



Verb Patterns: Verb + Clause Patterns & Complex Verb Structures

Fill in the blank with the correct option.

- The doctor suggested ____ I should get more rest.
a) that
b) to
c) for
d) if
- Could you explain ____ this machine works?
a) that
b) how
c) what
d) for
- She showed ____ her new painting yesterday.
a) to us
b) for us
c) at us
d) us
- The loud music made the neighbours ____.
a) angry
b) angrily
c) anger
d) to angry
- I wonder ____ she'll accept the job offer or not.
a) that
b) what
c) how
d) whether
- Can you tell ____ the time, please?
a) me
b) to me
c) for me
d) at me
- We consider this decision ____ for the company's future.
a) importantly
b) important
c) importance
d) to important
- Nobody knows ____ the meeting will take place.
a) that
b) there
c) which
d) where
- He promised ____ he would finish the report by Friday.
a) if
b) to
c) that
d) which
- Could you lend ____ your dictionary for a moment?
a) to me
b) me
c) for me
d) at me
- The survey revealed ____ most employees were unhappy with the policy.
a) what
b) how
c) which
d) that



Answers

1. a) that
2. b) how
3. d) us
4. a) angry
5. d) whether
6. a) me
7. b) important
8. d) where
9. c) that
10. b) me
11. d) that
12. a) challenging
13. c) whether
14. b) the students
15. c) how
16. d) crazy
17. b) me
18. c) that
19. a) president
20. c) which



Explanations

1. “that” (a)

'Suggest that + clause' is used to introduce a recommendation. 'That' introduces the clause (I should get more rest). Note: 'suggest' cannot be followed by a to-infinitive (*suggest me to rest* is incorrect).

2. “how” (b)

'Explain how + clause' asks about the process or method. 'How' introduces an indirect question about the way the machine operates. 'Explain that' would introduce a statement, not a question about method.

3. “us” (d)

'Show' is a ditransitive verb that takes two objects: an indirect object (us) and a direct object (her new painting). The pattern is 'show + someone + something'. The alternative is 'show something to someone' (showed her new painting to us).

4. “angry” (a)

'Make + object + adjective' is a complex transitive pattern (SVOC). The adjective 'angry' describes the state of the neighbours caused by the music. An adverb (angrily) cannot be used as an object complement.

5. “whether” (d)

'Wonder whether/if' introduces an indirect yes/no question. 'Whether... or not' is a fixed pattern expressing two possibilities. 'Wonder that' is not standard, and 'what/how' would ask about different things.

6. “me” (a)

'Tell' is a ditransitive verb: 'tell + someone + something'. The indirect object (me) comes directly after 'tell' without a preposition. 'Tell to me' is incorrect — unlike 'say to me', 'tell' never uses 'to' before the person.

7. “important” (b)

'Consider + object + adjective' is a complex transitive pattern (SVOC). The adjective 'important' acts as an object complement describing 'this decision'. 'Importantly' is an adverb and cannot serve as a complement here.

8. “where” (d)

'Know + wh-word + clause' introduces an indirect question. 'Where' asks about the location of the meeting. 'Know that' would introduce a fact, not a question about location.

9. “that” (c)

'Promise that + clause' introduces a commitment. 'That' connects the verb to the clause (he would finish). While 'promise to + infinitive' is also valid (promise to finish), the clause structure here requires 'that'.

10. “me” (b)

'Lend' is a ditransitive verb: 'lend + someone + something'. The indirect object (me) comes directly after 'lend'. The alternative pattern is 'lend something to someone' (lend your dictionary to me).

11. “that” (d)

'Reveal that + clause' means 'to show or make known a fact'. 'That' introduces the factual clause. 'What' would mean 'the thing which', changing the sentence structure entirely.

12. “challenging” (a)

'Find it + adjective + to-infinitive' is a complex transitive pattern where 'it' is a dummy object and the to-infinitive is the real object. The adjective 'challenging' describes the experience of learning. This pattern avoids the awkward 'I find to learn a new language challenging'.

13. “whether” (c)

'Ask whether/if' introduces a reported yes/no question. The original question was 'Have you finished your homework yet?', which is a yes/no question. 'Whether' is the correct word to report this type of question.

14. “the students” (b)

'Give' is a ditransitive verb: 'give + someone + something'. The indirect object (the students) comes directly after 'give' without a preposition. The alternative is 'give something to someone'.

15. “how” (c)

'Realize how + adjective + clause' expresses surprise at the degree of something. 'How difficult' asks about the degree. 'What' would need a noun (what a difficult exam), and 'that' would not convey the degree of difficulty.

16. “crazy” (d)

'Drive + object + adjective' is a complex transitive pattern meaning 'to cause someone to become a certain way'. 'Crazy' is the object complement describing the state caused. 'Drive someone crazy/mad' is a common English expression.

17. “me” (b)

'Remind + someone + to-infinitive' means 'to help someone remember to do something'. The indirect object (me) comes directly after 'remind'. 'Remind to me' is incorrect.

18. “that” (c)

'Deny that + clause' means 'to state that something is not true'. 'That' introduces the factual claim being denied. 'Deny if/whether' are not valid patterns — 'deny' reports a statement, not a question.

19. “president” (a)

'Elect + object + noun' is a complex transitive pattern (SVOC) where the noun acts as an object complement. 'President' describes the role given to 'her'. Verbs like elect, appoint, name, and make can take noun complements.

20. “which” (c)

'Decide + which + noun' introduces an indirect question about choosing between specific options. 'Which dress' implies choosing from a known set of dresses. 'How' cannot precede a noun in this pattern. 'Whether' would need a different structure (whether to wear...).