ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

More Speak English Like an American Lesson 12 Idioms and Expressions MCQ Test

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1	B	2	B	3	B	4	A	5	C	6	C	7	B	8	A	9	B	10	A

Explanations

1. **Choose the most appropriate response to each sentence:**

I'm in the doghouse with my wife after forgetting our wedding anniversary.
✔ **B) I'm sure she'll forgive you soon.**
To be **in the doghouse** means someone is angry with you because you did something wrong. A kind reply is that his wife will **forgive** him soon. Not **It must be a big doghouse**, because the idiom is not about a real doghouse.

2. I'm making headway with my new diet.
✔ **B) How many pounds have you lost?**
To **make headway** means to make progress. If the diet is going well, it makes sense to ask how much weight was lost: **How many pounds have you lost?** Not **When will you start the diet?**, because the speaker has already started it.

3. Rachel is giving me the silent treatment these days.
✔ **B) Why, is she angry at you?**
To give someone **the silent treatment** means to refuse to talk to them, usually because you are angry. So the natural question is **Is she angry at you?** Not **That's a great treatment**, because the idiom has nothing to do with medical treatment.

4. No more unhealthy foods for me. I'm turning over a new leaf.
✔ **A) That's a good idea.**
To **turn over a new leaf** means to change your behavior and start living in a better way. Eating healthier is a good change, so the reply is **That's a good idea.** Not **Good luck with the new leaf**, because there is no real leaf.

5. You loaned Steve your iPod, and he lost it? I hope you learned your lesson.
✔ **C) Yes, I won't loan Steve anything in the future.**
To **learn your lesson** means to understand your mistake so you don't repeat it. The person learned not to lend things to Steve: **I won't loan Steve anything in the future.** Lending him another iPod would show the lesson was not learned.

6. Do you have a Plan B in case you don't get accepted to any law schools?
✔ **C) Yes, I'll work as a paralegal at a law firm.**
A **Plan B** is a second plan you use if your first plan fails. If law school doesn't work out, working as a **paralegal** is a different plan. Not **I'll go to law school**, because that is the first plan (Plan A).

7. Your wife is angry with you now, but things will blow over in a few days.
✔ **B) You're right. I'm sure she'll forgive me.**
When a problem **blows over**, it ends and people stop being upset. So the wife will stop being angry and **forgive** him. Not **I'll forgive her right now**, because she is the one who is angry.

8. Do you think Shane and Elena will patch things up?
✔ **A) Yes, they fight a lot, but they always get back together.**
To **patch things up** means to become friends again after an argument. The answer that matches is **they always get back together**. Getting divorced or dating someone else means they did not patch things up.

9. I'm really sorry I'm not able to offer your son a job at my company. I hope you're not holding it against me.
✔ **B) I'm not. I understand.**
To **hold something against someone** means to stay angry with them because of something they did. **I'm not. I understand.** shows there are no bad feelings. Not **I'm not, but I am still angry about it**, because it contradicts itself.

10. Carrie asked me, "Who was that guy you were eating lunch with today?" She's such a busybody!
✔ **A) Yes, she's very nosy.**
A **busybody** is a person who is too interested in other people's private lives. Another word for this is **nosy**. Not **busy**, because a busybody is not a person with a lot of work.