ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Speak English Around Town Lesson 25 Idioms, Proverbs, Expressions MCQ Test

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Explanations

1. I suggest _____ Bratislava while you're on your tour of Europe.
✓ **B) visiting**
The verb **suggest** is followed by a gerund (-ing form): **I suggest visiting Bratislava.** Not **to visit**, because **suggest** is never followed by **to** + verb.

2. If you're on a diet, I recommend _____ canola oil instead of butter when baking.
✓ **B) using**
Recommend is followed by a gerund: **I recommend using canola oil.** Not **to use**: **recommend to do** is a common learner mistake.

3. Did you manage _____ a plumber to fix your sink on Saturday?
✓ **B) to find**
Manage is followed by **to** + verb (infinitive): **Did you manage to find a plumber?** It means you succeeded in doing something difficult.

4. On the weekends, Ed enjoys _____ novels and watching videos.
✓ **A) reading**
Enjoy is always followed by a gerund: **enjoys reading**. The second verb in the sentence, **watching**, is also in the -ing form.

5. I promised Erica I'd get a drink with her after work, and now I don't feel like _____.
✓ **B) going**
Feel like (= want to do) is followed by a gerund because **like** here is a preposition: **I don't feel like going.**

6. Do you promise _____ me when I'm working abroad in London?
✓ **B) to visit**
Promise is followed by **to** + verb: **Do you promise to visit me?** Verbs about future plans, like **promise**, **want** and **expect**, usually take the infinitive.

7. When do you expect _____ the repair work on my car?
✓ **A) to finish**
Expect is followed by **to** + verb: **When do you expect to finish the repair work?**

8. We want _____ to New York next year.
✓ **B) to move**
Want is followed by **to** + verb: **We want to move to New York.** Not **moving**, because **want** never takes the -ing form.

9. Do you mind _____ Jesse from the airport on Saturday?
✓ **B) picking up**
Mind is followed by a gerund: **Do you mind picking up Jesse?** This is a polite way to ask someone for a favour.

10. I think _____ a night in Santa Barbara on our way to Los Angeles is a good idea.
✓ **A) spending**
Here the verb is the subject of the clause (**spending a night ... is a good idea**). A gerund is the natural form for a subject. **To spend** as a subject sounds very formal and unnatural in everyday speech.

11. **Choose the most appropriate response to the following:**

Did you know that Sara and her husband are splitting up?
✓ **B) No, do you know what happened?**
Split up means to end a marriage or relationship. The natural reply shows surprise and asks for details: **No, do you know what happened?** Not "this good news", because a divorce is usually sad news.

12. If you get a chance, stop by over the weekend.
✓ **A) Okay, I'll come over.**
Stop by means to visit someone for a short time, so **Okay, I'll come over** is the right reply. **Stop it** means to end an action, and **stop by** doesn't mean spending the whole weekend together.

13. Nick was sick for months, but now he's on the road to recovery.
✓ **C) I'm glad to hear he's getting better.**
On the road to recovery means getting better after an illness. It has nothing to do with travelling, even though it contains the word **road**.

14. Your son has dropped out of Harvard and joined the military? I'm speechless!
✓ **A) We were very surprised too.**
I'm speechless means I'm so surprised that I don't know what to say. The natural reply agrees with the surprise: **We were very surprised too.**

15. Ron just lost his job after 25 years at the same company. He's beside himself.
✓ **A) I can understand why he's upset.**
Beside himself means extremely upset or emotional. The fitting reply is **I can understand why he's upset.** Not "he isn't too upset", which means the opposite of the idiom.

16. Brenda just found out that her husband has been cheating on her for years with his secretary.
✓ **A) Do you think she'll leave him?**
Cheating on someone means being unfaithful to your husband, wife or partner. Brenda will be hurt and angry, so a natural question is whether she will **leave him**. The other replies don't fit how she would feel.

17. Grace has been a basket case since losing her job.
✓ **B) I hope she'll start feeling better soon.**
A basket case is an informal expression for someone who is very nervous, stressed or unable to cope. A kind reply is **I hope she'll start feeling better soon.** Not "she's doing well", which means the opposite.

18. I was hoping I'd win the big lottery jackpot, but no such luck.
✓ **C) Oh well. There's always next time!**
No such luck means that the hoped-for thing didn't happen, so the speaker didn't win. The reply **Oh well. There's always next time!** comforts them. Losing the lottery is normal, so "That's surprising" doesn't fit.

19. You've been sick all week? Sorry to hear that.
✓ **A) Thanks.**
When someone says **Sorry to hear that** to show sympathy, the polite reply is simply **Thanks.**

20. I've been going through a rough patch lately.
✓ **C) Sorry to hear that. What's going on?**
Going through a rough patch means having a difficult time. The caring reply is **Sorry to hear that. What's going on?** Not "I'm glad to hear it", because the news is bad.

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