ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Speak English Around Town Lesson 15 Idioms, Proverbs, Expressions MCQ Test

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Explanations

1. Sara and Sam, help _____ to more pie!
✓ **B) yourselves**
The speaker is talking to two people, Sara and Sam, so we need the plural form **yourselves**. **Help yourselves to** something means 'take as much as you want'. Not **yourself**, which is for one person only.

2. I hope you're not going to be by _____ on your birthday.
✓ **B) yourself**
By yourself means 'alone'. **Your birthday** is one person's birthday, so the singular **yourself** fits. Not **yourselves**, which is for two or more people.

3. Don't call a plumber to fix the sink. Fix it _____!
✓ **B) yourself**
The speaker is telling the listener (**you**) to fix the sink without help, so we use **yourself**. **Do it yourself** means 'do it without paying someone else'.

4. Ouch! I cut _____ while slicing a tomato.
✓ **C) myself**
The subject is **I**, and the person who got hurt is the same person, so we use **myself**: **I cut myself**.

5. Did your daughter write that wonderful story all by _____?
✓ **B) herself**
Your daughter is a girl or woman, so the reflexive pronoun is **herself**. **All by herself** means 'alone, with no help'.

6. Troy and Melissa taught _____ Spanish.
✓ **C) themselves**
Troy and Melissa are two people (**they**), so the reflexive pronoun is **themselves**. Not **theirselves**: this word is not correct English.

7. Brian ate the entire pie? He needs to learn to control _____!
✓ **C) himself**
Brian is a man (**he**), so we use **himself**. **Control yourself** means 'stop yourself from doing too much of something'.

8. I made this Christmas ornament _____.
✓ **B) myself**
The subject is **I**, so the reflexive pronoun is **myself**. **I made it myself** means 'I made it without help'.

9. That's strange. The light just turned on by _____.
✓ **C) itself**
The light is a thing, so we use **itself**. **By itself** means 'without anyone doing it', e.g. **The door opened by itself.**

10. You forgot to make dinner reservations? Never mind. I'll do it _____.
✓ **A) myself**
The subject is **I** (**I'll do it**), so the reflexive pronoun is **myself**. The speaker will make the reservations without the other person's help.

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

This lamb dish is **out of this world**.
✓ **C) delicious**
Out of this world means 'extremely good, wonderful'. About food, it means **delicious**. Not **pretty good**: that is much weaker.

12. Would anybody like **a second helping**?
✓ **A) more food**
A second helping is another portion of the same food after you finish the first one, so it means **more food**. Not **some help**: **helping** here is a portion of food.

13. It's already 11 o'clock? We should **hit the road**.
✓ **C) leave**
Hit the road is an informal way to say **leave** or start a journey, e.g. **It's late. Let's hit the road.**

14. Spending the weekend at Tina's summer home was **a real treat**.
✓ **C) enjoyable**
A real treat is something special that gives you a lot of pleasure, so the meaning is **enjoyable**.

15. The bride's mother did all the cooking for the wedding. She really **outdid herself**.
✓ **B) did a great job**
Outdo yourself means 'do something extremely well, even better than usual', so here it means she **did a great job**. Not **exhausted herself**: the idiom is praise for the result, not about being tired.

16. Thanks for inviting us over for dinner next Saturday. Please don't **knock yourselves out**.
✓ **A) do a lot of work**
Don't knock yourselves out is a friendly way to say 'don't go to a lot of trouble' or don't **do a lot of work** for us. Not **serve us more than we can eat**: the idiom is about effort, not only about the amount of food.

17. We'd like to **have you over** soon.
✓ **B) invite you to our house**
Have someone over means to **invite someone to your house**, e.g. **We had some friends over for dinner.** Not **come to your house**: that is the opposite direction.

18. If that last piece of fish is going to **go to waste**, I'll take it.
✓ **C) get thrown in the garbage**
When food **goes to waste**, nobody uses it, so it gets **thrown in the garbage**. The speaker will eat the fish so it is not thrown away.

19. **Save room for dessert**. I made apple pie.
✓ **A) Don't eat so much that you're too full to have dessert.**
Save room for dessert means don't eat so much of the main meal that you are too full for dessert. **Room** here means space in your stomach, not on your plate.

20. Please **help yourselves to** more cookies.
✓ **B) take**
Help yourselves to something means **take** as much as you want without asking, e.g. **Help yourself to coffee.**

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