ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Speak Business English Like an American Lesson 19 Idioms and Expressions Test

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

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:
Tracy has a reputation for having a bad temper. Everybody in the office knows she is a _____.
✔ **B) hot-head**
A **hot-head** is a person who gets angry very quickly. The clue is that Tracy **has a reputation for having a bad temper**, and the article **a** needs a noun.

2. When she's in a bad mood, it's best to just _____ of her.
✔ **B) steer clear**
To **steer clear of** someone means to stay away from them and avoid them. When Tracy is in a bad mood, it's best to **steer clear of her**. Only this idiom can be followed by **of her**.

3. Seth doesn't like Tracy. He has _____.
✔ **A) issues with her**
To **have issues with** someone means to have problems with them or not like them. **Seth doesn't like Tracy**, so he **has issues with her**.

4. He complained to their boss, Yuri, about how much she _____.
✔ **C) gets under his skin**
If someone **gets under your skin**, they annoy or irritate you a lot. After **how much she** we need a verb that agrees with **she**, so **gets under his skin** fits. Not **push my buttons**, because the sentence is about Seth, so it needs **his**, not **my**.

5. "Too bad," said Yuri. "You have to work with her even though you don't like her, so just _____."
✔ **C) grin and bear it**
To **grin and bear it** means to accept an unpleasant situation without complaining, because you can't change it. Yuri says Seth **has to work with her**, so he should just **grin and bear it**. Not **steer clear**, because Seth can't avoid her if they must work together.

6. Today, Seth went into Tracy's office and asked her to help him gather some sales data. "Why should I?" asked Tracy. Seth replied, "Why are you _____?
✔ **B) in a snit**
To be **in a snit** means to be in a bad, irritated mood, often for a small reason. Tracy answers rudely (**Why should I?**), so Seth asks, **Why are you in a snit?** Only **in a snit** can follow **are you**.

7. This is a simple task. There's no need to _____ just because I'm asking for your help."
✔ **D) get bent out of shape**
To **get bent out of shape** means to become very upset or angry about something. After **no need to** we need a base verb, so **get bent out of shape** fits. Not **in a snit**, because it has no verb (you would need **be in a snit**).

8. Tracy got angry, pounded her fist on her desk, and yelled, "Seth, you really know how to _____! I'm sick and tired of doing your job all the time. If you want sales data, get it yourself!"
✔ **C) push my buttons**
To **push someone's buttons** means to do things that you know will annoy or anger that person. Tracy is talking about herself, so she says **you really know how to push my buttons**. After **how to** we need a base verb.

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