

Big Bang Trial Exam I: brief explanation of twenty grammar questions + further examination practice

1. How many genes each human cell contain?

- a) do b) is c) does d) are e) is able to

risposta giusta: c) does

traduzione: Quanti geni contiene ogni cellula umana?

spiegazione e note: nel 'present simple', il verbo 'to do' si usa come ausiliare nelle forme negative ed interrogative; poiché il soggetto (each human cell) è 3° persona singolare, si usa 'does' (3° persona singolare del verbo 'to do').

frasi supplementari:

1. What percentage of the water in the hydrological cyclethe world's seas contain?
a) does b) is c) has d) do e) are
2. A prokaryote cell have a nucleus in which its genetic material is held.
a) do not b) is not c) does not d) not has e) are not
3. What do forecasters to help them decide what the weather will be like?
a) used b) use c) uses d) have used e) using

risposte frasi supplementari: 1. d) do; 2. c) does not; 3. b) use.

2. Visualizing individual molecules of DNA for genetic and physical studies involves two basic steps.

- a) both b) much c) a lot d) lots e) so

risposta giusta: a) both

traduzione: La visualizzazione di molecole individuali di DNA sia per gli studi genetici che quelli fisici comporta due fasi fondamentali.

spiegazione e note: 1. 'bothand' significa 'sia sia.....';
2. 'eitheror' significa 'o.....o.....';
3. 'neithernor.....' significa 'né né'.
N.B. 'either or' significa 'né.....né.....' se preceduto da una negazione.

frasi supplementari:

1. The lower parts of mountains that have or have had glaciers tend to be characterized by terminal moraines.
a) either b) or c) neither d) both e) nor
2. Oxygen supports burning, causes rusting and is vital to plant and animal respiration.
a) and b) either c) both d) neither e) nor
3. The stem of a plant is strong yet both light supple.
a) or b) and c) neither d) nor e) either

risposte frasi supplementari: 1. a) either; 2. c) both; 3. b) and

3. 1994, these researchers found a new method that uniformly extends and aligns large numbers of molecules.

- a) On b) In c) At d) Already e) Since

risposta giusta: b) In

traduzione: Nel 1994, questi ricercatori trovarono un nuovo metodo che distende uniformemente ed allinea grandi numeri di molecole.

spiegazione e note: nelle espressioni di tempo –

1. 'in' si usa per un periodo di tempo purchè non sia un giorno specifico (per es. *in June, in the afternoon, in summer*);

2. **'on'** si usa per giorni specifici (per es. *on Monday, on the 2nd July, on Boxing Day*);
3. **'at'** si usa o per l'ora o per periodi festivi (per es. *at 2 o'clock, at Christmas*).

frasi supplementari:

1. Charles Darwin published his theory of evolution by natural selection 1859.
a) at b) on c) since d) in e) within
2. The new research laboratory is to be inaugurated the 2nd of September.
a) in b) at c) since d) into e) on
3. Temperatures rarely rise above zero in Antarctica winter.
a) on b) at c) in d) since e) some

risposte frasi supplementari: 1. d) in; 2. e) on; 3. c) in.

4. Plants have colonized virtually every habitat on the planet, from the deserts to the oceans.

- a) driest b) most dry c) more dry d) much dry e) many dry

risposta giusta: a) driest

traduzione: Le piante hanno colonizzato pressoché ogni habitat del pianeta, dai deserti più aridi agli oceani.

spiegazione e note: il comparativo ed il superlativo di un aggettivo composto da una sillaba, o due sillabe purché finisca con 'y', si forma aggiungendo, rispettivamente, 'er' ed 'est' come suffisso; nel caso in cui l'aggettivo finisca con 'y', quest'ultima si trasforma in 'i' (per cui il superlativo di 'dry' è 'driest'). Per gli aggettivi con 2 o più di 2 sillabe, ci si mette 'more' and 'most' davanti all'aggettivo per formare, rispettivamente, il comparativo ed il superlativo.

frasi supplementari:

1. Although the system bats use to guide their flight in darkness is not unique, it is than those used by other animals.
a) evolved b) more and more evolved c) most evolved d) the more evolved e) more evolved
2. Hawaii is island in the Hawaiian-Emperor island chain.
a) younger b) younger than c) as young as d) the youngest e) the younger of
3. The binary digit counting system has proved to be faster and than any alternative.
a) reliabler b) reliable c) reliablest d) the most reliable e) more reliable

risposte frasi supplementari: 1. e) more evolved; 2. d) the youngest; 3. e) more reliable.

