

THE SEQUENCE OF TENSE

Choose the best answer

1. When I last saw him, he _____ in London.
A. is living B. has been living C. was living D. lived
2. By the time he arrives here tomorrow, they _____ for London.
A. would have left B. will have left C. will left D. are leaving
3. Mr. Pike _____ English at our school for 20 years before he retired last year.
A. had been teaching B. has been teaching C. was teaching D. is teaching
4. When I _____ to the airport, I realized that I _____ my passport at home.
A. got/had left B. got/left C. had got/had left D. got/was left
5. Call me as soon as you _____ your test results.
A. get B. will get C. will have got D. got
6. I _____ to Greece until Sally and I went there last summer.
A. have never been B. had never been C. was never being D. were never
7. I _____ along the street when I suddenly heard footsteps behind me.
A. was walking B. am walking C. walk D. walked
8. The boy fell while he _____ down the stairs.
A. run B. running C. was running D. runs
9. I will come and see you before I _____ for America.
A. leave B. will leave C. have left D. left
10. When the first child was born, they _____ for three years.
A. have been married B. had been married C. will be married D. will have been married
11. It _____ a long time since we were apart. I did not recognize her.
A. is B. has been C. was D. had been
12. In one year's time, she _____ for this company for 15 years.
A. will be working B. will have been working C. will work D. has worked
13. His health has improved a lot since he _____ doing exercises regularly.
A. starts B. started C. has started D. had started
14. She hurt herself while she _____ hide-and-seek with her friends.
A. is playing B. had played C. played D. was playing
15. What _____ at 9 o'clock last night? I phoned you but couldn't get through to you.
A. did you do B. were you doing C. would you do D. had you done
16. It is raining heavily with rolls of thunder. We _____ such a terrible thunderstorm.
A. would never see B. had never seen C. have never seen D. never see
17. My brother usually _____ me for help when he has any difficulties with his homework.
A. ask B. asks C. asked D. has asked
18. Only after she _____ from a severe illness did she realize the importance of good health.
A. would recover B. has recovered C. had recovered D. was recovering
19. Only after the bus _____ for a few miles did Jane realize she was on the wrong route.
A. was running B. had run C. has run D. runs
20. The children _____ to bed before their parents came home from work.

- A. were all going B. had all gone C. had all been going D. have all gone
21. Paul noticed a job advertisement while he _____ along the street.
A. was walking B. would walk C. walked D. had walked
22. I haven't met him again since we _____ school ten years ago.
A. have left B. leave C. left D. had left
23. My best friend Lan _____ to England 10 years ago.
A. was moving B. moves C. moved D. has moved
24. While I _____ at the bus stop, three buses went by in the opposite direction.
A. was waiting B. waited C. had waited D. were waiting
25. By the end of last March, I _____ English for five years.
A. had been studied B. had been studying
C. will have been studying D. will have studied
26. _____ Alan for hours but he hasn't answered his mobile. I hope nothing's wrong.
A. I call B. I've been calling C. I'm calling D. called
27. We _____ in silence when he suddenly _____ me to help him.
A. walked - was asking B. were walking - asked
C. were walking - was asking D. walked - asked
28. By the time the software _____ on sale next month, the company _____ \$2 million on developing it.
A. went - had spent B. will go - has spent
C. has gone - will spend D. goes - will have spent
29. When Carol _____ last night, I _____ my favorite show on television.
A. called /was watching B. had called /watched
C. called /have watched D. was calling /watched
30. Linda took great photos of butterflies while she _____ in the forest.
A. was hiking B. is hiking C. hiked D. had hiked
31. When I _____ for my sister in front of the supermarket, a strange man came to talk with me.
A. was waiting B. waited C. had waited D. were waiting
32. Over the past 30 years, the average robot price _____ by half in real terms, and even further relative to labor costs.
A. is fallen B. has fallen C. were fallen D. have fallen
33. When I came to visit her last night, she _____ a bath.
A. is having B. was having C. has had D. had had
34. John _____ in the same house since he left school.
A. lived B. had lived C. was living D. has lived
35. Since Tom _____, I have heard nothing from him.
A. had left B. left C. has left D. was left
36. The last time I saw her was three years ago.
A. I have not seen her for three years. B. About three years ago, I used to meet her.
C. I have often seen her for the last three years. D. I saw her three years ago and will never meet her
37. She began to play the piano three years ago.
A. She has played the piano since three years. B. She has played the piano for three years
C. She doesn't play the piano now. D. She stops playing the piano now.
38. This is the first time we have been to the circus.
A. We have been to the circus some times before. B. We had been to the circus once before.

- C. We have ever been to the circus often before. D. We have never been to the circus before.
39. She has known how to play the piano for 5 years.
 A. She didn't play the piano 5 years ago. B. She started to play the piano 5 years ago.
 C. She played the piano 5 years ago. D. The last time she played the piano was 5 years ago.
40. We have been cooking for the party for four hours.
 A. We didn't start cooking for the party until four. B. We started cooking for the party four hours ago.
 C. We have four cooks for the party D. Cooking for the party will be done in four hours
41. The last time I saw her was three years ago.
 A. I have not seen her for three years. B. About three years ago, I used to meet her.
 C. I have often seen her for the last three years. D. I saw her three years ago and will never meet her
42. We last went to that cinema 2 months ago.
 A. We have been to the cinema for 2 months. B. We haven't been to the cinema for 2 months.
 C. We didn't want to go to the cinema anymore. D. We didn't go to the cinema for 2 months.
43. We last went to that cinema 2 months ago.
 A. We have been to the cinema for 2 months. B. We haven't been to the cinema for 2 months.
 C. We didn't want to go to the cinema anymore. D. We didn't go to the cinema for 2 months.
44. It started to rain at 2 o'clock and it is still raining.
 A. It has been raining at 2 o'clock. B. It has been raining since 2 o'clock
 C. It has been raining for 2 o'clock. D. It has been raining in 2 o'clock.
45. I have never listened to jazz music before.
 A. This is the first jazz music I listen to. B. This is the first time I listen to jazz music.
 C. This is the first time I have listened to jazz music. D. This is the first time I listened to jazz music.
46. I have not met her for three years.
 A. I did not meet her three years ago. B. During three years, I met her once.
 C. It is three years when I will meet her. D. The last time I met her was three years ago.
47. He started learning French six years ago.
 A. He has learned French for 6 years. B. It was six years ago did he start learning French.
 C. He hasn't learnt French for 6 years. D. It is six years since he has learned French.
48. It's a long time since I last went to a football match.
 A. I haven't gone to a football match for a long time. B. I didn't go to a football match for a long time.
 C. I hadn't gone to a football match for a long time. D. I don't go to a football match for a long time.
49. She has known how to play the piano for 5 years.
 A. She didn't play the piano 5 years ago. B. She started to play the piano 5 years ago.
 C. She played the piano 5 years ago. D. The last time she played the piano was 5 years ago.
50. This is the first time I have ever gone out for a picnic.
 A. I have gone out for a picnic this time. B. I have ever gone out for a picnic.
 C. I have never gone out for a picnic before. D. I had never gone out for a picnic before.