ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Speak English Like an American Review for Lessons 11-15 Idioms and Expressions MCQ Test

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

Explanations

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

Nicole didn't want to go to the party, but her friend **twisted her arm**.
✔ **A) persuaded her**
To **twist someone's arm** means to **persuade** someone to do something they don't really want to do. Nicole didn't want to go, but her friend talked her into it. Not **hurt her arm**: the idiom is not about real pain.

2. Amber needs to go on a diet and lose 10 pounds, but it's difficult for her because **she has such a sweet tooth**.
✔ **C) she likes to eat sweets**
If you **have a sweet tooth**, you **like to eat sweet things**, such as cake and candy. That is why dieting is hard for Amber.

3. Amber likes to design handbags as a hobby, but she's not sure she could **make a living at it**.
✔ **B) earn enough money to support herself**
To **make a living at** something means to **earn enough money** from it to pay for your life. Amber enjoys designing handbags, but she isn't sure it would pay her bills. Not **do it for the rest of her life**: the idiom is about money, not time.

4. Ted wanted to travel to Miami for a rock concert. His mother told him it was **out of the question**.
✔ **C) not a possibility**
If something is **out of the question**, it is **not possible** or not allowed. Ted's mother said no to the trip. Don't confuse it with **out of question**, which is not used in this way.

5. Nicole **worked her tail off**, making hundreds of posters for her campaign.
✔ **A) worked very hard**
To **work your tail off** is an informal way to say you **work very hard**. Making hundreds of posters shows how hard Nicole worked.

6. **It's crunch time**. Ted has to write six papers in two days.
✔ **A) It's a very busy time.**
Crunch time is a short, **very busy** period when you have a lot to do before a deadline. The clue is that Ted must write six papers in two days.

7. My 95-year-old neighbor was cutting her grass on a hot summer day. I offered to **lend a hand**.
✔ **B) help her**
To **lend a hand** means to **help** someone. Example: **Can you lend me a hand with these boxes?** Not **give her my hand**: the idiom is not meant literally.

8. Jennifer **treats her husband like dirt**. I don't know why he doesn't just leave her.
✔ **C) is nasty to her husband**
To **treat someone like dirt** means to be very unkind or **nasty** to them, as if they were worthless. The clue is that the speaker wonders why the husband doesn't leave her.

9. Tattoos are **all the rage**. Many kids are getting them.
✔ **B) very popular**
If something is **all the rage**, it is **very popular** and fashionable right now. The clue is that many kids are getting tattoos. Not **something that makes you angry**: here **rage** does not mean anger.

10. **Things are looking up for Bob**. He's already found a new job working for his wife.
✔ **B) Bob's situation is improving.**
When **things are looking up**, a situation is **getting better**. Bob has found a new job, so his situation is improving. Not **always focuses on positive things**: the idiom describes the situation, not Bob's attitude.

11. Susan volunteered to host 45 exchange students from China. Now she fears she's **bitten off more than she can chew**.
✔ **B) taken on a bigger task than she can handle**
To **bite off more than you can chew** means to **take on a bigger task than you can handle**. Hosting 45 students is too much for one person. Not **ordered too much Chinese food**: the idiom is not about real food.

12. If Ted doesn't **get going on** his chemistry homework soon, he's going to be up all night.
✔ **A) start doing**
To **get going on** something means to **start doing** it. If Ted doesn't start his homework soon, he will have to stay up all night to finish it.