Make meaningful sentences by filling in the blanks with an appropriate word or phrase. This grammar exercise allows you to practice auxiliary verbs and inversion.

1. I have always ................ play games well.
   could
   been able to
   able to
   Can and could have no infinitives or participles. For example, there are no forms like I have could ....

2. He has always ................ to do what he wanted.
   could
   been allowed
   Either could be used here
   Can and could have no infinitives or participles. For example, there are no forms like I have could ....

3. One cannot help but ................ his courage.
   to admire
   admire
   The infinitive is used without to in the structure cannot help but..

4. ..................do you want a holiday?
   How
   How much
   How far
   We use how much in questions about degree.

5. I will have tea ................ coffee.
   instead
6. They often go fishing ................. going to school.
   instead
   without
   instead of

Instead of is used when a person, thing or action replaces another.

7. Stella often goes to the movies ............... telling her parents.
   instead
   instead of
   without

8. I am interested ................. what she did with that money.
   to find out
   in finding out
   Either could be used here

Interested + ing and interested + infinitive can both be used to talk about a wish to find out something.

9. At no time ................. aware of what was happening.
   was he
   he was
   has he

If a negative expression comes at the beginning of a clause, it is usually followed by auxiliary verb + subject.
10. Only then ............... understand what he meant.

I did
did I
had I

If a negative expression comes at the beginning of a clause, it is usually followed by auxiliary verb + subject.

11. I wondered what time ...............  

was the show starting  
was starting the show  
the show was starting  

In indirect questions the subject goes before the verb.

12. I tried ............... the doctor but my hands were numb.  

to call  
calling  
Either could be used here  

We can use either an infinitive or an ing form after 'try' to talk about making an effort to do something.

PLAY AGAIN!

Answers

1. I have always been able to play games well.
2. He has always been allowed to do what he wanted.
3. One cannot help but admire his courage.
4. How much do you want a holiday?
5. I will have tea instead of coffee.
6. They often go fishing instead of going to school.
7. Stella often goes to the movies without telling her parents.
8. I am interested to find out / in finding out what she did with that money.
9. At no time was he aware of what was happening.
10. Only then did I understand what he meant.
11. I wondered what time the show was starting.
12. I tried calling / to call the doctor but my hands were numb.