5. Some weeks ago I was asked the following question: "Aristotle studied under Plato,?"

- a) doesn't he b) really c) wasn't he d) isn't it e) didn't he

risposta giusta: e) didn't he

traduzione: Qualche settimana fa, mi è stata fatta la domanda seguente: "Aristotole studiò sotto Platone, vero?"

spiegazione e note: 'didn't he' è una *question tag* e significa 'vero?' o 'non è vero?'. La 'question tag' è una specie di etichetta interrogativa (tag) che si aggiunge alla fine di una frase non interrogativa. Se la prima parte della frase è affermativa, la seconda è negativa, e viceversa. E' composto dal pronome soggetto (in questo caso 'he'), preceduto dall'ausiliare appropriato per quel tempo (past simple, per cui 'didn't').

N.B. La prima parte della frase non è mai interrogativa.

frasi supplementari:

1. I'm looking for my pen. You don't have it,?

- a) do you b) don't you c) isn't it d) has you e) haven't you
2. Marie Curie won the Nobel Prize in 1911,?
a) doesn't she b) didn't she c) don't she d) does she e) she did
3. Archimedes, the Greek mathematician, philosopher and engineer was born in Sicily,?
a) isn't it b) isn't he c) was he d) wasn't he e) were he
risposte frasi supplementari: 1. a) do you; 2. b) didn't she; 3. d) wasn't he.
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6. Who that the speed at which a galaxy is moving away from us is proportional to its distance?

- a) did found b) does find c) find d) do find e) found

risposta giusta: e) found

traduzione: Chi scoprì che la velocità alla quale una galassia si allontana da noi è proporzionale alla sua distanza?

spiegazione e note: quando la parola interrogativa funziona da soggetto, non si usa la forma interrogativa. Esempio: 1. Who did you see? (Chi hai visto?) – il soggetto è 'you', non 'Who', per cui si usa la forma interrogativa normale.

2. Who saw you? (Chi ti ha visto?) – il soggetto è la parola interrogativa 'Who', per cui non si usa la forma interrogativa.

frasi supplementari:

- 1.. Who his theory of evolution by natural selection in the nineteenth century?
a) published b) did published c) has published d) did publishes e) was published
2. How many scientific journals paper submissions on-line?
a) accept b) does accept c) accepts d) doesn't accept e) are accept
3. What animals his theory of evolution upon?
a) Darwin based b) based Darwin c) do Darwin base d) are based Darwin e) did Darwin base

risposte frasi supplementari: 1. a) published; 2. a) accept; 3. e) did Darwin base

7. Distances to nearby stars measured by means of the parallax method.

- a) can b) is able to be c) are able to be d) can be e) is

risposta giusta: d) can be

traduzione: Le distanze alle stelle vicine possono essere misurate tramite il metodo di parallasse.

spiegazione e note: 'can' viene seguito dall'infinito senza 'to'. 'To be able' vuol dire 'essere in grado di' e non viene usato nella forma passiva (per cui non in questa frase).

frasi supplementari:

1. The word *atom* is derived from an ancient Greek word for a particle of matter so small it be split up.
a) cannot b) can to c) could to d) to can e) isn't be able to
2. Mathematics can as the very general study of the structure of systems.
a) consider b) considered c) be considered d) be consider e) considering
3. Although they have not yet been their theory, scientists believe there have been between 5 and 22 glacial periods during the last 2 million years.
a) able to proved b) to be able to prove c) able prove d) able proved e) able to prove

risposte frasi supplementari: 1. a) cannot; 2. c) be considered; 3. e) able to prove

8. The nearer , the brighter it will appear.

- a) a star is b) is a star c) a is star d) is star e) star is

risposta giusta: a) a star is

traduzione: Più è vicina una stella, più apparirà luminosa.

spiegazione e note: in questo tipo di paragone è fondamentale ricordarsi l'ordine delle parole:

1. The
2. il comparativo
3. il soggetto
4. il verbo

frasi supplementari:

1. The more cluttered a hard disk is, it will be.
a) the slow b) slower c) slow d) slowest e) the slower
2. a particle of matter is, the more difficult it is to split up.
a) Smaller b) The smaller c) The more small d) The smallest e) The most small
3. The longer the project lasts, the more expensive become.
a) it b) will be c) will it d) it will e) it will be

risposte frasi supplementari: 1. e) the slower; 2. b) The smaller; 3. d) it will

9. The deepest parts of the oceans are the ocean trenches, are on average 100 km wide.

- a) who b) whose c) which d) what e) why

risposta giusta: c) which

traduzione: Le parti più profonde degli oceani sono le fosse oceaniche, le quali sono in media larghe 100 km.

