ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Speak English Around Town Lesson 16 Idioms, Proverbs, Expressions MCQ Test

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Explanations

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

We lost our power in the snowstorm. Our neighbours' houses were also dark, so we knew they were **in the same boat**.
✓ **B) in the same situation**
In the same boat means in the same difficult situation as someone else. The neighbours had no power either, so they had the same problem. It has nothing to do with travelling together.

2. **For crying out loud!** We've been sitting here for 20 minutes waiting for the waiter to come take our order.
✓ **C) How annoying!**
For crying out loud! shows that you are annoyed or impatient. Here the speakers have waited 20 minutes for the waiter, so it means **How annoying!**

3. Maria's Bistro is **fully booked** for tonight.
✓ **B) not available**
Fully booked means all the tables or rooms are already reserved, so nothing is **available**. Not **closed**: the restaurant is open, but it is full.

4. You're going out on a date with the guy you met on the Internet? Good luck and **keep me posted!**
✓ **A) tell me what happens**
Keep me posted means keep giving me news about what happens. The speaker wants to hear how the date goes, not necessarily during the date.

5. Sorry, we can't **honor your bus tickets**. They're for a different bus company.
✓ **A) accept your bus tickets**
To **honor** a ticket, voucher or coupon means to **accept** it as valid. The tickets belong to another bus company, so this company won't accept them. Not **refund**, which means giving the money back.

6. We got to Costco before the store opened. There were **quite a few** people waiting in line to get in.
✓ **C) many**
Quite a few means **many**, a fairly large number. Although **few** alone means not many, **quite a few** has the opposite meaning. Not **one or two**.

7. Adam said he's going to invite us to his cottage this summer, but **don't hold your breath**.
✓ **C) don't count on it**
Don't hold your breath means don't expect it to happen, or **don't count on it**. The speaker thinks Adam probably won't really invite them.

8. Look at this traffic! There's **no way** we'll be on time for the play.
✓ **B) no chance**
There's no way means it is impossible, so there is **no chance**. The traffic is so bad that they cannot arrive on time.

9. Please **stand by** for more information.
✓ **C) wait**
Stand by means **wait** and be ready, often for news or instructions. Example: **Please stand by for an announcement.**

10. Your doctor failed to diagnose your illness and now it's worse? You should call him and **give him a piece of your mind**.
✓ **A) tell him you're angry because he made a mistake**
To **give someone a piece of your mind** means to tell them angrily that they did something wrong. The doctor made a mistake, so you should tell him you're angry.

11. **Fill in the blank with the missing word:**

After travelling around China for three weeks on business, Chad is _____.
✓ **B) exhausted**
Use **-ed** adjectives for how a person feels. Chad feels very tired, so he is **exhausted**. **Exhausting** describes the thing that makes you tired: **The trip was exhausting.**

12. It's _____ when people talk during movies.
✓ **B) annoying**
Use **-ing** adjectives for the thing that causes a feeling. People talking during movies causes annoyance, so it is **annoying**. You feel **annoyed**.

13. You're getting married in July? How _____!
✓ **A) exciting**
How exciting! describes the news, which causes excitement, so use the **-ing** form. The person getting married feels **excited**.

14. That's _____ that your daughter can already say the alphabet at just 18 months!
✓ **B) amazing**
That's amazing describes the fact that causes the feeling, so use the **-ing** form. People who hear it feel **amazed**.

15. I was _____ when my friend called and said she couldn't come visit for the weekend.
✓ **B) disappointed**
I was disappointed describes how the speaker felt, so use the **-ed** form. The news itself was **disappointing**.

16. Nate is _____ in other cultures, so he'd make a good diplomat.
✓ **A) interested**
A person who likes learning about something is **interested in** it, so use the **-ed** form. Not **interesting**, which would describe Nate as a person who interests others.

17. No wonder people fall asleep in Professor Martin's class. He's so _____.
✓ **A) boring**
People fall asleep because the professor makes the class dull, so he is **boring**, using the **-ing** form. Not **bored**, which would mean the professor himself feels bored.

18. Pat found the documentary on Thomas Jefferson very _____.
✓ **B) interesting**
The documentary causes interest, so it is **interesting**, using the **-ing** form. Pat, the person, was **interested**.

19. Dana didn't call you to wish you a happy birthday? That's _____.
✓ **B) surprising**
That's surprising describes the situation that causes surprise, so use the **-ing** form. You feel **surprised**.

20. The instructions are _____. I can't figure out how to install this new software.
✓ **A) confusing**
The instructions cause confusion, so they are **confusing**, using the **-ing** form. The speaker, who can't understand them, feels **confused**.

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