letter  
E) **He fell off the ladder**
22. It \_\_\_ since morning when we \_\_\_\_ .  
A) has rained / went out              B) **had been raining / went** out  
C) was raining / go out                  D) rained / will go out  
E) rained / went out
23. When I \_\_\_ back to the table, six soldiers \_\_\_ there.  
A) **came / were sitting**                      B) comes / were sitting  
C) has come / sit                          D) came / are sitting  
E) came / will sit
24. When I \_\_\_ younger I \_\_\_ an idea of a wife who \_\_\_ with me in my thoughts as well as aims.  
A) was / had / will be                      B) **was / had / would** be  
C) had been / had / is                      D) have been / have / will be  
E) was / had had / had been
25. When I \_\_\_ school I \_\_\_ the university.  
A) shall finish / shall enter              B) finish / enter  
C) shall finish / enter                      D) **finish / shall enter**  
E) finish/entered
26. I visited my sister when she \_\_\_ in Moscow.  
A) **lived**    B) lives  
C) were lived                                  D) is living  
E) were living
27. We \_\_\_ have our supper when our mother \_\_\_ from the market.  
A) **shall / comes**                                  B) - / comes  
C) - / will come                                  D) shan't / come  
E) shall / come
28. The passengers \_\_\_ for the train for 20 minutes when it \_\_\_ into the station.  
A) waited / pulls                          B) had waited / pulled  
C) had **been waiting / pulled**              D) will wait / had pulled  
E) are waiting / was pulled
29. Yesterday when I \_\_\_ her she \_\_\_ me about you.  
A) have met / told                          B) **was meeting / told**  
C) have met / would tell                  D) have met / tell  
E) met / had told
30. When I came in my mother \_\_\_ dinner.  
A) cooked                                  B) were cooking  
C) will cook                                  D) have cooked  
E) **was cooking**