spiegazione e note: pronomi relativi –

1. 'who' si usa per le persone - è pronome relativo soggetto (viene usato anche come complemento oggetto);
2. 'which' si usa per le cose; è pronome relativo sia soggetto che oggetto;
3. 'that' si usa sia per le persone che per le cose (come pronome relativo soggetto ed oggetto);
4. 'whom' è il pronome relativo complemento oggetto usato per le persone, ma essendo ormai considerato piuttosto formale viene spesso sostituito da 'who';
5. 'whose' è il pronome relativo possessivo, il quale si usa sia per le persone che per le cose (per.es. 'I have a friend whose sister works in London' – 'Ho un'amica la cui sorella lavora a Londra')

frasi supplementari:

1. This information can be used in the analysis of chemical samples composition is unknown.
a) whom b) who c) how d) why e) whose
2. This is a breakthrough is likely to affect hundreds of thousands of people throughout the world.
a) that b) who c) whose d) whom e) it
3. A prokaryote cell does not have a nucleus in its genetic material is held.
a) who b) whom c) where d) whose e) which

risposte frasi supplementari: 1. e) whose; 2. a) that; 3. e) which.

10. Scientists believe there between 5 and 22 glacial periods during the last 2 million years.

- a) is b) are been c) are being d) have been e) had been

risposta giusta: d) have been

traduzione: Gli scienziati pensano che ci siano state tra 5 e 22 ere glaciali nel corso degli ultimi 2 milioni di anni.

spiegazione e note: il 'present perfect simple' (si forma con l'ausiliare 'have/has' + participio passato), a differenza del 'past simple' (evento compiuto), si usa per un arco di tempo che inizia in passato e dura fino ad adesso (per cui non è del tutto finito).

frasi supplementari:

1. In what animals the ability to use sound to guide their flight in darkness reached its apex in evolution?
a) have b) does have c) has d) having e) has had
2. Dinosaurs the fauna of the Earth from the early Jurassic until the end of the Cretaceous.
a) had been dominated b) have dominated c) are dominating d) have been dominated e) dominated
3. The evolutionary history of the arthropods has long an area of active debate.
a) was b) be c) been d) being e) were

risposte frasi supplementari: 1. c) has; 2. e) dominated; 3. c) been.

11. Stainless steels are produced iron with chromium and sometimes also with nickel.

- a) in alloying b) to alloying c) with alloying d) by alloying e) so alloying

risposta giusta: d) by alloying

traduzione: Gli acciai inossidabili sono prodotti legando il ferro con il cromo ed a volte anche con il nichel.

spiegazione e note: in inglese, il 'by' seguito dal verbo al gerundio si usa quando qualcosa si ottiene tramite (by) un altro processo (in questo caso, il legare il ferro con il cromo).

frasi supplementari:

1. Aspirin is increasingly to treat an ever-widening range of disorders.
a) by being used b) been used c) by using d) being used e) using
2. A black hole can be detected its gravitational effects on other objects.
a) by having observed b) by observing c) observing d) by being observed e) observe
3. Charles Darwin started on his theory of evolution during a long scientific survey e expedition to South America between 1831 and 1836.
a) by working b) to working c) working d) worked e) by having worked

risposte frasi supplementari: 1. d) being used; 2. b) by observing; 3. c) working.

12. telephone lines are good enough, portable computers can be connected to the telephone system anywhere in the world.

- a) Whereas b) Hence c) Notwithstanding d) Moreover e) As long as

risposta giusta: e) As long as

traduzione: Purchè le linee telefoniche siano sufficientemente buone, i computer portatili possono essere collegati al sistema telefonico in qualsiasi parte del mondo.

spiegazione e note: 'as long as' vuol dire 'purchè' o 'finchè'. Da non confondere con 'until', che vuol dire 'finchè non', o 'fino a' con espressioni temporali (per.es. 'until Monday').

frasi supplementari:

1. Dinosaurs dominated the fauna of the Earth from the early Jurassic the end of the Cretaceous.
a) as long as b) since c) until d) as far as e) by
2. Patients will be able to benefit from such projects only money is available to fund them.
a) until b) as long as c) as far as d) why e) whose
3. Once current is started in a closed circuit, it keeps flowing the circuit is kept cold.
a) as long as b) until c) as far as d) up to e) unless

risposte frasi supplementari: 1. c) until; 2. b) as long as; 3. a) as long as.

