

## Check your ECCE Grammar Skills – Activity 3

### Key and Item Analysis

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#### Item (1)

**Item Difficulty:** Less challenging

We \_\_\_\_\_ to the movies a lot but now we don't have the time.

- A. used to go
- B. used to going
- C. use to go
- D. use to going

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:** The correct answer choice is A. Used to + infinitive is used to express habits that we had in the past and no longer have now.

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#### Item (2)

**Item Difficulty:** Moderate

We \_\_\_\_\_ four tasks so far this semester.

- A. are doing
- B. do
- C. have done
- D. will do

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:** The correct answer choice is C. The expression 'so far' (until now) signals that something started in the past and continues in the present. Thus, the present perfect (have done) is needed.

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#### Item (3)

**Item Difficulty:** Moderate

Mary never agrees \_\_\_\_\_ the things I say, which is why we always have fights.

- A. about
- B. for
- C. in
- D. with

**Answer: D**

**Explanation:** The correct answer choice is D. The preposition 'with' follows 'agree' when someone agrees with a person or an opinion (the things I say). Choices B (for) and C (in) do not follow the verb 'agree'. Choice A is wrong as 'agree about' is used for agreement on a subject of discussion.

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**Item (4)**

**Item Difficulty:** Moderate

He still depends too much \_\_\_\_\_ his parents financially.

- A. by
- B. for
- C. from
- D. on

**Answer: D**

**Explanation:** The correct answer choice is D. 'Depend' is followed by 'on' – to depend **on** someone. The other three answer choices are incorrect as 'depend' is not followed by 'from', 'for', or 'by'.

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**Item (5)**

**Item Difficulty:** Moderate

"Where do you want to meet for lunch?"

"We \_\_\_\_\_ meet at that new Chinese restaurant on the corner."

- A. could
- B. could have
- C. ought
- D. would

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:** The correct answer choice is A. 'Could' is used to offer a suggestion. Choice B is grammatically incorrect as 'could have' is followed by past participle (met) and refers to past time. Choice C (ought) is grammatically incorrect as it followed by 'to'. Choice D is wrong as 'would meet' is used to describe a habit in the past that is no longer true today.

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**Item (6)**

**Item Difficulty:** Moderate

You need to work hard \_\_\_\_\_ successful in life.

- A. be
- B. being
- C. for being
- D. to be

**Answer: D**

**Explanation:** The correct answer choice is D. The sentence states that 'in order to be' successful in life, you need to work hard. In the expression 'in order to', it is possible to omit 'in order': 'in order to be successful' = 'to be successful'. Choices A (be), B (being), and C (for being) make the sentence ungrammatical.

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**Item (7)****Item Difficulty:** Moderate

The police are still searching for the old man who \_\_\_\_\_ last week.

- A. disappeared
- B. has disappeared
- C. is disappeared
- D. was disappeared

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:** The correct answer choice is A. The sentence contains the phrase 'last week' and as such the verb of the relative clause must be in the past. Note: the verb 'disappear' is not used in the passive.

**Item (8)****Item Difficulty:** Moderate

"Why don't we do something tonight?"

"Sure. What do you have \_\_\_\_\_ mind?"

- A. at
- B. for
- C. in
- D. on

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:** The correct answer choice is C. The expression is 'to have something in mind' and means to intend to do something. Choices A (at) and B (for) make the sentence ungrammatical. Choice D (on) is incorrect as 'on' is followed by a possessive adjective and means that something is worrying you: What's on your mind?

**Item (9)****Item Difficulty:** Moderate

"Your hair looks wonderful."

"Thank you. I \_\_\_\_\_ yesterday."

- A. cut them
- B. have cut it
- C. had cut them
- D. had it cut

**Answer: D**

**Explanation:** The correct answer choice is D. When you have something done, you arrange for something to take place (I had my hair cut = I arranged to get a hair cut) or something terrible has happened to you (I had my house burgled). Choices A (cut them) and C (had cut them) are incorrect as 'hair' is uncountable and as such the pronoun 'them' cannot refer to 'hair'. Choice B is wrong as the action took place yesterday and as such the present perfect tense (have cut) cannot be used to describe an action that was completed at a specific time in the past.

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**Item (10)**

**Item Difficulty:** Demanding

"Which is your most difficult subject at school?"

"Economics \_\_\_\_\_ really difficult for me."

- A. are always being
- B. has always been
- C. have always been
- D. is always being

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:** The correct answer choice is B. Subjects that end in '-ics' (Economics, mathematics, physics, etc.) are singular and as such take a singular verb. Thus, choice B is correct (has always been) as it keeps subject verb agreement. Choice D (is being) is incorrect as it implies that Economics is behaving inappropriately: My younger brother is always being difficult!