ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Speak English Around Town Lesson 10 Idioms, Proverbs, Expressions MCQ Test

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11	**B**	12	**A**	13	**A**	14	**B**	15	**C**										

Explanations

1. **Fill in the blanks with "going to" or "will"**

We have squirrels in our attic. We're not sure yet what we _____ do about it.
✓ **B) are going to**
We use **be going to** to talk about plans and intentions. The speakers are still thinking about their plan for the squirrels, so **what we're going to do** is the natural choice. **Will** is more typical for a decision made at the moment of speaking.

2. Nobody has taken out the trash? I _____ it.
✓ **A) 'll do**
The speaker decides at the moment of speaking, right after finding out nobody has taken out the trash. For instant decisions and offers we use **will**: **I'll do it.** Not **'m going to do**, because that is for plans made before.

3. Watch out! You _____ hit the car in front of us!
✓ **B) are going to**
We use **be going to** for a prediction based on what we can see now. The speaker can see that the car is about to hit the one in front: **You're going to hit the car!**

4. Did I tell you my plan? I _____ apply to law school.
✓ **B) 'm going to**
The clue is **my plan**. We use **be going to** for plans decided before speaking: **I'm going to apply to law school. Will** is for decisions made at the moment of speaking.

5. - "Will you marry me?"

- "Yes, I _____!"
✓ **A) will**
A short answer repeats the auxiliary verb of the question. The question uses **will**, so the answer is **Yes, I will!** This is also a promise, and we use **will** for promises.

6. **Imagine that you are at the doctor's office. Choose the most appropriate replies to the doctor:**

Are you feeling under the weather again today?
✓ **A) Yes, I woke up with a headache.**
Under the weather means slightly ill. A headache fits this meaning. The sentence about storm clouds takes the idiom literally, and **feeling much better** does not match the answer **Yes**.

7. Get plenty of rest and let this cold run its course.
✓ **C) Okay, I'll stay home from work for the next couple of days.**
Let something run its course means let it continue naturally until it ends, without trying to stop it. With **get plenty of rest**, the sensible reply is to stay home and rest. Going running would not be resting.

8. A runny nose and a sore throat are telltale signs of a cold.
✓ **A) I thought I might have a cold.**
Telltale signs are clear signs that show something is true. The doctor is saying the patient has a cold, so the matching reply is **I thought I might have a cold.**

9. Unfortunately, there's no magic bullet for Lyme disease.
✓ **B) Right, I understand it can be difficult to treat.**
A **magic bullet** is a simple, quick cure for a difficult problem. **There's no magic bullet** means there is no easy cure, so the illness can be hard to treat. The option about bullets takes the idiom literally.

10. What seems to be the trouble?
✓ **B) My left ear has been hurting for several days.**
What seems to be the trouble? is a polite way for a doctor to ask **What's wrong?** The patient should describe a health problem, such as an ear that has been hurting. **It's no trouble at all** answers a different situation, when someone thanks you for help.

11. Your temperature is 100 degrees. That's on the high side.
✓ **B) I thought I was feeling a little warm.**
On the high side means a little higher than normal. 100 degrees Fahrenheit is a slight fever, so the patient replies that they felt **a little warm**. It is not good news, and **cool** means the opposite.

12. A stomach bug is going around.
✓ **A) I think I must have caught it.**
A **stomach bug** is a common stomach illness. If it is **going around**, many people are catching it. The patient replies that they **must have caught it**. The other options take **going around** literally or don't make sense.

13. What do you usually take when you have a splitting headache?
✓ A) I take aspirin or Tylenol.
A **splitting headache** is a very bad headache. The question asks what medicine you **take**, so the answer is a painkiller like aspirin or Tylenol. Not **a couple days off work**, because here **take** means taking medicine, not taking time off.

14. You've got a garden-variety cold.
✓ B) Okay. I'm glad it's nothing serious!
Garden-variety means ordinary or common, nothing special. A garden-variety cold is just a normal cold, so the patient is glad **it's nothing serious**. The other replies wrongly treat it as a serious illness.

15. Your cough shouldn't drag on too much longer.
✓ C) So you think it'll be gone by next week?
Drag on means to continue for longer than you want. If the cough **shouldn't drag on much longer**, it will end soon. So the matching reply is **it'll be gone by next week**.

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