ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Common English Idioms by Topic Quiz: Time, Money, Colours

English Vocabulary Tests · 15 questions · Online test and questions PDF:
https://englishtestsonline.com/common-english-idioms-by-topic-quiz-time-money-colours/

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

Explanations

1. The ambulance arrived ___: two more minutes and it would have been too late.
✔ **A) in the nick of time**
In the nick of time means just before it is too late. Every word is fixed.

2. The shop is open ___, so you can buy milk at 3 am.
✔ **C) round the clock**
Round the clock (American English: around the clock) means all day and all night.

3. A bike is expensive now, but you'll save money on bus tickets ___.
✔ **B) in the long run**
In the long run means after a long time, not now.

4. Since Dad lost his job, we've all had to ___ our belts. Some months we can only just make ___ meet.
✔ **D) tighten … ends**
Tighten your belt means spend less. Make ends meet means have just enough money for the things you need.

5. A cup of coffee in this café won't ___.
✔ **A) break the bank**
It won't break the bank means it is cheap enough.

6. I hadn't heard from Tom for ten years. Then, ___, he sent me a postcard.
✔ **B) out of the blue**
Out of the blue means suddenly, with no warning.

7. When someone pushed in front of me in the queue, I ___.
✔ **C) saw red**
See red means suddenly get very angry.

8. The security guard caught the thief ___ with a laptop under his coat.
✔ **D) red-handed**
Catch somebody red-handed means find them while they are doing something wrong.

9. My friends were ___ with envy when I got tickets for the final.
✔ **B) green**
Green with envy means you really want what someone else has.

10. "Do you like my painting?" "Oh yes, it's lovely," I said. It was only a ___.
✔ **A) white lie**
A white lie is not true, but you say it so nobody feels bad.

11. Nobody talks about the huge bill. It's the ___ in the room.
✔ **C) elephant**
The elephant in the room is the problem that is too awkward for anyone to start talking about.

12. Dad was planning a trip to Paris for Mum's birthday, but my sister ___ the cat out of the bag.
✔ **D) let**
Let the cat out of the bag means tell a secret by mistake.

13. Before my driving test, I had ___ in my stomach.
✔ **B) butterflies**
Butterflies in your stomach is the nervous, excited feeling before something important.

14. Tell me why you got ___ feet before the wedding. I'm all ___.
✔ **C) cold … ears**
Get cold feet means feel afraid and want to stop a big plan. Be all ears means be ready to listen carefully.

15. The manager has her hands ___ with the new shop, so she turns a blind ___ to small problems.
✔ **A) full … eye**
Have your hands full means be very busy. Turn a blind eye means see something wrong and act as if you didn't.

Practise more on englishtestsonline.com
Take this test online, download its questions PDF, and find thousands of free English tests:
englishtestsonline.com · scan the code for this test
englishtestsonline.com