ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Idioms MCQ Test With Answers + PDF Exercise 09

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1	**B**	2	**A**	3	**B**	4	**C**	5	**C**	6	**C**	7	**B**	8	**A**	9	**C**	10	**B**
11	**C**	12	**C**	13	**B**	14	**B**	15	**C**	16	**A**	17	**A**	18	**B**	19	**C**	20	**A**

Explanations

1. If you are "quaking in your boots", you are _____.
✔ **B) afraid**
To **quake** means to shake. If you are **quaking in your boots**, you are so **afraid** that you are shaking. Example: **He was quaking in his boots before the exam.**

2. If you are "quick on the trigger", you are quick to _____.
✔ **A) respond**
Someone who is **quick on the trigger** reacts or **responds** very fast, sometimes too fast. The image is of someone who fires a gun quickly.

3. "Quick on the uptake" means you are quick to _____.
✔ **B) understand**
Uptake here means understanding. If you are **quick on the uptake**, you **understand** new ideas fast. Example: **She's quick on the uptake, so explain it only once.**

4. "Quiet as a mouse" describes someone who is _____.
✔ **C) timid**
A mouse makes very little noise, so **quiet as a mouse** describes someone who is very quiet and shy, or **timid**. Not **loud**, which is the opposite.

5. To "raise eyebrows" is to _____.
✔ **C) shock**
People lift their eyebrows when they are surprised. If something **raises eyebrows**, it **shocks** or surprises people, often because they disapprove. Example: **His strange clothes raised a few eyebrows.** Not **question something**: the idiom describes the effect on other people, not the act of asking.

6. If something will happen "rain or shine", it'll happen _____.
✔ **C) no matter what**
Rain or shine means in any weather, so in any situation: it will happen **no matter what**. Example: **The market is open every Sunday, rain or shine.**

7. To "rattle off" is to _____.
✔ **B) say things quickly**
To **rattle off** a list means to **say things quickly**, usually from memory. Example: **She rattled off the names of all the players.**

8. "Razzle dazzle" is _____.
✔ **A) a fancy display**
Razzle dazzle is **a fancy display**: noisy, colourful show or excitement meant to impress people. Example: **the razzle dazzle of a Hollywood premiere**.

9. The "rear end" is _____.
✔ **C) the back part**
Rear means back, so the **rear end** is **the back part** of something, such as a car. Informally it can also mean a person's bottom.

10. To "ride out" something is _____.
✔ **B) to survive safely**
To **ride out** a storm or a difficult time means **to survive** it **safely** until it is over. Example: **The company rode out the crisis.** Not **to finish successfully**: the idiom is about getting through trouble, not completing a task.

11. If something happens "right and left", it happens _____.
✔ **C) all around**
Right and left (also **left and right**) means everywhere, all around, and often many times. Example: **People were getting sick right and left.** Not **rarely**: this means almost never, which is the opposite.

12. If something "rings a bell", it _____.
✔ **C) sounds familiar**
If a name or an idea **rings a bell**, it **sounds familiar**: you think you have heard it before. Example: **His name rings a bell, but I can't remember him.**

13. To "rip into" means to _____.
✔ **B) attack**
To **rip into** someone means to **attack** them, usually by criticising them strongly. Example: **The coach ripped into the players after the game.**

14. To "run away with" means to _____.
✔ **B) steal**
To **run away with** something means to take it and leave, so to **steal** it. Example: **The cashier ran away with the money.** Not **borrow**: borrowing means you will give it back.

15. If it's "safe and sound", it's _____.
✔ **C) not harmed**
Safe and sound means safe and **not harmed**. Example: **The children came home safe and sound.**

16. If someone says "same here", he is _____.
✔ **A) agreeing**
Same here means "me too", so the speaker is **agreeing** or saying he feels the same. Example: **"I'm tired." "Same here."**

17. To "say the word" means to _____.
✔ **A) give a sign**
Say the word means just tell me or **give a sign**, and I will do it at once. Example: **If you need help, just say the word.**

18. To "screw up" is to _____.
✔ **B) make a mess**
To **screw up** (informal) means to **make a mess** of something or make a bad mistake. Example: **I screwed up the interview.**

19. If you "see eye to eye" with someone, you _____ them.
✔ **C) agree with**
If you **see eye to eye** with someone, you **agree with** them. Example: **We don't always see eye to eye on politics. Oppose** is the opposite.

20. To "set your sights" on something means to _____ something.
✔ **A) aim for**
To **set your sights on** something means to **aim for** it, to decide you want to get it. Example: **She has set her sights on a gold medal.** Not **look for**: the idiom is about a goal, not searching.

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