ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Speak English Around Town Lesson 21 Idioms, Proverbs, Expressions MCQ Test

Speak English Around Town · 20 questions · Online test and questions PDF:
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11	**B**	12	**A**	13	**C**	14	**A**	15	**B**	16	**C**	17	**C**	18	**A**	19	**C**	20	**A**

Explanations

1. Vince is a _____ golfer than Nick.
✓ **B) better**
We compare two people (**than Nick**), so we need the comparative. **Good** is irregular: **good – better – best**. Not **more good**: we never say that.

2. Neptune is the _____ planet from Earth.
✓ **B) farthest**
The + one of a group needs the superlative. **Far** is irregular: **far – farther – farthest**. Not **further**, because that is the comparative form, not the superlative.

3. Your salary is _____ than mine.
✓ **C) higher**
Than shows we are comparing two things. Short adjectives add **-er**: **high – higher**. Not **more high**, because **high** is a short word.

4. That was the _____ movie I've ever seen!
✓ **C) worst**
The … I've ever seen needs the superlative. **Bad** is irregular: **bad – worse – worst**.

5. Natalie is _____ than her sister.
✓ **C) prettier**
Than shows a comparison of two people. Adjectives ending in **-y** change to **-ier**: **pretty – prettier**.

6. I don't know who's _____, Monica or Terry.
✓ **A) more interesting**
We compare only two people (**Monica or Terry**), so we use the comparative **more interesting**. Long adjectives use **more**, not **-er**. Not **most interesting**, because the superlative is for three or more.

7. Brandon bought his fiancée the _____ ring in the store.
✓ **B) most expensive**
The … in the store compares one ring with all the others, so we need the superlative. Long adjectives use **most**: **the most expensive**.

8. Of all the questions on the test, the last one was the _____.
✓ **B) most difficult**
Of all the questions means we compare many things, so we use the superlative **the most difficult**. Long adjectives use **most**, not **-est**.

9. We have two good candidates for the position. Now we need to figure out who's _____.
✓ **A) more qualified**
There are only **two** candidates, so we use the comparative **more qualified**. Not **most qualified**, because the superlative is for three or more.

10. Joel earns _____ money than his younger brother.
✓ **A) less**
Than needs the comparative. **Little** is irregular: **little – less – least**, and we use **less** with uncountable nouns like **money**. Not **lesser**, which is not used to talk about amounts.

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

I had a **fender bender** on my way home from work yesterday.
✓ **B) small crash**
A **fender bender** is a small car accident with little damage. Example: **Nobody was hurt; it was just a fender bender.**

12. If everybody would stop **rubbernecking**, traffic would start moving a lot faster.
✓ **A) slowing down to look at an accident**
Rubbernecking means drivers slow down to stare at an accident, which makes traffic slower. Not **looking at what's going on all around**, because it is about looking at an accident.

13. I owe you nine dollars. Here's ten. **Keep the change**.
✓ **C) Keep the dollar.**
Keep the change means you don't need to give back the extra money. Here the extra money is one dollar, so the person can keep it.

14. You got a flat tire. **What rotten luck**!
✓ **A) How unfortunate!**
What rotten luck! means **What bad luck!** We say it when something bad happens, like a flat tire.

15. Ninth and Grand Street? **Hop in!**
✓ **B) Get in the taxi!**
Hop in! is an informal way to say **Get in (the car/taxi)!** Here a taxi driver hears the address and invites the passenger in.

16. I hate to **break it to you**, but this relationship isn't working.
✓ **C) give you the bad news**
To **break it to someone** means to tell them bad news, often gently. The sentence gives bad news: **this relationship isn't working**.

17. Pam got **pulled over** for talking on her cellphone while driving.
✓ **C) stopped by the police**
To **get pulled over** means the police stop your car, usually because you broke a traffic rule. Example: **He got pulled over for speeding.**

18. A dog ran into the road, and I **had a close call**.
✓ **A) almost hit it**
A **close call** is a situation where something bad almost happens. Here the driver almost hit the dog but didn't.

19. **Where are you headed?**
✓ **C) Where are you going?**
Where are you headed? is an informal way to ask **Where are you going?** Not **Where are you?**, because **headed** is about direction.

20. I see an accident **up ahead**.
✓ **A) in front of us**
Up ahead means a little further in front of us, in the direction we are going.

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