ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Speak English Like an American Lesson 1 Idioms and Expressions MCQ Test

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Explanations

1. I can't believe you bought a couch at Honest Abe's. Everything in that store costs an arm and a _____.
✔ **B) leg**
The idiom **cost an arm and a leg** means 'be very expensive'. Example: **That new phone costs an arm and a leg.** The words in this idiom are always **arm** and **leg**.

2. After Bob found out that his advertising campaign failed, he wanted to go back to the drawing _____.
✔ **A) board**
Go back to the drawing board means 'start again with a new plan because the first one failed'. Bob's campaign failed, so he wants to plan a new one from the beginning. The idiom always uses **board**.

3. When somebody isn't listening to you, there's no _____ in trying to argue with them.
✔ **C) point**
There's no point in + -ing means 'it is useless to do something'. Example: **There's no point in calling him; he's asleep. Edge** and **tip** are not used in this expression.

4. Jose is really smart. He's as sharp as a _____.
✔ **A) tack**
As sharp as a tack is an American idiom meaning 'very smart and quick to understand'. A **tack** is a small, sharp pin. Not **nail**: **as hard as nails** is a different idiom about a tough person.

5. The salespeople at Honest Abe's always look angry and never speak to anybody. No wonder they _____ Bob the creeps.
✔ **B) give**
Give someone the creeps means 'make someone feel nervous or uncomfortable'. The angry, silent salespeople make Bob feel uneasy. The verb in this idiom is always **give**.

6. Bob got fired. He isn't looking forward to _____ the news to his family.
✔ **A) breaking**
Break the news means 'tell someone bad or surprising news'. After **look forward to**, we use the -ing form, so **breaking**. Not **saying**: we **tell** or **break** news, but we don't **say the news to** someone.

7. Bob thought his new advertisements would bring in lots of customers and save the _____.
✔ **C) day**
Save the day means 'solve a problem and make a bad situation successful'. Bob hoped the ads would bring customers and rescue the business. The idiom always uses **day**.

8. Fortunately, Bob no longer has to put _____ with his stupid boss at the furniture store.
✔ **C) up**
The phrasal verb **put up with** means 'accept or tolerate something or someone unpleasant'. Example: **I can't put up with this noise.** Not **put over** or **put in**, which have different meanings and are not followed by **with** here.

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