## Find the synonym of the underlined word.

1. I hope you are not going to **abandon** your project.  
A) **give up completely** B) change C) modify slightly D) postpone E) complete
2. The **abandoned** boat was found miles away from the shore; they never found out who had been on it.  
A) cherished B) **deserted** C) shabby D) austere E) unabashed
3. The pilot changed direction **abruptly**, causing great panic in the plane.  
A) anticipated B) foreseen C) **unexpectedly** D) intended E) reasonably
4. Larry was so **absorbed** in his novel that he forgot about his dinner cooking in the oven.  
A) **engrossed** B) obliged C) enlivened D) excelled E) devastated
5. The only cure for alcoholism is complete **abstinence** from alcohol.  
A) absence B) **avoidance** C) sickness D) prescription E) pretension
6. Panthothenic acid is **abundant** in eggs, peas and potatoes.  
A) **plentiful** B) scarce C) inadequate D) insufficient E) analogous
7. Adrenalin has the effect of strengthening and **accelerating** the heartbeat.  
A) diminishing B) aborting C) **quickening** D) abolishing E) adopting
8. There was no **access** to the large garden of the house except a well-hidden gate.  
A) **entrance** B) seizure C) attack D) rapture E) turn
9. The Turners are looking for a little cabin in the woods where they won't be **accessible** to their relatives.  
A) acceptable B) probable C) **reachable** D) accessory E) approachable
10. When Mrs. Bell was the director of the firm, her first **accomplishment** was to bring about better working conditions.  
A) accumulation B) **achievement** C) defeat D) job E) sermon
11. A treasurer must **account for** every penny that he spends.  
A) evaluate B) classify C) **explain** D) allot E) reckon
12. Artificial insemination **accounts for** the birth of over half of dairy cows in the U. S. today.  
A) makes it impossible B) **is responsible** for C) leads to D) is the result of E) endangers
13. During the ten years he worked in Germany, he **accumulated** a fortune.  
A) **made** B) concentrated C) expanded D) increased E) intensified
14. I hope the weatherman has predicted **accurately**. If he has, we will have a perfect picnic tomorrow.  
A) astutely B) **correctly** C) carefully D) acutely E) miraculously
15. Nobody knows where and how the son of the deceased politician **acquired** all his wealth.  
A) **gained** B) lost C) hid D) stole E) deposited
16. He is proud of his son who is an **active** and athletic youth.  
A) awkward B) **agile** C) ponderous D) inept E) timorous
17. The musicians graduated from that school are **adept** at playing at least four instruments.  
A) **proficient** B) adjustable C) awkward D) careful E) proverbial
18. The human ear **admits** only a very limited range of frequencies.  
A) confesses B) gives off C) forces in D) **lets in** E) enters
19. The refusal of some nations to participate in the Olympic Games in Moscow was an **admonishment** to the Soviets.  
A) admission B) admiration C) **rebuke** D) stigma E) adornment
20. Martin Luther King, influenced by Mahatma Gandhi, made many **adversaries** in his nonviolent quest for equality.  
A) friends B) advances C) improvements D) atrocities E) **foes**
21. **Affluent** nations have an obligation to help their neighbors; however, they quite often do just the opposites causing poor countries to be even poorer.  
A) sophisticated B) **wealthy** C) advanced D) powerful E) industrialized
22. Frequent minor **ailments** keep Mrs. Collins from work.  
A) irritations B) young children C) **sicknesses** D) falls E) excuses
23. His mother's **alert** mind caught Billy's lies.  
A) alarming B) **vigilant** C) sluggish D) oblivious E) wry
24. There is **ample** rain and intense sunlight in tropical climates; consequently, plant life is luxuriant and varied.  
A) scant B) **abundant** C) hard D) detrimental E) licentious
25. Workers have **ample** time for recreation and educational pursuits because the work week consists of only 40 hours.  
A) too many B) hardly any C) nearly enough B) **plenty of** E) a little
26. During the flight from Turkey to Moscow, Marilyn **amused** herself by reading comic books.  
A) fooled B) tired C) bored D) beguiled E) **enjoyed**
27. Jack's **appetite** has diminished since his girl friend once said she hated fat people.  
A) desire for exercise B) desire for visitors C) desire for sleep D) **desire for food** E) desire for play
28. A progressive tax **applies** greater tax rates to larger incomes than to smaller ones.  
A) forecasts B) wastes C) devotes D) employs E) **involves**
29. There are at least 500 kinds of fish that generate **appreciable** amounts of electricity.  
A) negligible B) insignificant C) **measurable** D) inconsequential E) imperceptible
30. Why argue? There is no alternative; the president must **approve** the bill if Congress passes it.  
A) admonish B) criticize C) **endorse** D) condemn E) censure
31. River, valleys and coastal plains constitute **approximately** a third of the country.  
A) **more or less** B) decreasingly C) minimally D) precisely E) outlandishly
32. Many writers write satires that expose the **arrogant** nature of the newly-rich people.  
A) subservient B) masterful C) delightful D) inferior E) **conceited**
33. The man felt **ashamed** because he knew that he had been wrong to steal.  
A) **disgraced** B) worried C) tempted D) phony E) impudent
34. The new manager's greatest **asset** was his reputation for honesty.  
A) deception B) **advantage** C) liability D) pride E) weakness
35. Network employees of **associated** companies are not allowed to participate in TV quiz games.  
A) subsidiary B) social C) **connected** D) member E) introductory
36. The news of the President Kennedy's death **astounded** the world as it was really unexpected.  
A) alerted B) admonished C) atoned D) **astounded** E) avenged





● Same Sound 6

**Directions:** Find the word that has the same sound as the underlined letter or letters in the first word.

**Board** sounds like **tore**.



Example:

<b><u>BOARD</u> :</b>	A. boat <input checked="" type="radio"/> B. tore C. scared D. card
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1)

<b><u>LISTEN</u> :</b>	A. <b>person</b> B. tension C. eaten D. written
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6)

<b><u>LAW</u> :</b>	A. map B. house C. <b>golf</b> D. cake
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2)

<b><u>EARTH</u> :</b>	A. near B. <b>dirt</b> C. weird D. sea
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7)

<b><u>COMPETITION</u> :</b>	A. see B. tie C. think <b>D. shoot</b>
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3)

