ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Advanced Binomials and Similes Quiz: By and Large, Dry as Dust

English Vocabulary Tests · 15 questions · Online test and questions PDF:
https://englishtestsonline.com/advanced-binomials-and-similes-quiz-by-and-large-dry-as-dust/

1	**B**	2	**D**	3	**A**	4	**C**	5	**C**	6	**A**	7	**D**	8	**B**	9	**B**	10	**D**
11	**A**	12	**C**	13	**A**	14	**B**	15	**C**										

Explanations

1. ___, the students found the course useful, though a few wanted more speaking practice.
✔ **B) By and large**
By and large means on the whole, with a few exceptions. The order is fixed, and at large means free (a prisoner at large) or in general after a noun (the public at large).

2. Early mornings are ___ farming.
✔ **D) part and parcel of**
Part and parcel of means a part you cannot avoid. Parcel is fixed, the order is fixed, and the preposition is of.

3. The rules on working from abroad are not as ___ as they look.
✔ **A) cut and dried**
Cut and dried means already decided and simple. Cut and paste is a computer action, and the other forms are not idioms.

4. It was a ___ solution, but the bridge held until the engineers arrived.
✔ **C) rough-and-ready**
Rough and ready means basic but good enough; before a noun it takes hyphens. Rough-and-tumble means noisy, playful fighting, which does not fit a bridge.

5. The holiday flat was ___: not a crumb anywhere.
✔ **C) spick and span**
Spick and span means very clean and tidy. Both words and their order are fixed.

6. If you keep ___, the builders can't order the materials.
✔ **A) chopping and changing**
Chop and change means keep changing your plans or choices. It is British, and the order is fixed.

7. Against all predictions, the corner shop is still ___.
✔ **D) alive and kicking**
Alive and kicking means still active and healthy, although people expected the opposite.

8. It's only a small mistake on the invoice; there's no need to ___ about it.
✔ **B) make a song and dance**
Make a song and dance about something means make far too much fuss. There is only one a, and the verb is make.

9. Good builders are ___ round here, so book one now.
✔ **B) like gold dust**
Like gold dust means so rare that everyone wants one. It is British and usually follows be.

10. The lecture on tax law was ___; half the room fell asleep.
✔ **D) as dry as dust**
As dry as dust can mean very boring. As dry as a bone (bone-dry) is only about things with no water in them, like soil or a towel.

11. She asked for a pay rise on her first day, ___.
✔ **A) as bold as brass**
As bold as brass means shockingly confident, with no shame. Bold and brass are fixed.

12. The two old men are ___: they meet every morning and share every secret.
✔ **C) as thick as thieves**
As thick as thieves means very close friends; thick means close. As thick as a brick and as thick as two short planks both mean very stupid.

13. After a week in bed, Mum is ___ again. Her old pager, though, is ___: hardly anyone uses one now.
✔ **A) as right as rain … as dead as a dodo**
As right as rain means completely well again, with no the. As dead as a dodo means completely out of date; the dodo died out in the 1600s.

14. However much the critics attack her, it's ___.
✔ **B) like water off a duck's back**
Like water off a duck's back means criticism has no effect. Water, off and duck's back are all fixed.

15. Telling my brother that his team lost ___ is ___: he gets furious.
✔ **C) fair and square … like a red rag to a bull**
Fair and square means by the rules, so nobody can complain. Like a red rag to a bull means certain to make someone furious; Americans may say like waving a red flag.