ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Speak Business English Like an American Lesson 15 Idioms and Expressions Test

Speak Business English Like an American · 8 questions · Online test and questions PDF:
https://englishtestsonline.com/speak-business-english-like-an-american-lesson-15-idioms-and-expressions-test/

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

Explanations

1. **Choose the most appropriate response to the following:**

Please don't try to talk me into exhibiting at your trade show this year.
✓ C) Okay, if you're sure you're not interested, I won't ask again.
To **talk someone into** something means to persuade them to do it. The speaker doesn't want to be persuaded, so the right reply promises **not to ask again**. Not "I'll call you tomorrow to talk about it some more", because that keeps trying to persuade them.

2. I can't find Sam's address anywhere. Do you think you can help me track it down?
✓ B) Sure, I'll help you find it.
To **track something down** means to find it after searching for it, so **I'll help you find it** is the right reply. Not "I'd be happy to track it", because without **down** the meaning changes to following something, not finding it. "No, but..." doesn't work either, because the speaker then agrees to help.

3. We've already shelled out enough on advertising this year.
✓ B) I know we've spent a lot, but I think we should do a couple more radio ads.
To **shell out** means to spend money, usually a lot of it and often unwillingly. The speaker means **we've spent enough**, so the reply that accepts this but suggests a few more ads makes sense. Not "I disagree. We've already spent a lot...", because that sentence actually agrees with the speaker.

4. You think you'll be accepted to Harvard Business School? Dream on!
✓ A) You may not agree, but I think it's a realistic goal.
Dream on! is a sarcastic way of saying that someone's hope will never come true. The best reply defends the goal as **realistic**. Not "I'll just go to sleep and dream about it", which takes the idiom literally, and not "Thanks for helping me think big", because the speaker is discouraging, not encouraging.

5. I had nothing to do with the disastrous decision to hire Dennis. Don't point the finger at me!
✓ C) Okay, I won't blame you.
To **point the finger at** someone means to blame them. The speaker says it wasn't their fault, so the right reply is **I won't blame you**. Not "I'm not pointing the finger, but I am blaming you", because pointing the finger and blaming mean the same thing.

6. I think we've struck gold with our idea to sell content on our website instead of giving it away for free. What do you think?
✓ A) I agree. It's a great idea.
To **strike gold** means to find something that brings great success or a lot of money. The speaker thinks the idea is excellent, so **I agree. It's a great idea.** is right. Not "Nobody's going to be willing to pay for it", because that disagrees after saying "I agree".

7. You need to take responsibility for our accounting problems. Stop trying to pass the buck!
✓ C) I'm not trying to pass the buck. I admit I made a mistake.
To **pass the buck** means to blame someone else for a problem instead of taking responsibility yourself. The right reply denies doing this and **admits the mistake**. "I won't pass it anymore. You can have it" takes the idiom literally, as if "the buck" were an object.

8. You finally got promoted, and now you're leaving your company and opening a health food store? I can't believe my ears!
✓ A) Yes, I know it's a surprising move.
I can't believe my ears! means "I'm very surprised by what I'm hearing." The person who made the decision would reply **Yes, I know it's a surprising move.** Not "I couldn't believe my ears either", because they are the one who made the news, not the one hearing it.

Practise more on englishtestsonline.com
Take this test online, download its questions PDF, and find thousands of free English tests:
englishtestsonline.com · scan the code for this test
englishtestsonline.com