ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Speak Business English Like an American Review for Lessons 21-25 Idioms and Expressions Test

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Explanations

1. Companies shouldn't make investors _____ through hoops to get financial information.
✔ **C) jump**
The idiom is **jump through hoops**: to do a lot of difficult or unnecessary things to get something. Example: **We had to jump through hoops to get a visa.**

2. After hosting 25 visitors from Japan for four weeks, Marie was wiped _____.
✔ **B) out**
Wiped out is an informal way to say very tired or exhausted. Hosting 25 visitors for four weeks would make anyone **wiped out**.

3. Jerry suggested that I buy the Dell Pocket DJ instead of the Apple iPod Mini. He said I'd get more bang for the _____.
✔ **B) buck**
The idiom is **more bang for the buck**: better value for your money. **Buck** is informal American English for a dollar, and the fixed expression always uses **buck**.

4. The loan officer at the bank said our business plan was very confusing. He couldn't make heads or _____ of it.
✔ **A) tails**
Can't make heads or tails of something means you can't understand it at all. Not **sense**: we say **make sense of it**, but not **heads or sense**.

5. I'm sorry I won't be able to come to your presentation. I'm up to my _____ in work.
✔ **B) ears**
Up to my ears in work means extremely busy, with too much work to do. The idiom pictures someone almost covered by work. Not **head**: **in over my head** is a different idiom meaning something is too difficult for you.

6. Sorry I forgot to book your airplane tickets. It _____ my mind.
✔ **A) slipped**
It slipped my mind means I forgot it. Example: **I meant to call you, but it slipped my mind.** Not **skipped**: that means you missed something on purpose or jumped over it.

7. Oil prices have come down recently, but $50 a barrel is still nothing to _____ at.
✔ **C) sneeze**
Nothing to sneeze at means something is big or important enough to be taken seriously. Even after prices fell, **$50 a barrel** is still a high price. **Cough** and **hiccup** are not used in this idiom.

8. That e-mail you sent me with the details about your project was very helpful. Thanks for keeping me _____ the loop.
✔ **B) in**
Keep someone in the loop means to keep them informed about what is happening. The fixed preposition is **in**, not **within** or **with**.

9. Between working full-time at the bank and volunteering as a fireman on weekends, Neil has a lot on his _____.
✔ **B) plate**
Have a lot on your plate means to have many things to do or deal with. Neil works full-time and also volunteers, so he is very busy.

10. Wal-Mart set up a huge display of under $20 Christmas gifts. It's great for people on a _____ budget.
✔ **C) tight**
On a tight budget means having very little money to spend. That is why cheap gifts under $20 are great for these people. Not **loose**: it isn't used about budgets.

11. No wonder Ken is so rich. He has a knack _____ picking winning stocks!
✔ **A) for**
Have a knack for (doing) something means to have a natural skill for it. American English uses **knack for**; British English also says **knack of**. **With** and **in** are not used.

12. When Wendy and Jim bought the leather couch for $1600, the furniture store agreed to throw _____ a $200 chair at no extra charge.
✔ **C) in**
Throw in means to add something extra for free when someone buys something. The clue is **at no extra charge**.

13. Andy won't be in today. He's feeling _____ the weather.
✔ **B) under**
Feeling under the weather means feeling a little sick. That is why Andy won't come to work today.

14. Things have been very busy at the office lately. I hope they'll settle _____ soon.
✔ **A) down**
Settle down means to become calm and quiet again after a busy or exciting time. Not **up**: **settle up** means to pay money that you owe.

15. We want to move our company headquarters to a city. Chicago is too large, but Salt Lake City is too small. Atlanta might be a _____ medium.

✓ **B) happy**

A **happy medium** is a good choice between two extremes. Chicago is too large and Salt Lake City is too small, so Atlanta is in the middle. **Perfect medium** is not the fixed expression.

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