ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Speak English Like an American Lesson 4 Idioms and Expressions MCQ Test

Speak English Like an American · 14 questions · Online test and questions PDF:
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11	**B**	12	**B**	13	**C**	14	**B**												

Explanations

1. Nicole is in a good mood because her teacher _____ her a compliment.
✓ **B) paid**
We say **pay someone a compliment**, which means to say something nice about them. **Nicole's teacher paid her a compliment.** Not **told**: we **tell** a story or a joke, but we **pay** a compliment.

2. Nicole's teacher told her she was _____ and shoulders above her classmates.
✓ **C) head**
The idiom **head and shoulders above** means much better than other people. **She is head and shoulders above her classmates** means she is far better than them.

3. When my friend Chad told me he'd just won the lottery, I was _____ with envy.
✓ **B) green**
Green with envy means very jealous. In English, green is the colour of envy. Not **red**: people go **red with anger** or embarrassment, not envy.

4. When you do something well, your boss might tell you, "Way _____!"
✓ **B) to go**
Way to go! is an informal American expression that means "Well done!" or "Good job!". The other options are not fixed expressions.

5. When the robbers entered my house, I was in the kitchen shaking in my _____.
✓ **C) shoes**
Shaking in my shoes (or **in my boots**) means very frightened. The idiom always uses **shoes** or **boots**. Not **slippers**, even though you might wear them at home, because the idiom has a fixed form.

6. If somebody is bothering you, you can tell them they're driving you _____.
✓ **A) crazy**
Drive someone crazy means to annoy someone very much. **That noise is driving me crazy!** Not **angry**: we say **make someone angry**, not **drive someone angry**.

7. If you like power, you might consider going _____ politics.
✓ **C) into**
We say **go into** a profession or field, meaning to start working in it: **go into politics**, **go into business**, **go into teaching**.

8. "You've been yelling and screaming for the past two hours. Could you just shut _____ already?"
✓ **A) up**
Shut up is a very informal, rude way to say "be quiet" or "stop talking". **Already** at the end shows the speaker is impatient.

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

When her friend Anna got into Yale, Nicole was **green with envy**.
✓ **C) very jealous**
Green with envy means **very jealous**. Nicole wished she had got into Yale too. Not **happy for her**, which is the opposite feeling.

10. Bob and Susan are really **gung ho** about the TV show Survivor. They watch it every Thursday night.
✓ **A) enthusiastic**
Gung ho means very **enthusiastic** or excited about something. The clue is that Bob and Susan watch the show every Thursday night.

11. **Shut up!** I can't take any more of your screaming.
✓ **B) Be quiet!**
Shut up! is a rude way to say **Be quiet!**. The clue is that the speaker can't take any more screaming.

12. You got a scholarship to attend Harvard? **Way to go!**
✓ **B) Good work!**
Way to go! means **Good work!** or "Well done!". We say it to praise someone, here for getting a scholarship to Harvard.

13. Please don't **butt in!** We weren't talking to you.
✓ **C) interrupt our conversation**
Butt in is an informal phrasal verb that means to **interrupt** a conversation you are not part of. The clue is "We weren't talking to you."

14. These cookies aren't very good. I think you **hit the nail on the head** when you said I should add more sugar next time.
✓ **B) were right**
Hit the nail on the head means to say exactly the right thing, so it means **were right**. The cookies aren't good, so the advice to add more sugar was correct.