13. isotopes of an element contain the same nuclear charge, and their chemical properties are identical, they do not display the same physical properties.

a) Yet b) Even though c) Despite d) Thus e) However

risposta giusta: b) Even though

traduzione: Benché gli isotopi di un elemento contengano la stessa carica nucleare, ed le loro proprietà chimiche siano le stesse, non mostrano le stesse proprietà fisiche.

spiegazione e note: 1. 'as' e 'since' significano 'poiché', 'siccome' o 'dato che';
2. 'therefore', 'thus', 'hence' e 'so' significano 'perciò', 'quindi' o 'così';
3. 'however', 'nevertheless' e 'yet' (quest'ultimo solo se ad inizio frase) significano 'comunque', 'tuttavia', 'nonostante ciò' o 'eppure';
4. 'unless' significa 'a meno che non';
5. 'even though', 'although' e 'though' significano 'nonostante', 'malgrado', 'sebbene', 'benchè' o 'anche se, e vengono seguiti dal **soggetto e verbo**;
6. 'despite' ed 'in spite of' significano anche loro entrambi 'nonostante' e 'malgrado' (**non** 'sebbene', 'benchè' ed 'anche se') ma vengono seguiti o dal **sostantivo senza verbo** o dal **verbo al gerundio**, non dal soggetto e verbo.

frasi supplementari:

1. bats are not unique in their ability to use sound to guide their flight in darkness, it is in these animals that this system has reached its apex in evolution.

a) Yet b) Regardless of c) Although d) However e) As

2. being largely self-taught, George Boole became Professor of Mathematics in Ireland.

a) Although b) Despite c) Instead d) As well as e) Besides

3. A number of plants and animals live in deserts, the extremely conditions present in such areas.

a) despite b) though c) although d) even e) in spite

risposte frasi supplementari: 1. c) Although; 2. b) Despite; 3. a) despite.

14. When the first oil well drilled in the U.S.A.?

a) was b) has been c) could be d) will be e) are

risposta giusta: a) was

traduzione: Quando è stato scavato il primo pozzo di petrolio negli Stati Uniti?

spiegazione e note: frase passiva al 'past simple' (un azione già compiuta). Da notare che le risposte b), c) e d) non potevano essere giuste per il fatto che nella forma interrogativa il soggetto (the first oil well) andrebbe, rispettivamente, subito dopo 'has', 'could' e 'will'.

frasi supplementari:

1. Until when telegraphy the main form of communication?

a) have been b) has been c) was been d) was being e) was

2. What areas of science Archimedes work in most?

a) is b) was c) has d) did e) do

3. For centuries, plants been regarded as passive creatures.

a) are b) have c) is d) has e) do

risposte frasi supplementari: 1. e) was; 2. d) did; 3. b) have.

15. Stem cells can, other types of cells, grow into anything.

a) although b) nevertheless c) since d) unlike e) yet

risposta giusta: d) unlike

traduzione: Le cellule staminali possono, a differenza di altri tipi di cellule, svilupparsi in qualsiasi cosa.

spiegazione e note: 'like' significa 'come' o 'similmente a', per cui 'unlike' significa 'a differenza di'.

frasi supplementari:

1. one enantiomer smells strongly of lemons, the other smells strongly of oranges.
a) Like b) So c) Otherwise d) While e) Unlike
2. White blood cells, known lymphocytes, form one of the most important components of the immune system.
a) as b) such as c) like d) unlike e) as such
3. All animals require an adequate supply of various essential resources, shelter and food.
a) as b) unlike c) such d) whether e) like

risposte frasi supplementari: 1. d) While; 2. a) as; 3. e) like.

16. As everyone's DNA is significantly different, the forensic technique known as genetic fingerprinting is becoming important in identifying criminals.

a) much b) a lot c) more and more d) most e) already

risposta giusta: c) more and more

traduzione: Poiché il DNA di ogni persona è significativamente diverso, la tecnica investigativa conosciuta come impronta digitale genetica sta diventando sempre più importante per l'identificazione dei criminali.

spiegazione e note: per dire 'sempre più + aggettivo' in inglese, si ripete il comparativo dell'aggettivo due volte, unendoli con 'and'; nei casi in cui il comparativo si forma mettendo 'more' prima dell'aggettivo, l'aggettivo stesso viene omissa la prima volta. Per esempio –

- a) longer and longer (sempre più lungo)
- b) easier and easier (sempre più facile)
- c) more and more famous (sempre più famoso)

Si può dire la stessa cosa, in modo più formale, mettendo 'increasingly' prima dell'aggettivo (per.es. increasingly easy – sempre più facile)

frasi supplementari:

1. Kevlar is becoming thanks to its low flammability, high thermal stability and great tensile strength.
a) increasing popular b) much popular c) more popular and more popular d) many popular e) more and more popular
2. In some countries, hydroelectric power isimportant source of energy.
a) more and more b) much c) more d) the most e) increasingly
3. Some bays are sheltered from wave action that their beaches do not form.
a) very b) more c) increasingly d) so e) most

risposte frasi supplementari: 1. e) more and more popular; 2. d) the most; 3. d) so.

