ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Speak English Around Town Lesson 13 Idioms, Proverbs, Expressions MCQ Test

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1	A	2	B	3	B	4	A	5	B	6	C	7	A	8	C	9	B	10	C

Explanations

1. **Choose the best substitute for the phrase or sentence in bold:**

I'll take a Coke. **Hold the ice!**
✓ **A) Don't put in any ice!**
When you order food or drinks, **hold the …** means "don't add it": **Hold the ice!** = **Don't put in any ice!** Another example: **A burger, hold the onions.** Not "Don't forget the ice", which means the opposite.

2. Let me know what you want to drink. **You name it, we've got it.**
✓ **B) We have a large selection.**
You name it, we've got it means "whatever you ask for, we have it", so there is a **large selection**. Not "a few different drinks", because the phrase stresses that almost everything is available.

3. I'd like a vodka **on the rocks.**
✓ **B) with ice**
A drink **on the rocks** is served over ice cubes; the "rocks" are the ice. Example: **a whisky on the rocks**. Not "with rocks": the expression is not literal.

4. Come on in and **join the party!**
✓ **A) talk with the other guests**
Join the party is a friendly invitation to come in and be with the other guests: talk, eat and have fun. Not "join our club": it has nothing to do with becoming a member.

5. I brought **a little something** for your baby.
✓ **B) a small gift**
A little something is a modest way to say **a small gift**. People use it when they give a present. Example: **I got you a little something for your birthday.**

6. Sorry I'm late for dinner. I got **held up** at the office by an unexpected phone call.
✓ **C) delayed**
Be/get held up means **be delayed**: something made you late. The clue is **Sorry I'm late**. Not "disturbed": the call interrupted the speaker, but the meaning of **held up** is that it made them late.

7. **One cappuccino coming right up.**
✓ **A) I'll bring you the cappuccino you asked for right away.**
Waiters say **(One) … coming right up** to mean "I'll bring your order very soon". Example: **Two coffees coming right up!** It is about bringing the order, not the bill or the empty cup.

8. Did you hear about the **pile-up** on Route 80?
✓ **C) accident involving many cars**
A **pile-up** is a road **accident involving many cars**, when several cars crash into each other. Not "rush hour traffic", which is just a lot of slow cars, with no crash.

9. My wallet was stolen in Rome. **What a nightmare!**
✓ **B) What an awful situation!**
What a nightmare! means "What a terrible situation!". Use it for a very bad experience, such as losing your wallet. It talks about the situation, not the city.

10. After working hard all week, I'm ready to just **chill out.**
✓ **C) relax**
Chill out is an informal way to say **relax**. The clue is **after working hard all week**. Example: **Let's just chill out at home tonight.**

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