ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

# Speak Business English Like an American Lesson 12 Idioms and Expressions Test

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| 1 | B | 2 | C | 3 | B | 4 | A | 5 | A | 6 | C | 7 | C | 8 | B | | | | |
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## Explanations

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

Jim thinks his company should outsource its customer service to India, but his boss thinks they should keep it in California. **They don't see eye to eye on the issue**.
**✓ B) They don't agree on the issue.**
To **see eye to eye** (on something) means to agree. Jim and his boss have different ideas about customer service, so they **don't agree on the issue**. Not **They don't understand the issue**: they understand it, but they have different opinions.

**2.** We're going to conduct focus groups so consumers can **weigh in on** the design of some of our new products.
**✓ C) give their opinion on**
To **weigh in on** something means to give your opinion about it, often in a discussion or decision. Focus groups let consumers **give their opinion on** the designs. Not **dictate**: consumers share their views, but they don't control the decision.

**3.** I know we're in a hurry to end the meeting, but let me just **circle back to** something David said earlier.
**✓ B) return to**
To **circle back to** a point means to **return to** it later in a conversation or meeting. Example: **Let's circle back to the budget after lunch.**

**4.** **Every time I turn around**, Ellen and Kelly are chatting.
**✓ A) very frequently**
**Every time I turn around** is an informal way of saying something happens **very frequently**, often in an annoying way. Not **whenever I turn my back**: the idiom is not about turning your body. It just means "all the time".

**5.** **Let's not jump the gun** by buying a new printer before we can see if the old one can be fixed.
**✓ A) let's not act too quickly**
To **jump the gun** means to do something too soon, before the right time. The clue is **before we can see if the old one can be fixed**. So the speaker means **let's not act too quickly**.

**6.** I know many of you have more to say on this issue, but I'm afraid we're going to have to **move on** so we can finish this meeting on time.
**✓ C) proceed to our next topic**
In a meeting, to **move on** means to stop discussing one topic and **proceed to the next topic**. The clue is **so we can finish this meeting on time**. Not **leave the conference room now**: the meeting is still going on.

**7.** Our office expenses are **out of hand**. We're going to have to stop spending so much.
**✓ C) much too high**
**Out of hand** means out of control. Here the expenses are **much too high**. The next sentence gives the clue: **We're going to have to stop spending so much.**

**8.** Calvin **covered a lot of ground** with his local partners during his business trip to Tokyo.
**✓ B) discussed many topics**
To **cover a lot of ground** means to discuss or deal with many topics or issues. The phrase **with his local partners** shows that it is about meetings, not travel. Not **saw much of the city**: the idiom is not about sightseeing here.

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