ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Speak Business English Like an American Lesson 8 Idioms and Expressions Test

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

Explanations

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

Sandra **is of two minds about** leaving her job to get an MBA.
✓ **B) isn't sure about**
To be of two minds about something means you can't decide; part of you wants to do it and part of you doesn't. Sandra isn't sure whether to leave her job for an MBA. Not **is upset about**, because the idiom is about being undecided, not unhappy.

2. You decided to invest some money in real estate? **Good call**!
✓ **C) Good idea!**
Good call! is an informal way to praise someone's decision: **Good idea!** or **Good choice!** Here **call** means a decision, not a phone call, so **I'll call you back!** is wrong.

3. Ford Motor Company debated for a long time whether or not to start making cars in Russia, but the company finally decided to **bite the bullet**.
✓ **B) go ahead with it**
To bite the bullet means to finally do something difficult or unpleasant that you have been avoiding. After debating for a long time, Ford **went ahead with** the project. Not **enter the weapons business**: the idiom has nothing to do with real bullets.

4. I know you're nervous about the launch of our new robotic vacuum cleaner, but **my gut tells me** it's going to be a big seller.
✓ **A) I have a strong feeling that**
My gut tells me means I have a strong feeling or instinct about something, even without proof. **Gut** here means your inner feeling, as in **trust your gut**. The speaker believes the vacuum cleaner will sell well.

5. Janet left her old job before finding a new one and **lived to regret her decision**.
✓ **C) was sorry about it later**
To live to regret something means to feel sorry about a decision later. Janet quit before finding a new job and later wished she hadn't. Not **had trouble finding a new job**: that may be the reason, but the phrase itself means she **was sorry about it later**.

6. Unfortunately, our company president is not a great leader. He's **wishy-washy**.
✓ **B) not good at making decisions**
Wishy-washy describes someone who is weak and can't make firm decisions or keep to an opinion. The clue is **not a great leader**. Not **lazy**: a wishy-washy person may work hard but still can't decide.

7. Kate says running a business from her home **gives her the best of both worlds**: she can stay at home with her four young children and still make some money.
✓ **A) allows her all possible advantages**
The best of both worlds means enjoying the advantages of two different situations at the same time. Kate can stay at home with her children and also earn money. The other options describe disadvantages, which the idiom does not express.

8. The computer store was unsure at first how much demand there would be for the new line of laptops, so they started with a small order to **test the waters**.
✓ **B) see if there was demand for the laptops**
To test the waters means to try something in a small way first to see how people react before making a bigger commitment. The store ordered a few laptops to **see if there was demand**. The clue is **unsure at first how much demand there would be**.

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