ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Speak Business English Like an American Lesson 22 Idioms and Expressions Test

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1	B	2	B	3	A	4	D	5	A	6	C	7	B	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:
Diana woke up this morning feeling _____. "What's wrong?" her husband Boris asked.
✓ **B) under the weather**
Under the weather means a little sick or unwell. Diana wakes up and her husband asks "What's wrong?", so she is not feeling well. Not **in tip-top shape**, which means the opposite: in very good health.

2. "My head is _____," she replied.
✓ **B) killing me**
Killing me means hurting a lot, as in **My head is killing me** (I have a bad headache). Not **under the weather**, because a head cannot be under the weather; a person is.

3. Boris handed her the phone and suggested that she _____.
✓ **A) call in sick**
To **call in sick** means to phone work and say you are too ill to come in. Boris hands Diana the phone, which is the clue. After **suggested that she**, American English uses the base form: **suggested that she call in sick**.

4. "But I can't stay home today. I've got too much to do at the office," she said. "I'm _____."
✓ **D) up to my ears in work**
Up to my ears in work means very busy, with a lot of work to do. The clue is "I've got too much to do at the office."

5. Boris told her that the work could wait. Diana took the phone and called her boss. "_____," said Diana.
✓ **A) I'm not feeling so hot**
I'm not feeling so hot is an informal way to say "I don't feel well." Diana says this to her boss to explain why she can't come to work. Not **Call in sick**, because that is what she is doing, not what she says.

6. Her boss replied, "It looks like _____ the office.
✓ **C) there's something going around**
There's something going around means an illness is spreading from person to person. The next sentence gives the clue: several other people have also called in sick.

7. Several other people have also called in sick today. Just _____ today and hopefully tomorrow you'll be _____."
✓ **B) take it easy**
Take it easy means relax and don't work hard. The boss wants Diana to rest today so she can get better. Not **call in sick**, because she has already done that.

8. Just _____ today and hopefully tomorrow you'll be _____." Diana was grateful that she had such an understanding boss. She rolled over and went back to sleep.
✓ **D) in tip-top shape**
In tip-top shape means in excellent condition or health. The boss hopes Diana will feel well again tomorrow. Not **under the weather**, which means the opposite: a little sick.

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