17. The height of waves and the distance between them are largely determined by wind and the distance over which they have been transported.

a) strong b) strongly c) strength d) stronger e) strengthen

risposta giusta: c) strength

traduzione: l'altezza delle onde e la distanza tra di loro è determinata in gran parte dalla forza del vento e dalla distanza lungo la quale sono state trasportate.

spiegazione e note: *strong* (forte - aggettivo), *strongly* (fortemente - avverbio), *strength* (forza - sostantivo), *stronger* (più forte - comparativo) e *strengthen* (rafforzare - verbo).

frasi supplementari:

1. The system based on sound bats use to guide their in darkness is not unique among animals, but it is the most evolved.
a) fly b) flew c) flies d) flown e) flight
 2. Kevlar is becoming very widespread thanks to its low flammability, high thermal and great tensile strength.
a) more stable b) unstable c) stability d) stable e) stabilise
 3. While one enantiomer smells of lemons, the other smells of oranges.
a) strong b) strongly c) strength d) more stronger e) much strong
- risposte frasi supplementari:** 1. e) flight; 2. c) stability; 3. b) strongly.
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18. What areas of science did Archimedes work most?

- a) the b) very c) much d) a e) in

risposta giusta: e) in

traduzione: In quali aree della scienza ha lavorato soprattutto Archimede?

spiegazione e note: nelle domande, la preposizione che in italiano va ad inizio frase, in inglese si mette spesso dopo il verbo principale. Un esempio molto conosciuto è 'Where do you come from?' (Da dove vieni?), con il 'Da' (inizio frase in italiano) tradotto con 'from' (in fondo, dopo il verbo principale in inglese).

frasi supplementari:

1. What was Bertrand Russell, the mathematician and philosopher, jailed in World War I?
a) when b) until c) for d) long e) since
2. was the Doppler effect first described by?
a) By whose b) Whom c) By Which d) How e) In which
3. Whom did Aristotle study in Athens?
a) years b) under c) if d) some e) like

risposte frasi supplementari: 1. c) for; 2. b) Whom 3. b) under.

19. Protists are very small organisms, ranging from 0.00001 1 mm in length.

- a) since b) until c) up to d) as far as e) till

risposta giusta: c) up to

traduzione: I protisti sono degli organismi molto piccoli, la cui lunghezza varia da 0,00001 mm fino a 1 mm.

spiegazione e note: 'until', 'up to' ed 'as far as' significano 'fino a'. La differenza principale è che 'until' si usa per le espressioni temporali (per.es. until Monday, until Christmas), 'up to' si usa per quantità, livelli o gradi (per.es. up to 20 people, up to 20 %), mentre 'as far as' si usa per distanze (per.es. as far as Florence). 'Till' è un sinonimo di 'until'.

frasi supplementari:

1. Dinosaurs dominated the fauna of the Earth from the early Jurassic the end of the Cretaceous.
a) as far as b) as long as c) since d) until e) by
2. Snakes havefour hundred and fifty vertebrae, each with a pair of ribs, and almost all have tails.
a) up to b) as far as c) until d) more of e) most of
3. Patients will be able to benefit from such projects only money is available to fund them.
a) until b) as long as c) as far as d) up to e) why

risposte frasi supplementari: 1. d) until; 2. a) up to; 3. b) as long as.

20. A quadrilateral is plane figure with four sides.

a) whose b) those c) any d) all e) whole

risposta giusta: c) any

traduzione: Un quadrilatero è una qualsiasi figura piana con quattro lati.

spiegazione e note: 'any' significa 'qualsiasi' nelle frasi affermative, 'qualche' nelle frasi interrogative e 'nessuno/a' se preceduto da una negazione.

frasi supplementari:

1. We all know where she worked, but does know where she was born?

a) any b) anyone c) some d) nothing e) we all

2. "How many people are coming tomorrow?" "....., because the meeting's been cancelled."

a) Any b) Anybody c) Every d) All e) None

3. In materials, such as gallium arsenide, a p-n junction will emit light whenever an electric current passes through it.

a) any b) some c) every d) none e) nothing

risposte frasi supplementari: 1. b) anyone; 2. e) None; 3. b) some