ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

# Speak Business English Like an American Lesson 28 Idioms and Expressions Test

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

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

We received resumes from two candidates that **sparked our interest**. Please call them to arrange interviews.
✓ **C) look promising**
If something **sparks your interest**, it makes you interested in it. Here, the two resumes made the managers want to meet the candidates, so they **look promising**: they seem likely to be good. Not **will definitely be hired**, because they have only been invited to interviews.

**2.** I'm currently **between jobs**, but I'm confident I'll find something soon.
✓ **C) unemployed**
**Between jobs** is a polite way to say **unemployed**: you have left one job and haven't found the next one yet. The clue is **I'll find something soon**.

**3.** No wonder Carl is so good at sales. **He's a real people person**.
✓ **A) He's good with people.**
A **people person** is someone who is friendly, enjoys being with others and is good at dealing with them. That skill helps in sales. Not **He's good at his job**, because the idiom is about his skill with people, not his work in general.

**4.** Working at a small company with only four employees, Vijay is used to **wearing many hats**.
✓ **C) doing many different things at work**
To **wear many hats** means to have several different roles or jobs at the same time. In a company with only four employees, each person has to do many different things. It has nothing to do with real hats.

**5.** Working as a summer intern is a good way to **get your foot in the door with a company**.
✓ **A) get a full-time job at a company**
To **get your foot in the door** means to get a first chance at a company that can lead to a real job later. An internship can help you get a full-time position there. Not **get promoted**, because an intern is not yet an employee who can be promoted.

**6.** Where does Wendy work? I know she told me, but **I'm drawing a blank**.
✓ **B) I can't remember**
**I'm drawing a blank** means you can't remember something at the moment. The clue is **I know she told me**: the speaker heard it but has forgotten it. Not **I wasn't listening**, because the speaker says Wendy did tell them.

**7.** I suggest you take the sales analyst position. It's a **stepping stone to a better position**.
✓ **A) way to get a better job in the future**
A **stepping stone** is a step that helps you move towards something better. This job can help you get a better job in the future. It doesn't promise a specific promotion, so **guarantee you'll be the sales director** is too strong.

**8.** Angela hardly ever sees her boss. **He's hands-off**.
✓ **B) He doesn't manage her closely.**
A **hands-off** boss doesn't watch or control his employees closely and lets them work on their own. The clue is that Angela **hardly ever sees her boss**. **He has his hands in everything** means the opposite.

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