ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

More Speak English Like an American Lesson 10 Idioms and Expressions MCQ Test

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Explanations

1. **Fill in the blank with the missing word:**

After reading her husband's text messages on his cell phone, Rita realized her husband was cheating _____ her.
✔ **B) on**
Cheat on someone means to be unfaithful to your husband, wife or partner, for example by secretly having a relationship with another person. Example: **He was cheating on his wife.** Not **with**: you cheat **with** the other person, not with your own partner.

2. Not only was Rita's husband cheating on her, but to make _____ worse, he was having an affair with her best friend.
✔ **A) matters**
To make matters worse means "and something made the bad situation even worse." It is a fixed expression, so only **matters** fits; **stories** and **issues** are not used in it.

3. Rita was really upset about her husband's affair. In fact, she went to _____.
✔ **C) pieces**
Go to pieces means to become so upset that you cannot control your feelings or act normally. Example: **When she heard the news, she went to pieces.**

4. Rita told her husband, "Nick, now I have your _____. If you don't stop seeing that woman, you're going to be in big trouble."
✔ **B) number**
I have your number means "I know what you are really doing and what kind of person you are." Rita has found out about Nick's secret. Not **secret**: we don't say **I have your secret** with this meaning.

5. Nick told his wife not to get bent out of _____.
✔ **A) shape**
Get bent out of shape is informal American English for "get very angry or upset." Example: **Don't get bent out of shape over a small mistake.** The idiom always uses **shape**, never **form**.

6. When Nick told Rita he was coming home from work late because he was working on a proposal, Rita said, "Don't tell me a cock-and-bull _____."
✔ **C) story**
A **cock-and-bull story** is a silly story that nobody can believe, often told as an excuse. Rita thinks Nick's reason for coming home late is not true. The fixed expression uses **story**. Not **lie**: a **cock-and-bull lie** is not used.

7. When Rita accused Nick of being a liar, he said, "I admit it. I've told a few _____ lies."
✔ **A) white**
A **white lie** is a small lie that seems harmless, often told to avoid trouble or to be polite. Nick says his lies were only small ones. **Black lies** and **gray lies** are not common expressions.

8. Rita told her husband, "The jig is _____. You need to move out of the house."
✔ **C) up**
The jig is up is American English for "your secret or trick has been discovered, so it's over." (British English often says **the game is up**.) Not **over**: although the meaning is "finished," the idiom always uses **up**.

9. "Hey, keep it _____," said Nick after Rita yelled at him. "Otherwise, you'll wake up the kids."
✔ **B) down**
Keep it down means "be quieter; don't make so much noise." Nick doesn't want Rita's yelling to wake the children. Not **low**: we say **keep your voice low**, but the fixed phrase with **it** is **keep it down**.

10. Rita doesn't talk about her personal problems at work. She doesn't like to air her dirty _____ in public.
✔ **C) laundry**
Air your dirty laundry in public means to talk about your private problems or family arguments where other people can hear. Rita keeps her problems private at work. The idiom uses **laundry** (in British English also **wash your dirty linen in public**), not **clothes**.