ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

# Speak Business English Like an American Lesson 9 Idioms and Expressions Test

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| 1 | A | 2 | A | 3 | C | 4 | B | 5 | C | 6 | A | 7 | C | 8 | D | | | | |
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## 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.)**
*Linda:* We're never going to use Donna's Delights Catering again! You promised you'd do a great job with our holiday party, but you didn't _____.

*Donna:* Oh, really? What exactly was the problem?
✔ **A) deliver**
To **deliver** means to do what you promised or what people expect. Linda says Donna promised a great job but **didn't deliver**, so the result was disappointing.

**2.** *Linda:* _____? There were so many problems!
✔ **A) Where to begin**
**Where to begin?** is what you say when there are so many problems or things to say that you don't know which one to mention first. The clue is the next sentence: **There were so many problems!**

**3.** First of all, the main course was _____ what we were expecting.
✔ **C) a far cry from**
**A far cry from** means very different from, usually much worse than, what was expected: **The main course was a far cry from what we were expecting.** The word **from** before **what** fits this idiom.

**4.** I'm not going to _____. The steak you served us tasted like rubber!
✔ **B) mince words**
**Not mince words** means to speak directly and honestly, even if it is unpleasant to hear. Linda then says something very direct: **The steak tasted like rubber!**

**5.** *Donna:* I'm really surprised. I put my best chef on this project, and we bought the best steak available. We _____.
✔ **C) pulled out all the stops**
To **pull out all the stops** means to make the biggest possible effort. Donna says she used her best chef and bought the best steak, so she means they **pulled out all the stops**. The past tense fits because she is talking about the party.

**6.** *Linda:* I have a feeling you're trying to _____. I know my steak, and I know the steak you served was low quality.

*Donna:* Well, I guess it's possible we ordered the wrong meat.
✔ **A) pull the wool over my eyes**
To **pull the wool over someone's eyes** means to try to trick or deceive them. Linda thinks Donna is lying about using the best steak, because she knows the steak was low quality.

**7.** *Linda:* You charged us a _____ for your services, and you did a lousy job. We won't be using your company anymore.
✔ **C) pretty penny**
**A pretty penny** means a lot of money: **You charged us a pretty penny.** The article **a** before the gap and the verb **charged** are the clues.

**8.** *Donna:* I'm sorry. Let me _____. We'll bring free lunch for your entire office next Friday.
✔ **D) make it up to you**
To **make it up to someone** means to do something good for them after you have disappointed them. Donna apologizes and offers a free lunch to **make it up to** Linda.

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