ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

# Speak English Like an American Lesson 12 Idioms and Expressions MCQ Test

Speak English Like an American · 14 questions · Online test and questions PDF:
https://englishtestsonline.com/speak-english-like-an-american-lesson-12-idioms-and-expressions-mcq-test/

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | **A** | 2 | **B** | 3 | **A** | 4 | **B** | 5 | **B** | 6 | **C** | 7 | **A** | 8 | **C** | 9 | **C** | 10 | **A** |
| 11 | **C** | 12 | **A** | 13 | **B** | 14 | **B** | | | | | | | | | | | | |

## Explanations

**1.** When the sun doesn't shine all winter, it's easy to start feeling down in the _____.
✔ **A) dumps**
The idiom **down in the dumps** means sad or depressed. A long, dark winter can make people feel **down in the dumps**.

**2.** Things were so busy at work, I spent the entire week running around like a chicken with its _____ cut off.
✔ **B) head**
The idiom **running around like a chicken with its head cut off** means rushing around in a busy, confused way. The clue is "so busy at work".

**3.** According to today's newspaper, the economy is improving. Things are looking _____.
✔ **A) up**
**Things are looking up** means the situation is getting better. The clue is that "the economy is improving". Not **forward**: **look forward** means to wait happily for something, and it needs **to** after it.

**4.** I thought you could help me with my new project. But if you're too busy, never _____. I'll find somebody else.
✔ **B) mind**
**Never mind** means "it doesn't matter, forget it". The speaker says it is not a problem and will "find somebody else". **Never bother** and **never worry** are not fixed expressions with this meaning.

**5.** For heaven's _____! If you don't stop playing those video games, you'll never get your homework done.
✔ **B) sake**
**For heaven's sake!** is a fixed expression. It shows that you are annoyed or impatient, as the speaker is about the video games.

**6.** When the school asked Susan to bring cookies to the bake sale, she said she'd be happy to help _____.
✔ **C) out**
The phrasal verb **help out** means to help someone, especially with a job or task. Example: **Can you help out at the bake sale?** Not **help in**: we say **help in** + a place or activity (**help in the kitchen**), and it cannot end the sentence alone.

**7.** When my friend John told me how busy he was preparing for his Halloween party, I offered to pitch _____.
✔ **A) in**
**Pitch in** means to join in and help with a job. John was busy **preparing for his Halloween party**, so the speaker offered to **pitch in** and help him. Example: **If we all pitch in, we'll finish quickly.**

**8.** It's like pulling _____ getting Nicole to help out in the kitchen.
✔ **C) teeth**
**It's like pulling teeth** means it is very difficult to get someone to do something. Here, Nicole does not want to help in the kitchen.

**9.** **Choose the best substitute for the phrase in bold:**

Janice is doing all the cooking for her daughter's wedding. I think she's **bitten off more than she can chew**.
✔ **C) taken on more than she can handle**
**Bite off more than you can chew** means to try to do more than you are able to. Doing all the cooking for a wedding is a very big job, so she has **taken on more than she can handle**. The idiom is not about real food, so "taken too much food into her mouth" is too literal.

**10.** If Nicole is going to cover her entire school with election posters, she'd better **get going on** them immediately.
✔ **A) start working on**
**Get going on** something means to start working on it. The clue is "immediately": a big job like covering the whole school with posters needs an early start.

**11.** If you get tired of mowing the lawn, I'd be happy to **help out**.
✔ **C) assist you**
**Help out** means to **assist** someone with a task. Here, the speaker offers to help with mowing the lawn.

**12.** Last year, Bill opened a store selling gourmet pet food. This year, he'll open 10 more stores. His business is growing **like crazy!**
✔ **A) very quickly**
**Like crazy** is an informal expression meaning very much or **very quickly**. The clue is that Bill goes from one store to ten more in a year. It does not mean the idea is crazy.

**13.** Ever since receiving his rejection letter from Princeton University, Jason has been **down in the dumps**.
✔ **B) sad**
**Down in the dumps** means **sad** or unhappy. Getting a rejection letter from a university would make Jason feel this way.

**14.** For a long time, Michelle couldn't find a boyfriend. But now **things are looking up**. She met a nice guy last weekend.
**✓ B) her love life is improving**
**Things are looking up** means the situation is getting better. Michelle "met a nice guy", so her love life is improving.

**Practise more on englishtestsonline.com**
Take this test online, download its questions PDF, and find thousands of free English tests:
**englishtestsonline.com · scan the code for this test**
englishtestsonline.com