ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Speak English Like an American Review for Lessons 16-20 Idioms and Expressions MCQ Test

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

Explanations

1. My aunt and uncle are really sitting _____. They made a lot of money in the stock market.
✔ **C) pretty**
Sitting pretty means being in a very good situation, often because you have a lot of money. The clue is that they **made a lot of money**. Not **sitting rich**, because that is not an idiom.

2. Lighten _____! You need to stop taking your job so seriously.
✔ **B) up**
Lighten up! means relax and don't be so serious. The clue is **stop taking your job so seriously**.

3. After a week, my houseguests really started to get _____ my nerves. They made long-distance phone calls to Singapore, drank all my wine, and slept until noon every day.
✔ **C) on**
To **get on someone's nerves** means to annoy them. The guests' bad behaviour (expensive calls, drinking all the wine, sleeping until noon) made the speaker annoyed.

4. Amber likes to stay up past midnight every night. She's what you'd call a _____ owl.
✔ **A) night**
A **night owl** is a person who likes to stay up late at night. Example: **I'm a night owl, so I often work after midnight.**

5. Mildred thought she'd have trouble remembering to take her pills. But now, after ten months, it's _____ nature.
✔ **B) second**
When something is **second nature**, you do it automatically because you have done it many times. After ten months, taking her pills has become a habit.

6. Susan messed _____ and left the cookies in the oven for 25 minutes too long. They were ruined.
✔ **A) up**
To **mess up** means to make a mistake or do something badly. Susan left the cookies in too long, so she **messed up**.

7. Andrea didn't cheat. She won the election fair and _____.
✔ **C) square**
Fair and square means honestly, without cheating. The clue is **Andrea didn't cheat**.

8. Bob didn't know anything about baking when he and Susan started selling cookies, but he quickly learned the _____.
✔ **B) ropes**
To **learn the ropes** means to learn how to do a new job or activity. Bob knew nothing about baking at first, but he learned quickly.

9. Ted and his friends were fooling _____ in the chemistry laboratory when they accidentally started a fire.
✔ **A) around**
To **fool around** means to behave in a silly or careless way. Ted and his friends were playing instead of working carefully, so they started a fire. (British English also says **fool about**.)

10. Mary's daughter wanted the new Harry Potter book. But by the time they got to the bookstore, it was already sold _____.
✔ **A) out**
Sold out means that all the copies have been sold and none are left. Example: **The concert tickets sold out in an hour.**

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