ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Speak English Like an American Lesson 14 Idioms and Expressions MCQ Test

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Explanations

1. **(Please note: The following questions are part of a cloze test. They are interrelated, meaning that the information provided in each question is connected to the others.)**

Susan is telling the story of how she met her husband. Fill in the blanks using the following idioms:
I met Bob in college. He was in my English Literature class. I liked him right away. For me, it was _____.
✔ **B) love at first sight**
Love at first sight means falling in love with someone the moment you first see them. Susan says she **liked him right away**, which is the clue.

2. I wrote him several love poems, though I never gave them to him. Then I found out that he had a girlfriend. I saw him _____ with a girl named Joyce.
✔ **A) making out**
Making out is informal American English for kissing and touching in a romantic way. After **saw him**, we need an **-ing** form, and this shows that Bob had a girlfriend. Not **broke up with**, because **saw him broke up** is not grammatical.

3. It looked like she was _____ Bob, too.
✔ **D) crazy about**
Crazy about someone means you like or love them very much: **She's crazy about him.** Not **head over heels in love**, because it needs **with** before the person (**head over heels in love with Bob**).

4. But later that week, I heard that she was a nasty person and that she _____.
✔ **C) treated him like dirt**
Treat someone like dirt means to treat them very badly, with no respect. It matches the clue that Joyce was **a nasty person**.

5. So I decided to _____ and ask him to the movies. He said he was too busy.
✔ **B) go ahead**
Go ahead (and do something) means to decide to do it, often after waiting or hesitating: **I went ahead and called her.** After **decided to**, we need the base form **go ahead**.

6. He said he was too busy. It was _____, and he had to _____ a paper for literature class and study for several exams.
✔ **C) crunch time**
Crunch time is a busy, stressful period when important work must be finished, such as exam time. The clue is that Bob had a paper to write and **several exams** to study for.

7. It was _____, and he had to _____ a paper for literature class and study for several exams.
✔ **A) crank out**
Crank out means to produce something quickly, often a lot of it: **crank out a paper**. It takes a direct object, so it fits before **a paper**. Not **plugging away**, because it doesn't take an object and **had to** needs the base form.

8. But I didn't give up. I kept _____.
✔ **D) plugging away**
Plug away means to keep working or trying hard at something without giving up. After **kept**, we use the **-ing** form: **kept plugging away**. The clue is **I didn't give up**.

9. Then one day he _____ Joyce and asked me out to dinner.
✔ **C) broke up with**
Break up with someone means to end a romantic relationship with them. Here it is in the past simple, **broke up with**, which matches **asked me out**.

10. That was 25 years ago, and we're still together. Fortunately, we're still _____ with each other!
✔ **B) head over heels in love**
Head over heels in love means very deeply in love, and it is followed by **with**: **head over heels in love with each other**. The clue is that they are **still together** after 25 years.

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