ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Speak Business English Like an American Lesson 11 Idioms and Expressions Test

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1	B	2	D	3	A	4	A	5	B	6	B	7	D	8	D				

Explanations

1. **(Please note: The following questions are part of a cloze test. They are interrelated, meaning that the information provided in each question is connected to the others.)**

Fill in the blanks using the following idioms:
Kim: Sales at our Westport furniture store are down by 50 percent this year. I've got a plan to _____. For the month of December, we'll stand on street corners with big signs advertising our store.
✔ **B) turn around our business**
To **turn around a business** means to make a business that is doing badly successful again. Kim says sales are down by 50 percent, so her plan is to fix this problem.

2. *Jason:* Stand on street corners in this cold weather? Maybe we should just _____ and close the Westport store. Our other five stores are still doing well.
✔ **D) throw in the towel**
To **throw in the towel** means to give up or admit defeat. Jason wants to stop trying and **close the Westport store**. Not **turn around our business**, because that means fixing the business, which is the opposite of closing it.

3. *Cindy:* Kim, I like your idea. I'm ready to participate. _____!
✔ **A) Count me in**
Count me in! means "I want to take part; include me." The clue is Cindy's words just before it: **I'm ready to participate**.

4. *Mark:* I'm _____ too.
✔ **A) on board**
To **be on board** means to agree with a plan and be part of it. Mark says **I'm on board too**, so he also supports Kim's idea, like Cindy.

5. *Cindy:* I'd be happy to _____ and get all of our other employees to join us, starting with Jason.
✔ **B) rally the troops**
To **rally the troops** means to get a group of people excited and ready to work together. Cindy wants to **get all of our other employees to join us**. Not **count me in**, because that only means "include me" and does not fit after "I'd be happy to".

6. *Kim:* Yeah, Jason. Where's your _____? Everybody else is going to participate.
✔ **B) team spirit**
Team spirit is the feeling of wanting to work together and help your group. Kim asks **Where's your team spirit?** because **everybody else is going to participate**, but Jason doesn't want to.

7. *Mark:* Right, Jason. You're going to feel guilty when everybody else is _____ outside while you're inside drinking coffee and relaxing.
✔ **D) working their tails off**
To **work your tail off** means to work very hard. After **is**, we need an -ing form, so **working their tails off** fits. It is the opposite of **drinking coffee and relaxing**.

8. *Jason:* Okay, I'll do it. I just can't believe that with our excellent _____, we now have to take such desperate action!
✔ **D) track record**
A **track record** is all the past results or successes of a person or company. Jason means the company has done very well in the past, so he is surprised it now needs **desperate action**.

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