ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Speak English Around Town Lesson 12 Idioms, Proverbs, Expressions MCQ Test

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11	**C**	12	**B**	13	**C**	14	**A**	15	**B**	16	**B**	17	**A**	18	**C**	19	**A**	20	**C**

Explanations

1. I like the blue car, but my husband prefers the green _____.
✔ **A) one**
We use **one** instead of repeating a singular countable noun. Here **the green one** means **the green car**.

2. Ed offered me a glass of wine, but I told him I didn't want _____.
✔ **A) one**
One replaces the singular noun **a glass of wine**: **I didn't want one** means I didn't want a glass. **Ones** is only for plural nouns.

3. There's a huge pile of bottles here. Which _____ are recyclable?
✔ **B) ones**
Ones replaces a plural noun, here **bottles**. The plural verb **are** shows that we need the plural form: **Which ones are recyclable?**

4. - "Those flowers are pretty!"

- "They're the _____ I picked from the garden this morning."
✔ **B) ones**
Ones replaces the plural noun **flowers**. The plural **They're** is the clue: **They're the ones I picked**.

5. "Who would like a drink?" - "I'd like _____."
✔ **A) one**
One replaces the singular noun **a drink**: **I'd like one** means I'd like a drink.

6. I've sorted the applications into two piles. These are the applications I've already looked at, and these are the _____ I still need to review.
✔ **B) ones**
Ones replaces the plural noun **applications**. The plural **these are** is the clue: **these are the ones I still need to review**.

7. If you need a wedding photographer, I can recommend _____.
✔ **A) one**
One replaces the singular noun **a wedding photographer**: **I can recommend one** means I know a good photographer.

8. - "Which pictures are these?"

- "The _____ I took in Bali."
✔ **B) ones**
Ones replaces the plural noun **pictures**: **The ones I took in Bali** means the pictures I took in Bali.

9. _____ of your friends called to ask if you're free on Saturday night, but I can't remember his name.
✔ **A) One**
We say **one of** + plural noun to mean a single person from a group: **One of your friends called**. The words **his name** show it is one person.

10. _____ of Kevin's fingers is broken.
✔ **A) One**
One of + plural noun takes a singular verb: **One of Kevin's fingers is broken**. **Ones of** is not correct English.

11. Will the dental surgery be covered _____ insurance?
✔ **C) by**
The expression is **covered by insurance**, meaning the insurance company will pay for it. We use **by** after the passive verb **be covered**.

12. Ethan is due _____ a tetanus shot.
✔ **B) for**
Be due for something means it is the right time for it now: **Ethan is due for a tetanus shot** means it is time for his next shot. Example: **My car is due for a service.**

13. Before seeing his next patient, Dr. Drake gave the woman's file a once _____.
✔ **C) over**
Give something a once-over means to look at it quickly to check it. The doctor quickly looked through the woman's file. The idiom is usually written with a hyphen: **once-over**.

14. I'm afraid my front teeth are loose, but maybe it's just a figment _____ my imagination.
✔ **A) of**
A figment of your imagination is something you think is real but is not. The fixed phrase always uses **of**: **a figment of my imagination**.

15. If you feel tired all the time, you should go to the doctor and get to the bottom _____ it.
✔ **B) of**
Get to the bottom of something means to find the real cause of a problem. The idiom always uses **of**: **get to the bottom of it**.

16. In the springtime, Tanya's allergies act _____.
✔ **B) up**
The phrasal verb **act up** means to cause problems or to get worse. **Tanya's allergies act up** means they become bad in spring. Example: **My back acts up when it's cold.**

17. When the receptionist asked for my insurance number, I told her I couldn't remember it _____ the top of my head.
✔ **A) off**
Off the top of my head means from memory, without checking or thinking for long. The idiom always uses **off**.

18. The dentist is checking your X-rays. _____ the meantime, I'll floss your teeth.
✔ **C) In**
In the meantime is a fixed phrase. It means 'while we wait for something else to happen': the dentist checks the X-rays, and **in the meantime** the hygienist flosses your teeth. Not **during**, because we don't say **during the meantime**; the phrase always uses **in**.

19. My stomach is _____ me. It must have been that spicy Thai food!
✔ **A) killing**
My stomach is killing me is an informal way to say it hurts a lot. Not **aching**, because **ache** does not take an object: we say **My stomach is aching**, not **aching me**.

20. My knee has been _____ me trouble all week.
✔ **C) giving**
The collocation is **give someone trouble**, meaning to cause someone problems or pain. **My knee has been giving me trouble** means it has been hurting. We don't say **make** or **do** someone trouble.

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