



Answers

1. d) By the time
2. d) before
3. c) After
4. d) already
5. b) just
6. a) never
7. d) yet
8. d) As soon as
9. a) until
10. c) Before
11. c) ever
12. a) By
13. b) before
14. d) After
15. b) already
16. d) until
17. d) just
18. c) After
19. d) By
20. a) before



Explanations

1. “By the time” (d)

'By the time' + Past Simple, Past Perfect. This structure shows one action was complete before another.

2. “before” (d)

'Before' signals the cooking was complete first, then guests arrived. Past Perfect + before + Past Simple.

3. “After” (c)

'After' + Past Perfect shows the reading happened first, then he started. After + Past Perfect, Past Simple.

4. “already” (d)

'Already' emphasises accumulated experience — seeing it three times means the experience was well established, not recent. 'Just' would mean moments ago, which doesn't fit 'three times'. Position: had + already + past participle.

5. “just” (b)

'Just' shows something happened a very short time before. The train left moments before we arrived.

6. “never” (a)

'Never' in Past Perfect shows no experience up to that past point. Had never + past participle.

7. “yet” (d)

'Yet' in negative Past Perfect means 'until that time'. He hadn't studied up to that point.

8. “As soon as” (d)

'As soon as' shows immediate sequence — the moment she heard, she cried. 'During' doesn't work because it requires a noun, not a clause. 'Until' and 'By the time' don't fit the meaning.

9. “until” (a)

'Until' shows waiting up to the point when the rain stopped.

10. “Before” (c)

The stadium filled (Past Perfect) before the match started (Past Simple).

11. “ever” (c)

'Ever' in questions asks about any experience up to a past point.

12. “By” (a)

'By the time' = at or before the moment when. The escape happened before police arrival.

13. “before” (b)

Years of knowing each other (Past Perfect) preceded the marriage (Past Simple).

14. “After” (d)

After + Past Perfect, Past Simple. Finishing came first, then sending.

15. “already” (b)

'Already' shows the eating was well established — 'an hour ago' rules out 'just', which would mean only moments before. The dinner was completed some time back.

16. “until” (d)

'Until' shows the condition that had to be met first. I stayed until the checking was done.

17. “just” (d)

'Just' means a very short time before. 'Only seconds earlier' confirms the action happened moments ago, ruling out 'already' (which implies established completion, not recency).

18. “After” (c)

The sequence: locking doors (Past Perfect) → going to bed (Past Simple).

19. “By” (d)

'By the time I woke up' sets the reference point; they had left before then.

20. “before” (a)

'Before' connects the five years in Paris (Past Perfect duration) to the later move to London. 'During' doesn't work because it requires a noun, not a clause.