ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

More Speak English Like an American Lesson 18 Idioms and Expressions MCQ Test

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

Explanations

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

Samantha is the best candidate for this job by a long shot.
✓ **A) Okay, then let's make her an offer.**
By a long shot means "by far" or "by a large amount". If Samantha is by far the best candidate, the natural reply is to **make her an offer**. The other two replies would only make sense if she were a weak candidate.

2. Bill bought you a Mercedes for Valentine's Day? Wow, he's a big spender.
✓ **C) Yes, he is very generous.**
A **big spender** is someone who spends a lot of money, often on other people. Buying a Mercedes as a gift shows he is **very generous**. **Cheap** and **never spends any money** mean the opposite.

3. I may get laid off next month, but I'll cross that bridge when I come to it.
✓ **A) Good idea. Why worry about it now?**
I'll cross that bridge when I come to it means "I'll deal with that problem when it actually happens, not before." So the reply agrees that there is no reason to **worry about it now**. Not "Crossing the bridge will help", because the idiom has nothing to do with a real bridge.

4. Let's look hard for street parking when we drive into Manhattan. If we park in a lot, we'll have to pay through the nose.
✓ **C) Yes, parking lots in Manhattan are expensive!**
To **pay through the nose** means to pay far too much money. The speaker is saying that **parking lots** in Manhattan are **expensive**, which is why they want street parking. Not "street parking is expensive", because the expensive option in the sentence is the lot.

5. The Broadway play got great reviews, but we thought it was no great shakes.
✓ **B) Why didn't you like it?**
If something is **no great shakes**, it is not very good or not special. The speakers did not enjoy the play, so the natural question is **Why didn't you like it?** Not "Why did you like it so much?", because that is the opposite of what they said.

6. I'm ready to call it a day.
✓ **B) Me too. See you tomorrow morning.**
To **call it a day** means to stop working for the rest of the day. The reply **Me too. See you tomorrow morning** agrees to stop now. The other replies suggest continuing to work.

7. This wine is okay, but it's nothing to write home about.
✓ **A) I agree. It's not very good.**
Nothing to write home about means ordinary, not special or impressive. So the wine is only okay, and the reply **It's not very good** agrees. Not "It's delicious", because that praises the wine.

8. Can you recommend a sports car that won't break the bank?
✓ **A) Yes, the Mazda Miata isn't too expensive.**
Something that **won't break the bank** doesn't cost too much money. So the speaker wants a car that **isn't too expensive**. Not "won't break down", because **break down** means stop working, which is a different idea.

9. The hotel charges $30 for one day of Internet access? That's highway robbery!
✓ **A) Yes, it's way too much.**
Highway robbery means a price that is far too high or unfair. The reply **it's way too much** agrees with the speaker. A **great deal** and **very reasonable** mean the price is good, which is the opposite.

10. Let's go out for lunch, my treat.
✓ **B) Okay, that's generous of you.**
My treat means "I will pay for you." The polite reply thanks the speaker: **that's generous of you**. Not "you should pay for my meal too", because paying for your meal is exactly what **my treat** already means.

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