ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

More Speak English Like an American Lesson 24 Idioms and Expressions MCQ Test

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

Explanations

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

Frank's Heating and Cooling told us they couldn't fix our furnace and we'd have to buy a new one. Are they trying to sell us a bill of goods?
✓ A) No, it does look like your furnace is very old.
To **sell someone a bill of goods** means to trick them into believing or buying something that isn't true or necessary. The answer says the company is honest: the furnace really is old, so a new one makes sense. Not "they're trying to sell you a new heating system", because that takes the idiom literally and doesn't say whether they are tricking you.

2. I was under the impression that Dave was interested in moving to the marketing department.
✓ B) Why did you think that?
To be **under the impression** means to believe something, often without being sure, and possibly wrongly. So it is natural to ask why the speaker believed it: **Why did you think that?** Not "Why did he tell you that?", because the idiom suggests nobody actually told the speaker.

3. Ben likes honest talk, so just go into his office and put your cards on the table.
✓ B) Okay, I'll go in there and tell him what I want.
To **put your cards on the table** means to be completely honest and say openly what you want or think. Ben likes honest talk, so you should **tell him what you want**. The option about putting cards on his table takes the idiom literally.

4. Our receptionist is always on the phone shooting the breeze with her friends.
✓ A) Maybe we should replace her.
To **shoot the breeze** means to chat casually about unimportant things. A receptionist who is always chatting with friends instead of working is doing a bad job, so **Maybe we should replace her** is the logical reply. Promoting her would reward bad work.

5. We're going to make you an offer you can't refuse.
✓ C) Okay, I look forward to hearing it.
An offer you can't refuse is an offer so good that you will surely want to accept it. The offer hasn't been made yet, so the natural reply is **I look forward to hearing it**. Not "I'll take it", because you can't accept an offer before you know what it is.

6. Speaking before a crowd of 300 at the sales conference, Helen got tongue-tied.
✓ C) She must need more experience speaking before groups.
To get **tongue-tied** means to be unable to speak clearly because you are nervous or embarrassed. Helen had trouble speaking to a big crowd, so she probably **needs more experience** speaking before groups.

7. We've already had four meetings to discuss this business deal. Now we need to get down to brass tacks.
✓ B) Okay, let's make some decisions now.
To **get down to brass tacks** means to start dealing with the most important, practical facts, often to make decisions. After four meetings, it's time to **make some decisions**. Not "let's keep meeting", which is the opposite of what the speaker wants.

8. Eric is tired of slaving away for the big consulting firm.
✓ B) Why doesn't he find a new job?
To **slave away** means to work very hard for a long time, often without enough reward. Eric is tired of his job at the big firm, so the logical advice is to **find a new job**. A vacation would only be a short break from the same problem.

9. Has Emeril cashed in on the success of his cooking show?
✓ A) Yes. He's got a popular line of food products.
To **cash in on** something means to make money from it. Emeril used the success of his show to sell **a popular line of food products**. Not "his cooking show is successful", because that only repeats that the show is popular and doesn't say he made extra money from it.

10. Our interview candidate will be here any minute now.
✓ A) Okay, let me know when she gets here.
Any minute now means very soon. The candidate will arrive shortly, so the natural reply is **let me know when she gets here**. Not "I'm glad she's early", because the sentence doesn't say she is early, only that she will arrive soon.