ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

More Speak English Like an American Review for Lessons 16-20 Idioms and Expressions MCQ Test

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1	**C**	2	**B**	3	**C**	4	**A**	5	**A**	6	**C**	7	**A**	8	**B**	9	**B**	10	**C**
11	**A**	12	**A**	13	**C**	14	**A**	15	**B**										

Explanations

1. **Fill in the blank with the missing word or words:**

The sushi at Kabuki Sushi is okay, but it's nothing to _____ home about.
✔ **C) write**
The idiom is **nothing to write home about**. It means ordinary, not special or exciting. Example: **The hotel was clean, but nothing to write home about.**

2. We may have trouble flying out tomorrow because of the storm, but we'll cross that _____ when we come to it.
✔ **B) bridge**
We'll cross that bridge when we come to it means we will deal with a problem only when it actually happens, not worry about it now.

3. Karen found her old boyfriend's profile on Facebook and decided to send him a message _____ the spur of the moment.
✔ **C) on**
The idiom is **on the spur of the moment**. It means suddenly, without planning. The preposition is always **on**.

4. Diane _____ on a few pounds during her trip to Italy.
✔ **A) put**
Put on weight or **put on a few pounds** means to gain weight. Not **added**, because we say **added a few pounds**, without **on**.

5. We _____ over backwards to make our new neighbors welcome, but they didn't seem to appreciate it.
✔ **A) bent**
Bend over backwards means to try very hard to help or please someone. The past form is **bent**.

6. You got a promotion today? Let's go out on the _____ to celebrate.
✔ **C) town**
Go out on the town means to go out and enjoy yourself in the evening, for example at restaurants, bars or clubs, often to celebrate.

7. Prices in Germany are high right now. We paid through the _____ for everything during our trip there.
✔ **A) nose**
Pay through the nose means to pay far too much for something. The clue is **Prices ... are high**.

8. Stay away from Bill today. He's _____ the warpath because he just found out our sales are down by 30% this month.
✔ **B) on**
Be on the warpath means to be very angry and ready to fight or punish someone. The preposition is always **on**.

9. Our talks to acquire the Indian software company have _____ a snag.
✔ **B) hit**
Hit a snag means to meet an unexpected problem that slows progress. Example: **Our plans hit a snag when the bank refused the loan.**

10. I know you and I have had our differences in the past, but that's _____ history now.
✔ **C) ancient**
That's ancient history means something happened long ago and is no longer important. Not **old history**, because the fixed expression uses **ancient**.

11. Randy is the best soccer player on our team by a long _____.
✔ **A) shot**
By a long shot means by a large amount, very clearly. Example: **She is the fastest runner in the class by a long shot.** Not **run**: **in the long run** is a different idiom meaning 'in the future'.

12. During her trip to Japan, Paula ate fish, a raw egg, and pickled vegetables for breakfast. When in _____, do as the _____ do.
✔ **A) Rome / Romans**
The saying is **When in Rome, do as the Romans do**. It means you should follow the customs of the place you are visiting, as Paula did in Japan. The words never change, even when the country is not Italy.

13. My gym just raised its fees. Now I have to fork _____ $95 a month to work out.
✔ **C) over**
Fork over (money) is an informal American phrasal verb meaning to pay, usually unwillingly. British English often says **fork out**.

14. The bank keeps telling me to call back in a week to see if they have any job openings. I think they're just stringing me _____.
✔ **A) along**
String someone along means to keep someone waiting or hoping, with no real intention of giving them what they want. The clue is that the bank keeps telling the speaker to call back.

15. A real estate developer has offered to buy Ed's house for $3 million so the developer can build an office building on the property. Ed loves his house, but money _____.

✔ B) talks

Money talks means money has great power to influence people's decisions. Ed loves his house, but $3 million may make him sell it.

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