ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Speak English Around Town Lesson 18 Idioms, Proverbs, Expressions MCQ Test

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Explanations

1. Emily is _____ a nice girl. I love babysitting for her.
✔ **B) such**
Use **such** before **a/an** + adjective + noun: **such a nice girl**. **So** goes before an adjective alone, with no noun (**She is so nice**).

2. The movie was _____ boring that I could barely stay awake.
✔ **A) so**
Use **so** + adjective + **that** to show a result: **so boring that I could barely stay awake**. **Such** needs a noun after it (**such a boring movie that…**).

3. The flight was _____ long that I thought we'd never get there.
✔ **A) so**
Long is an adjective with no noun after it, so we use **so**: **so long that…**. With a noun we would say **such a long flight that…**.

4. If you study for it, the TOEFL is not _____ a difficult exam.
✔ **B) such**
The gap is followed by **a** + adjective + noun (**a difficult exam**), so we need **such**: **not such a difficult exam**. **So** would need the adjective alone: **not so difficult**.

5. People in our office leave leftovers in the refrigerator for months. It's _____ gross!
✔ **A) so**
Gross (very disgusting) is an adjective with no noun after it, so we use **so**: **It's so gross! Such** must come before a noun.

6. Nora hasn't been to the dentist in _____ a long time.
✔ **B) such**
Before **a** + adjective + noun we use **such**: **in such a long time**. Without the noun we could say **in so long**.

7. Canyon Ranch is a great spa, but it's _____ expensive!
✔ **A) so**
Expensive is an adjective with no noun after it, so we use **so**: **it's so expensive!** Compare: **it's such an expensive spa**.

8. You did _____ a great job on your presentation!
✔ **B) such**
A great job is **a** + adjective + noun, so we use **such**: **You did such a great job! So** cannot come before **a**.

9. Tina's boss keeps criticizing her. Why is he being _____ nasty?
✔ **A) so**
Nasty (unkind, mean) is an adjective with no noun after it, so we use **so**: **Why is he being so nasty?**

10. You got promoted? That's _____ good news!
✔ **B) such**
News is an uncountable noun, so we use **such** (without **a**): **such good news**. Not **so**, because **so** can't be followed by adjective + noun.

11. The weather forecast calls for sunny skies for the entire week we're in Italy. But I'm bringing along a raincoat just in _____.
✔ **A) case**
Just in case means 'to be ready if something happens': you take a raincoat in case it rains, even though sunny weather is forecast. **Cause** sounds similar but doesn't fit this fixed phrase.

12. You want a new job title? What did you have in _____?
✔ **C) mind**
Have something in mind means to have an idea or plan: **What did you have in mind?** = What were you thinking of? We don't say **in head** in this expression.

13. Fifteen dollars for a sandwich? That's _____ robbery!
✔ **C) highway**
Highway robbery is an idiom for a price that is far too high, like being robbed: **$15 for a sandwich? That's highway robbery! Motorway** and **roadside** are not used in this idiom.

14. You're leaving your house at 5:30 for a 7 o'clock flight? That's cutting it _____.
✔ **B) close**
Cutting it close (American English; British **cutting it fine**) means leaving almost no extra time, so you might be late. Not **sharp** or **near**: they are not part of this fixed expression.

15. Would you mind reading _____ my business school essays?
✔ **A) over**
The phrasal verb **read over** means to read something carefully to check it: **Would you mind reading over my essays? Read on** means 'continue reading', which doesn't fit here.

16. Sorry, the grace _____ is over. We're going to have to charge you interest on your account.
✔ **C) period**
A **grace period** is extra time you get to pay a bill before you are charged interest or a fee. The fixed collocation is **grace period**, not **grace time** or **grace phase**.

17. Tom wrote me a note, but I can't make heads or _____ of it. His handwriting is so messy!
✓ **A) tails**
Can't make heads or tails of something (American English) means you can't understand it at all: the messy handwriting is impossible to read. **Sense** is tempting (**make sense of**), but it doesn't fit after **heads or**.

18. We got our visas for Brazil. We're good to _____.
✓ **B) go**
Good to go is an informal expression meaning 'ready to start or leave': with their visas, they are ready for the trip. **Good to leave** and **good to be** are not idioms.

19. The airfare to Seoul is $1500, inclusive _____ taxes.
✓ **B) of**
Inclusive of means 'including': the price of $1500 includes the taxes. When **inclusive** means 'including something', it is followed by **of**, as in **inclusive of taxes**. Not **with**: we say **with taxes**, but not **inclusive with taxes**.

20. How did you bang _____ your car?
✓ **A) up**
Bang up (informal) means to damage something, for example in an accident: **How did you bang up your car? Bang on** means to hit something repeatedly, which doesn't fit here.

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