ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Speak English Around Town Lesson 6: Idioms and Expressions Test

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Explanations

1. Tent, sleeping bags, torch and map: I think we're all ___ for the camping trip.
✔ **B) set**
If you are all set, you are ready and have everything you need. It is informal and very common in American English.

2. Before the decorators came, we had to ___ up all the books and ornaments in the living room.
✔ **D) box**
Box something up means put it into a box or boxes. In American restaurants, staff also offer to box up food that you have not finished.

3. I forgot about the toast while I was on the phone, and it was burnt to a ___.
✔ **A) crisp**
Food that is burnt to a crisp is so badly burnt that it is black, hard and impossible to eat.

4. The waitress cleared our plates and smiled. 'Can I ___ you in dessert, or would you just like coffee?'
✔ **C) interest**
Can I interest you in ...? is a polite way for a waiter or shop assistant to offer you something. British speakers often call dessert pudding.

5. The portions at the wedding were huge, so my aunt asked for a ___ bag and took half her meal home.
✔ **C) doggy**
A doggy bag is a bag or box for the restaurant food you could not finish. The name is a joke: the food is usually for you, not for the dog.

6. There was so much food at the party that we ate the ___ for the next three days.
✔ **A) leftovers**
Leftovers are the food that remains after a meal and can be eaten later. Remainders are what is left in a division sum, castoffs are old clothes that nobody wants, and a pushover is something very easy.

7. Daniel was hungry until he saw the state of the kitchen; then he completely lost his ___.
✔ **D) appetite**
If you lose your appetite, you stop feeling hungry, often because of something unpleasant or because you are ill or worried.

8. I don't like my steak too pink in the middle, so I never order it medium ___; I ask for well done.
✔ **B) rare**
A medium rare steak is cooked on the outside but still pink inside. Rare means cooked for a very short time; raw means not cooked, so nobody says medium raw.

9. People who talk loudly on their phones in the quiet carriage are my biggest pet ___.
✔ **B) peeve**
A pet peeve is a small thing that annoys one person more than it annoys others. It is mainly American; British speakers usually say pet hate.

10. After the match the captain bought a ___ of drinks for the whole team: mostly orange juice and lemonade.
✔ **C) round**
A round of drinks is one drink for each person in a group, bought by one member of the group. People often take turns to buy a round.

11. "No more rice for me, thanks. I had three helpings of curry and I'm absolutely stuffed." What does "stuffed" mean here?
✔ **A) completely full**
In informal English, I'm stuffed means I have eaten so much that I cannot eat anything else.

12. "It's nearly midnight and the baby next door is asleep; could you turn down the music, please?" What does "turn down the music" mean here?
✔ **D) make the music quieter**
Turn down the music means lower the volume. Turn off would stop it completely, and turn down an offer is a different sense: refuse it.

13. "'Shall I take your plate?' 'Not yet, thanks. I'm still working on this pasta.'" What does "working on" mean here?
✔ **D) busy eating**
At the table, mainly in American English, still working on your food means you have not finished eating it. More generally, work on something means spend time making or improving it.

14. "There's plenty of birthday cake left. I'll wrap up a few slices for you to take home." What does "wrap up" mean here?
✔ **B) cover in paper or foil**
Here wrap up means cover something in paper, foil or plastic so that it can be carried or kept. Wrap up a meeting is another sense: bring it to an end.

15. "'Could you save me a seat near the front?' 'You bet! I'll put my coat on it.'" What does "You bet" mean here?
✔ **A) Yes, certainly**
You bet is an informal, friendly way to say yes, of course. It is mainly American and has nothing to do with betting money.

16. "'Do you need any more help with the form?' 'No, thank you. I'm all set.'" What does "I'm all set" mean here?
✓ C) I need nothing else
Here the speaker says all set to show that he or she has everything necessary and wants no more help. American customers often say it to waiters and shop assistants.

17. "We couldn't finish the pizza, so the waiter offered to box up the last four slices." What does "box up" mean here?
✓ A) pack to take away
To box up food is to put it in a container so that the customer can carry it home. This use is American; in Britain you would ask to take the rest home.

18. "She fell asleep on the beach without any sun cream and woke up burnt to a crisp." What does "burnt to a crisp" mean here?
✓ C) very badly burnt
The expression is mostly used for food, but people also say it informally about very bad sunburn, as here.

19. "The waiter came back to our table and asked, 'Can I interest you in dessert this evening?'" What does "Can I interest you in dessert" mean here?
✓ B) Would you like a sweet course?
The waiter is politely offering the sweet course at the end of the meal. You can answer Yes, please or Just the bill, please.

20. "The restaurant gave us a doggy bag, so we had the rest of the noodles for lunch the next day." What does "doggy bag" mean here?
✓ D) container for unfinished food
The people in the sentence took their unfinished noodles home in it. The expression is understood in Britain, but asking for one is more usual in America.

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