<b><u>HEALTH</u> :</b>	A. pull B. steal C. <b>belt</b> D. ball
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8)

<b><u>LOW</u> :</b>	<b>A. so</b> B. now C. plow D. yawn
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4)

<b><u>COULD</u> :</b>	A. <b>wood</b> B. fool C. nervous D. thought
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9)

<b><u>NEW</u> :</b>	A. raw B. cool C. well <b>D. shoe</b>
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5)

<b><u>DANCE</u> :</b>	A. fans B. <b>pants</b> C. tense D. rinse
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10)

<b><u>BUSINESS</u> :</b>	A. must B. race C. sand <b>D. zipper</b>
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## WORKSHEET 14

### Present Perfect & Past Simple Mixed Exercise

#### Level: Intermediate (B1)

Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verb in parenthesis.

- 1) Tony has just finished (just / finish) his homework.
- 2) My sister travelled (travel) to Paris last summer.
- 3) I have watched (watch) that movie before.
- 4) I haven't seen (not seen) my old classmates since 2012.
- 5) He studied (study) for his exam yesterday.
- 6) My cousin has been (be) in Germany for five years. But she was (be) in England in 1998.
- 7) The detective hasn't found (not find) the criminals yet.
- 8) Sheila has already called (already / call) her boss to inform him about her excuse.
- 9) A: Have you ever travelled (you / ever / travel) to Sydney?  
B: Yes, I went (go) there two years ago with my wife.
- 10) Edward lost (lose) his ring last night.
- 11) He has lost (lose) his ring. Can you help him look for it?
- 12) I didn't call (not call) you yesterday morning.
- 13) How long have you lived (you / live) in California with your sister?
- 14) Norton has done (do) bungee jumping four times. He last did (do) it last summer.
- 15) We have known (know) each other for more than ten years. We met (meet) at university and we got married (get married) in 2001.

## WORKSHEET 15

### Present Perfect & Past simple & Past Progressive Mixed

#### Level: Basic – Intermediate (A2-B1)

Choose the correct option.

- 1) Carol ---- in Los Angeles for five years and then ---- to San Francisco.
- a) lived / has moved  
b) **has lived / moved**  
c) lived / moved
- 2) How many countries ---- so far?
- a) **have you visited**  
b) did you visit  
c) were you visiting
- 3) What were you doing when the teacher ---- in.
- a) **came**  
b) has come  
c) was coming
- 4) ---- this movie before? .
- a) Did you see  
b) Were you seeing  
c) **Have you seen**
- 5) A: Where is Sandra?  
B: She ---- shopping.
- a) has been  
b) was going  
c) **has gone**
- 6) I ---- Elisa for a week.
- a) **haven't seen**  
b) didn't see  
c) wasn't seeing
- 7) While Pam ---- the attic, she ---- an old photo of hers.
- a) **was cleaning / found**  
b) cleaned / has found  
c) was cleaning / was finding
- 8) What ---- at around this time yesterday?
- a) have you done  
b) did you did  
c) **were you doing**

9) Paul ---- for a week. He is trying to give it up.

- a) didn't smoke
- b) **hasn't smoked**
- c) wasn't smoking

10) We have to take a cab as my car ----

- a) was breaking down
- b) broke down
- c) **has broken down**

11) I can't play with you today as I ---- my ankle.

- a) injured
- b) **have injured**
- c) was injuring

12) What time ---- ?

- a) has your plane landed
- b) **did your plane land**
- c) was your plane landing

13) ---- the door before you ---- the house?

- a) Did you lock / have left
- b) **Did you lock / left**
- c) Were you locking / left

14) My parents ---- me to church every Sunday when we lived in the countryside.

- a) have taken
- b) took
- c) **were taking**

15) I cannot come with you right now as I ---- my work yet.

- a) **haven't finished**
- b) didn't finish
- c) wasn't finishing

16) Here is your dictionary; my mom ----.

- a) **has just found it**
- b) just found it
- c) was finding it

17) I ---- from high school in 2007.

- a) have graduated
- b) **graduated**
- c) was graduating

18) What were you looking for when you ---- your ring by chance?

- a) **found**
- b) have found
- c) was finding