ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

More Speak English Like an American Lesson 9 Idioms and Expressions MCQ Test

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

Explanations

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

After my terrible flight aboard Toledo Airlines, I wrote them a letter and **gave them a piece of my mind**.
✔ **A) complained**
To **give someone a piece of your mind** means to tell them angrily what you think of them, so here it means **complained**. The writer had a **terrible flight**, so he was angry, not pleased.

2. Doug is getting promoted instead of me? **That makes my blood boil!**
✔ **B) I'm very angry about that.**
If something **makes your blood boil**, it makes you very angry. The speaker is upset that Doug is getting the promotion instead of them, so the meaning is **I'm very angry about that**.

3. Tara's mother-in-law keeps telling her how to raise her kids. She's always **sticking her nose where it doesn't belong.**
✔ **C) providing unwanted advice**
To **stick your nose where it doesn't belong** means to get involved in other people's business when they don't want you to. The mother-in-law keeps telling Tara how to raise her kids, so she is **providing unwanted advice**. Not **helpful advice**, because the idiom is always negative.

4. If you refuse to work overtime, **you're going to get on your boss' bad side.**
✔ **A) your boss is going to be angry with you**
To **get on someone's bad side** means to make them angry with you or dislike you. Refusing overtime will make **your boss angry with you**.

5. It's not surprising that Jim was surrounded by women at his high school reunion. He's always been **a ladies' man**.
✔ **B) popular with women**
A **ladies' man** is a man who is popular with women and enjoys their company. The clue is that Jim was **surrounded by women** at the reunion.

6. Our waiter isn't very friendly, but let's not let him **put a damper on** our dinner.
✔ **A) spoil**
To **put a damper on** something means to make it less enjoyable, to **spoil** it. Example: **The rain put a damper on our picnic.**

7. Alex likes going to the local dance club on Friday nights. He says it's full of **eye candy**.
✔ **C) pretty women**
Eye candy is informal for attractive people who are nice to look at. Here Alex means the club is full of **pretty women**. Not **good dancers**, because the idiom is about looks, not skill.

8. We really **lived it up** on our trip to the Caribbean.
✔ **A) enjoyed ourselves**
To **live it up** means to have a very good time, often by spending money on fun and luxury. So **we lived it up** = we **enjoyed ourselves**.

9. **I should've known better than to ask** Sue to water my plants while I was away on vacation. They were all dead when I got back!
✔ **C) I regret asking**
I should've known better than to do something means it was a mistake to do it and you regret it. The plants died, so the speaker **regrets asking** Sue. Not **I should have asked**: the speaker did ask, and that was the mistake.

10. The new marketing assistant is so pretty, Chris **can't keep his eyes off her**.
✔ **A) really enjoys looking at her**
If you **can't keep your eyes off** someone, you keep looking at them because you find them attractive. So Chris **really enjoys looking at her**. Not **talking to her**, because the idiom is about looking.