ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Speak English Like an American Review for Lessons 21-25 Idioms and Expressions MCQ Test

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Explanations

1. Next year, Ted will be traveling all _____ the world with his band.
✔ **C) over**
All over the world means everywhere in the world, in many different countries. Not **about**: we don't say "all about the world" for travel. **All about** means "on the topic of", as in **a book all about the world**.

2. After his fifth vodka, Steve was _____ sheets to the wind.
✔ **B) three**
Three sheets to the wind is a fixed informal idiom that means very drunk. The clue is "after his fifth vodka". The number in the idiom is always **three**.

3. For a while, the Johnsons were living _____ a shoestring. They couldn't afford to eat out at restaurants.
✔ **B) on**
Live on a shoestring means to live on very little money. The clue is that they couldn't afford to eat out. The idiom always uses **on**, like **live on a small salary**.

4. When my friend lost her favorite necklace, I told her it was no use crying over spilt _____.
✔ **A) milk**
It's no use crying over spilt milk means there is no point being upset about something that has already happened and can't be changed. The word in this saying is always **milk**.

5. Joel has a fun job. He's _____ charge of advertising sales for Mad, the best humor magazine in America.
✔ **C) in**
In charge of means responsible for or managing something: **He's in charge of advertising sales.** Not **at** or **on**: the fixed phrase always uses **in**.

6. Please put away your wallet! Let me _____ the bill.
✔ **B) foot**
Foot the bill means to pay for something, often for other people. The clue is "put away your wallet". Not **hand**: we say **hand someone the bill** (give it to them), but that does not mean paying it.

7. My friend was running around like a chicken with its head cut off. I told her to chill _____.
✔ **A) out**
Chill out is informal American English for **relax** or **calm down**. The speaker's friend was acting in a panicked, crazy way (**like a chicken with its head cut off**), so the speaker told her to relax. Not **down**: we say **calm down**, but not "chill down" for a person.

8. Bob worked out the nuts and _____ of the agreement with the National Cookie Company.
✔ **B) bolts**
The nuts and bolts are the basic practical details of something: **We worked out the nuts and bolts of the plan.** Not **details**: it has the right meaning, but the fixed idiom is **nuts and bolts**.

9. After Martha's neighbor chopped down her apple tree, she held a grudge _____ him for years.
✔ **B) against**
Hold a grudge against someone means to stay angry with someone for a long time because of something bad they did. The preposition is always **against**.

10. I arrived late to the stadium. The baseball game was already _____ progress.
✔ **B) in**
In progress means already happening or started and not yet finished. The clue is "I arrived late". Not **at** or **through**: the fixed phrase always uses **in**, as in **The meeting is in progress.**

11. My friend invited me out for a drink, but I told her I'd first need to wrap _____ some things at the office.
✔ **C) up**
Wrap up means to finish or complete something: **I need to wrap up some work before I leave.** The other particles do not make a phrasal verb with this meaning.

12. I'm _____ and tired of telemarketers calling me in the evening trying to sell me stuff I don't want.
✔ **A) sick**
Sick and tired of means very annoyed by something that keeps happening: **I'm sick and tired of the noise.** Not **ill**: it means sick, but the fixed phrase is always **sick and tired**.

13. Kristen's boss paid her a compliment. He said she was the best salesperson in the company. That really _____ her day.
✔ **A) made**
Make someone's day means to make someone very happy. The clue is the compliment from her boss. Not **ruined**: that means the opposite, and a compliment would not ruin her day.

14. The person seated behind me on the airplane kept on kicking my seat. Finally, I told him to _____ it out.
✔ **B) cut**
Cut it out! is an informal way to tell someone to stop doing something annoying. Not **stop**: we say **stop it**, but not "stop it out".

15. Amber hopes to break _____ the modeling business after she graduates from high school. She can definitely model nose rings and tattoos!

✓ **A) into**

Break into a business or profession means to start a career in it, usually when this is difficult: **She hopes to break into acting.** Not **in**: **break in** means to enter a building illegally, or to make new shoes comfortable.

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