ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Speak Business English Like an American Lesson 18 Idioms and Expressions Test

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

Explanations

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

Jake says he only hires pretty girls to work at his restaurant. He's so **un-PC**!
✓ C) offensive
Un-PC means "not politically correct": saying or doing things that are unfair to, or likely to upset, a group of people, here women. Only hiring pretty girls is **offensive**. Not **bad with computers**: PC here means "politically correct", not "personal computer".

2. Tiffany called in sick on Tuesday, and she showed up for work on Wednesday with a suntan. She's going to **get nailed** for lying about being sick.
✓ B) get in trouble
To **get nailed** means to be caught doing something wrong and to **get in trouble** for it. Example: **He got nailed for cheating on his expenses.** Not **get fired**: she might be punished, but the idiom doesn't say how.

3. Brad said that Tammy **made a pass at him** while they were on a business trip in Moscow.
✓ A) tried to initiate a sexual relationship with him
To **make a pass at** someone means to try to start a romantic or sexual relationship with them, for example by flirting or touching. At work, this can be seen as harassment. It has nothing to do with passing a ball.

4. Frank keeps taking all of the best customer accounts for himself. We hope that one of these days, **he'll get his**.
✓ B) something bad will happen to him
He'll get his means he will get the punishment he deserves: one day **something bad will happen to him** because of the unfair things he does. The word **his** refers to "his punishment", not to customer accounts.

5. I'm not surprised that Randy kept trying to put his arm around you during the business dinner. He's always **on the make**.
✓ B) looking for romance
Someone who is **on the make** is always trying to find a romantic or sexual partner. The clue is that Randy kept trying to put his arm around you. Not **affectionate in public**: the idiom is about chasing new partners, not about showing love to a partner.

6. Our CEO was one of the last people to hear of the accounting scandal at our company. He's so **out of the loop**!
✓ B) unaware of what's going on
Out of the loop means not knowing about something that others know. Example: **I was on vacation, so I'm out of the loop.** The clue is that the CEO was one of the last people to hear about the scandal. The opposite is **in the loop**.

7. Monica loves to gossip, so you can always count on her for the **latest dirt**.
✓ A) most up-to-date gossip
Dirt is informal for gossip, especially private or embarrassing information about people. **The latest dirt** is the most recent gossip. Not **nastiest rumors**: **latest** is about how new the gossip is, not how unkind it is.

8. Three months after he laid off thousands of employees on Christmas Eve, the CEO himself was fired. **What goes around comes around**.
✓ C) When people do bad things, they're usually punished in the end.
What goes around comes around means that if you treat people badly, bad things will happen to you later. The CEO hurt thousands of workers and was later fired himself. Not the first option: the saying is a general rule about bad actions, not only about firing people.

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