ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Speak English Around Town Lesson 23 Idioms, Proverbs, Expressions MCQ Test

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1	**B**	2	**A**	3	**B**	4	**A**	5	**B**	6	**A**	7	**B**	8	**A**	9	**B**	10	**A**
11	**C**	12	**C**	13	**C**	14	**A**	15	**B**	16	**A**	17	**C**	18	**A**	19	**B**	20	**A**

Explanations

1. Michelle has been studying Spanish _____ five years.
✔ **B) for**
Use **for** with a length of time, such as **five years**. Use **since** with a starting point, such as **2010**.

2. Roger has had the flu _____ last Wednesday and hasn't been able to go to work.
✔ **A) since**
Last Wednesday is the point when the flu started, so we use **since**. **For** goes with a length of time, such as **for a week**.

3. Paul will be studying at Harvard _____ another semester.
✔ **B) for**
Another semester is a length of time, so we use **for**. **Since** needs a starting point and goes with the present perfect, not the future.

4. I haven't been to St. Petersburg _____ 2004.
✔ **A) since**
2004 is a point in time, so we use **since**: **I haven't been there since 2004.**

5. Greg has worked at Dell _____ ten years.
✔ **B) for**
Ten years is a length of time, so we use **for**.

6. Hank's Electronics has been in business _____ 1969.
✔ **A) since**
1969 is the year the business started, a point in time, so we use **since**.

7. Juan has lived in the United States _____ five years.
✔ **B) for**
Five years is a length of time, so we use **for**.

8. Bob has been in London _____ last Tuesday.
✔ **A) since**
Last Tuesday is the starting point, so we use **since**.

9. I'll be out of the office _____ 10 days.
✔ **B) for**
10 days is a length of time, so we use **for**: **I'll be away for 10 days.**

10. _____ when did you start wearing jeans to work?
✔ **A) Since**
Since when...? asks about the starting point of something. It often shows surprise: **Since when did you start wearing jeans to work?**

11. Choose the most appropriate response to the following:

Let's get started with the presentations now instead of waiting for everybody to show up.
✔ **C) Good idea. It's time to get the ball rolling.**
Get the ball rolling means to start something, such as a meeting or a project. The speaker wants to begin now, so this reply agrees. Not **hold up the meeting**, because that means to delay it.

12. Do you think it'll take us 45 minutes to get to the restaurant?
✔ **C) Yes, it's across town.**
Across town means on the other side of the city. That explains why the trip will take 45 minutes. Not **running behind**, because that means being late, and it does not answer the question.

13. This meeting was supposed to end at 3 and it's already 3:30.
✔ **C) So we've already run over by half an hour.**
Run over means to go past the planned end time. The meeting should have ended at 3, and it is now 3:30, so it has **run over by half an hour**.

14. Just to let you know, the company president will be dropping by our offices at 4:30 today.
✔ **A) Okay, thanks for giving me a heads-up.**
A **heads-up** is a warning or advance notice about something that will happen. The speaker is telling you early about the president's visit. Example: **Thanks for the heads-up about the test.**

15. Julia showed up two hours late this morning, and she was wearing a very nice suit.
✔ **B) I'm onto her. She's looking for another job.**
I'm onto her means 'I know what she is secretly doing.' Coming in late in a nice suit suggests that she had a job interview.

16. My meeting lasted an hour longer than I expected.
✔ **A) So you must be running behind now.**
Running behind means late for your schedule. After a long meeting, you are late for everything that comes next. Not **running over**, because that describes the meeting itself going past its end time, not the person.

17. I'm upset. You had lunch with our boss, and you didn't invite me?
✔ **C) Please don't make a mountain out of a molehill.**
Make a mountain out of a molehill means to treat a small problem as a big one. The reply tells the speaker not to get so upset about a lunch.

18. I'm calling to let you know I'll be a little late to our meeting.
✓ A) Thanks for letting me know you're running late.
Running late means not on time. The caller said they will be a little late, so this reply thanks them for letting you know.

19. Yesterday I was late because my car broke down. Today I was late because my alarm clock broke.
✓ B) It's always one excuse after another with you.
It's always one excuse after another means the person keeps giving reasons for doing something wrong. Here the speaker has a different reason for being late every day.

20. Finally! You're 25 minutes late for our meeting.
✓ A) Sorry to keep you waiting.
Sorry to keep you waiting is the polite apology when you arrive late. The other replies wrongly say that the other person is the one running late.

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