SPEAK BUSINESS ENGLISH LIKE AN AMERICAN

Business English Idioms Test: Speak Business English Like an American

20 questions · Choose the correct answer. Online test and answer key with explanations:
https://englishtestsonline.com/speak-business-english-like-an-american-lesson-1-idioms-and-expressions-test/

Name: _____ Date: _____ Score: _____ / 20

1. The advertising campaign won two design prizes, but the ___ line is that it brought in fewer than fifty new customers.
A) lower **B)** bottom **C)** under **D)** final

2. With rents so high, the café in Lisbon has to sell two hundred coffees a day just to break ___.
A) flat **B)** level **C)** equal **D)** even

3. The old accounting software is the firm's cash ___: it needs almost no investment and pays for all the new projects.
A) cow **B)** horse **C)** hen **D)** sheep

4. We only have ten minutes left in this meeting, so let me cut to the ___: the client wants a 15% discount.
A) race **B)** hunt **C)** chase **D)** run

5. The supplier dropped the ___ again: the parts for the Warsaw factory turned up a week late.
A) ball **B)** bag **C)** box **D)** bat

6. Our receptionist in Nairobi always goes the extra ___ for guests, even booking their taxis after her shift has ended.
A) inch **B)** road **C)** lap **D)** mile

7. Could someone else train the new intern? I have a lot on my ___ this month with the audit and two product launches.
A) bowl **B)** plate **C)** tray **D)** dish

8. The new sales director hit the ground ___, signing three contracts in her first fortnight.
A) walking **B)** jumping
C) running **D)** rolling

9. After two years of falling sales, the bookshop chain was half a million pounds in the ___.
A) blue **B)** grey **C)** brown **D)** red

10. Please keep me in the ___ while I'm at the trade fair: copy me in on every email to the client.
A) loop **B)** hoop **C)** link **D)** knot

11. "Before we present the budget to the board, let's have a quick call to make sure we are all on the same page." What does "on the same page" mean here?
A) working in one office
B) reading one report
C) in agreement about it
D) equally well paid

12. "When the customer complained about the wrong invoice, the accounts team tried to pass the buck to the sales department." What does "pass the buck" mean here?
A) push the responsibility onto others
B) share the profit with others
C) send the payment to others
D) offer some help to others

13. "The app had cost twice its budget and still had very few users, so the investors decided to pull the plug on it." What does "pull the plug" mean here?
A) give it more money **B)** bring it to an end
C) take control of it **D)** start advertising it

14. "All our rivals sell through shops, so if we want to stand out we'll have to think outside the box." What does "think outside the box" mean here?
A) copy the market leader
B) plan more slowly
C) spend less money
D) find fresh, unusual ideas

15. "I'll touch base with the supplier in Osaka tomorrow to check that the shipment is still on schedule." What does "touch base with" mean here?
A) pay a long visit to
B) make brief contact with
C) sign a deal with
D) complain strongly to

16. "We chose the Brazilian agency because of its track record: every campaign it has run for us has been a success." What does "track record" mean here?
A) list of prices **B)** speed of work
C) past performance **D)** future plans

17. "Nobody wanted to raise prices, but with costs climbing every month the owner finally bit the bullet and did it." What does "bit the bullet" mean here?
A) accepted something unpleasant but necessary
B) avoided a difficult decision
C) got angry with the staff
D) asked an expert for advice

18. "Give the finance team a day to crunch the numbers before we decide whether a second warehouse makes sense." What does "crunch the numbers" mean here?
A) lower our spending **B)** hide the losses
C) guess the result **D)** do the calculations

19. "Engineers can get lost in small technical details, so the project manager keeps reminding them of the big picture." What does "the big picture" mean here?

A) the company logo
B) the largest screen
C) the whole situation
D) the final deadline

20. "She joined the bank as a trainee at twenty-two and climbed the corporate ladder to become regional director by thirty-five." What does "climbed the corporate ladder" mean here?

A) changed companies often
B) rose to higher positions
C) worked on upper floors
D) studied for a degree

Finished? Check your answers online
Get your score with instant feedback, and download the **answer key with explanations**, on the test page:
englishtestsonline.com · scan the code for this test

englishtestsonline.com