ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Business Expressions Vocabulary Test 3

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Explanations

1. I reckon we owe you about the same as you owe us. Why don't we just _____?
✔ **E) call it quits**
Call it quits means agreeing that neither side owes the other anything, or stopping something. The clue is that both sides owe about the same, so they can cancel the debts. Not **called it a day**: after **Why don't we** we need the base form, and that idiom means stopping work.

2. We've been working on this for fourteen hours now. Isn't it time we _____?
✔ **A) called it a day**
Call it a day means stop working for now. After **Isn't it time we…** English uses the past tense, so **called it a day** is right. The clue is fourteen hours of work. Not **call it quits**, because it is not in the past form.

3. Let's face it, he decides. He's the boss so he's the one that _____.
✔ **B) calls the shots**
Call the shots means to be the person who makes the decisions. The clue is **he decides** and **He's the boss**. The subject is **he** (**the one**), so the verb takes -s: **calls the shots**.

4. He says he will go elsewhere if we don't lower our price but I don't think he will. I think we should _____.
✔ **A) call his bluff**
Call someone's bluff means to challenge someone because you think their threat is not real. The speaker doesn't believe the customer will really go elsewhere, so they want to test him: **call his bluff**.

5. I'm sure that there is a lot of corruption in that country. If we order an internal audit we may be opening _____.
✔ **E) a can of worms**
Open a can of worms means to start something that causes many new, unpleasant problems. An audit could uncover a lot of corruption and create trouble, so we may be **opening a can of worms**. Not **chicken**, which means afraid.

6. Someone is going to have to take responsibility for this disaster. Who is going to _____?
✔ **B) carry the can**
Carry the can means to take the blame or responsibility for something that went wrong. The clue is **take responsibility for this disaster**. Example: **The manager had to carry the can for the failed project.**

7. Whatever we do, we are going to come out badly. It's a _____ situation.
✔ **D) can't win**
A **can't-win situation** is one where every choice leads to a bad result. The clue is **Whatever we do, we are going to come out badly**.

8. She always likes to think things through very carefully. She likes to _____.
✔ **C) chew things over**
Chew things over means to think about something carefully for a long time before deciding. The clue is **think things through very carefully**.

9. We need a loan to start the company and we need a company to get the loan. It's a _____ situation.
✔ **E) chicken and egg**
A **chicken and egg situation** is one where you can't have A without B, and you can't have B without A, so it is hard to know where to start. Here they need a loan to start the company but need a company to get the loan.

10. We wanted to expand into Asia but we were a bit frightened. We were soon sorry for being so _____.
✔ **B) chicken**
Chicken is an informal adjective meaning afraid or not brave. The clue is **we were a bit frightened**. Example: **Don't be chicken, just ask him.**

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