ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Speak English Around Town Lesson 11 Idioms, Proverbs, Expressions MCQ Test

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Explanations

1. How long did it take for your rash to clear _____?
✔ **C) up**
The phrasal verb **clear up** means that an illness or skin problem goes away and the skin becomes normal again: **The rash cleared up in a week.** Not **clear away**, which means to remove things, for example **clear away the dishes**.

2. Everything went wrong on my date with the doctor I met online. For _____, he left his wallet at home!
✔ **A) starters**
For starters is an informal expression that means "first of all". We use it to give the first item in a list of reasons or problems: **For starters, he left his wallet at home.**

3. You hit the _____ on the head when you said Tyler should get that lump on his foot checked out.
✔ **C) nail**
The idiom **hit the nail on the head** means to say exactly the right thing, or to describe a situation exactly. The idiom always uses **nail**, never **screw** or **tack**.

4. There are lots of rumors going around about why Dr. Smith is leaving her job at the clinic. We should _____ them in the bud.
✔ **A) nip**
The idiom **nip something in the bud** means to stop a problem early, before it grows bigger: **Let's nip these rumors in the bud.** The verb in this idiom is always **nip**, not **clip** or **snip**.

5. All along, Jill has been taking _____-the-counter medications for her headaches, but now she's going to get a prescription.
✔ **B) over**
Over-the-counter medicines can be bought in a shop or pharmacy without a doctor's prescription. The sentence contrasts them with a **prescription**. Not **under-the-counter**, which means sold secretly or illegally.

6. - "What do you think this pain in my chest could be?"

- "It could be _____ number of things."
✔ **C) any**
Any number of is a fixed expression that means "many different" things or possibilities: **It could be any number of things.** Not **every number of** or **all number of**: these are not used in English.

7. Jennifer's face broke _____ in a terrible rash.
✔ **B) out**
Break out in a rash, spots or a sweat means that the problem suddenly appears on the skin: **Her face broke out in a rash.** Not **break up**, which means to end a relationship or to separate into pieces.

8. I have a pain in my lower back. It's _____ me nuts.
✔ **C) driving**
Drive someone nuts is an informal idiom that means to annoy someone very much: **This noise is driving me nuts.** The verb in this expression is always **drive**.

9. The doctor asked Dennis how long he's been _____ Prilosec.
✔ **C) on**
We say someone is **on** a medicine when they are taking it regularly: **She's been on antibiotics for a week.** Prilosec is the brand name of a medicine. Not **with** or **in**, which are not used with medicines in this way.

10. Get that spot on your back checked out by a doctor. It's probably nothing, but better _____ than sorry.
✔ **A) safe**
The proverb **better safe than sorry** means it is wiser to be careful now than to have problems or regrets later. Here it means: see a doctor now, even if it is probably nothing.

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