ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

More Speak English Like an American Lesson 2 Idioms and Expressions MCQ Test

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

Explanations

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

Nina is starting to think that her new boss has a few screws loose.
✓ **C) What did her boss do to make her think that?**
If someone **has a few screws loose**, they seem a little crazy or act strangely. The natural reply asks what the boss did to give Nina that idea. Not **Why doesn't she like him?**, because the idiom is about strange behavior, not about liking someone.

2. Jim has the hots for Andrea.
✓ **A) Then he'll probably ask her out.**
To **have the hots for** someone means to feel strongly attracted to them. A man who is attracted to a woman will probably **ask her out** (invite her on a date).

3. I told Karen that I was too tired to help prepare for the party, so she let me off the hook.
✓ **B) That was nice of her.**
To **let someone off the hook** means to free them from a duty or responsibility. Karen didn't make the speaker help, so the natural reply is **That was nice of her.**

4. I hope my boss stops breathing down my neck.
✓ **C) You should tell him you work best when you're left alone.**
To **breathe down someone's neck** means to watch them too closely all the time. The speaker wants less attention from the boss, so they should say they **work best when left alone**. Not **you need a lot of close attention**, because that would make the problem worse.

5. I'm kicking myself for investing in Carl's company.
✓ **A) How much money have you lost?**
If you are **kicking yourself**, you are angry with yourself because you made a mistake. Regretting an investment suggests the speaker lost money, so the reply is **How much money have you lost?** Not **How much has Carl kicked in?**, because **kick in** (contribute money) has nothing to do with the speaker's regret.

6. Is it true that Jessica is a control freak?
✓ **B) Yes, she doesn't trust her employees to do anything on their own.**
A **control freak** is a person who needs to control everything and everyone around them. Such a boss doesn't trust employees to work on their own. Not **she has no control over anything**, which means the opposite.

7. Don't repeat any gossip you hear at work. It's a recipe for disaster.
✓ **A) That's good advice.**
A **recipe for disaster** is something that is very likely to cause serious problems. The speaker is warning against gossip, so the reply is **That's good advice.** It has nothing to do with a cooking recipe.

8. Kevin's next-door neighbor is always on his case about turning down his music.
✓ **C) Kevin must play it very loudly.**
To be **on someone's case** means to criticize them or complain to them again and again. The neighbor keeps asking Kevin to turn the music down, so Kevin **must play it very loudly**.

9. I know you're not happy about having to go on a six-week business trip to Malaysia, but just suck it up.
✓ **C) You're right. The time will go by quickly.**
Suck it up is an informal way of saying "accept an unpleasant situation without complaining." The speaker accepts the trip and looks on the bright side: **The time will go by quickly.** Not **I am looking forward to it**, because the speaker is clearly not happy about the trip.

10. I think we've opened a can of worms by asking our employees to be more open with the management.
✓ **B) I agree. Now they're all complaining about their bosses!**
To **open a can of worms** means to do something that creates a lot of new, unexpected problems. Asking employees to be open has led to many complaints about their bosses. Not **We're getting very valuable comments**, because that is a good result, not a problem.