ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

English Proverbs and Their Meanings Quiz: 16 Common Sayings

English Vocabulary Tests · 15 questions · Online test and questions PDF:
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1	**B**	2	**D**	3	**A**	4	**C**	5	**D**	6	**B**	7	**A**	8	**C**	9	**A**	10	**B**
11	**C**	12	**D**	13	**B**	14	**A**	15	**C**										

Explanations

1. Where there's a ___, there's a way.
✔ **B) will**
Where there's a will, there's a way: if you really want something, you'll find a way to do it. Will here means a strong wish.

2. We painted the hall in an hour because eight of us helped. Many hands make ___ work.
✔ **D) light**
Many hands make light work: share a big job, and each person only does a little.

3. The tickets go on sale at nine. Strike while the ___ is hot: the early ___ catches the worm.
✔ **A) iron … bird**
Strike while the iron is hot: act now, while the moment is good. The early bird catches the worm: start early, and you get the best chances.

4. Don't buy the first house you see. Look before you ___.
✔ **C) leap**
Look before you leap: think about the dangers before you act. Don't change the words of a proverb.

5. My parents spent a month apart, and now they're happier than ever. Absence makes the heart grow ___.
✔ **D) fonder**
Absence makes the heart grow fonder: when someone is far away, you love them more.

6. When Tom moved schools, he stopped calling his old friends. Out of ___, out of mind.
✔ **B) sight**
Out of sight, out of mind: when you can't see someone or something, you soon forget them.

7. My sister thinks my job is more exciting than hers, and I think hers is better. The grass is always ___ on the other side.
✔ **A) greener**
The grass is always greener on the other side: other people's lives always seem better than yours.

8. He criticised the company that gives him free trainers. Don't ___ the hand that feeds you.
✔ **C) bite**
Don't bite the hand that feeds you: someone gives you work, money or help, so don't attack them.

9. Mum has used a laptop for years, but she still prints every email. Old habits die ___.
✔ **A) hard**
Old habits die hard: something you did for years keeps coming back. Hardly means almost not.

10. "Grandpa, try the voice assistant!" "No, you can't teach an old dog new ___."
✔ **B) tricks**
You can't teach an old dog new tricks: older people find it hard to learn new ways.

11. First I lost my job, and then my flat flooded. It never rains but it ___.
✔ **C) pours**
It never rains but it pours (British): one bad thing happens, and then many more come at once.

12. Everyone says the manager is lying. There's no smoke ___ fire.
✔ **D) without**
There's no smoke without fire (British): if people say bad things about someone, some of it is probably true.

13. The cake is ruined, but it's no use crying over spilt ___. And the party isn't certain yet, so don't count your ___ before they hatch.
✔ **B) milk … chickens**
It's no use crying over spilt milk: it has happened, so being upset won't help. Don't count your chickens before they hatch: don't act as if something good is certain yet.

14. Don't mention their old argument: let sleeping ___ lie. And yes, the sofa is small, but beggars can't be ___.
✔ **A) dogs … choosers**
Let sleeping dogs lie: don't talk about an old problem again. Beggars can't be choosers: you asked for help or got it free, so you take what you're given.

15. You want to save money and buy a new car every year? You can't have your ___ and eat it.
✔ **C) cake**
You can't have your cake and eat it: you can't have two good things when one stops the other.