ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

More Speak English Like an American Lesson 16 Idioms and Expressions MCQ Test

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

Explanations

1. **Choose the best substitute for the phrase or sentence in bold:**

The cheesecake looks delicious, but I'm **watching my waistline**.
✓ **A) trying to avoid fattening foods**
Watching my waistline means being careful about what you eat so you don't gain weight. The speaker likes the cheesecake but won't eat it because it is fattening. Example: **No dessert for me, I'm watching my waistline.**

2. Brad is doing special exercises to lose **his love handles**.
✓ **C) the fat around his waist**
Love handles is an informal, humorous name for the extra fat on the sides of the waist. Brad's exercises target that fat. Not **a pound or two**: the idiom names a part of the body, not an amount of weight.

3. We do sell greeting cards and magazines in our bookstore, but books are still **our bread and butter**.
✓ **B) our main source of sales**
Someone's **bread and butter** is their main source of income, the basic thing that keeps a business going. The clue **but** contrasts the cards and magazines with the books, which bring in most of the sales.

4. I know Debbie is upset about the divorce, but it's time for her to **move on**.
✓ **C) continue with her life**
To **move on** means to accept a bad experience and continue with your life. Debbie should stop focusing on the divorce. Not **marry somebody else**: moving on does not have to mean a new marriage.

5. You just met Troy and now you're moving in together? Don't you think you're **rushing into things**?
✓ **B) moving too quickly with the relationship**
To **rush into things** means to do something important too quickly, without enough thought. The clue is **You just met Troy**: moving in together so soon is moving too fast in the relationship.

6. **Stop stuffing your face with cookies!**
✓ **A) Stop eating the cookies!**
To **stuff your face** is an informal way of saying to eat a lot of food quickly or greedily. The speaker wants the person to stop eating the cookies. Not **use better manners**: the complaint is about how much is eaten, not how politely.

7. The bank was fined $5 million over some **monkey business** involving bad loans.
✓ **B) illegal dealings**
Monkey business means dishonest or illegal activity. The clue is that the bank was **fined $5 million** over bad loans, so the dealings broke the rules. Not **animal activity**: the idiom has nothing to do with real monkeys.

8. After meeting a nice woman online, Leo is no longer **on the dating scene**.
✓ **C) looking for a girlfriend**
To be **on the dating scene** means to be single and going on dates to find a partner. Leo has met a nice woman, so he is no longer looking for a girlfriend. Not **interested in women**: he still is; he just isn't searching any more.

9. I've had some disagreements with my brother-in-law over the years, but that's all **water under the bridge**. These days, we get along great.
✓ **A) in the past**
Water under the bridge means past problems that are finished and no longer matter. The clue is **These days, we get along great**: the disagreements are in the past. Not **still unsettled**: that is the opposite meaning.

10. With amusement park rides and hundreds of shops, the Mall of America is not your **run-of-the-mill** shopping mall.
✓ **C) average**
Run-of-the-mill means ordinary or average, nothing special. With rides and hundreds of shops, the Mall of America is **not** an ordinary mall. Not **extraordinary**: that is the opposite of the phrase. The word **not** in the sentence is what tells us the mall is extraordinary.