ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Spoken English Quiz: Discourse Markers and Short Replies

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11	**C**	12	**B**	13	**D**	14	**A**	15	**D**										

Explanations

1. "Do you like my new haircut?" "___, it's OK. I preferred it longer."
✔ **C) Well**
Well gives you a moment to think and softens a reply that is not a full yes.

2. "Let's get a takeaway tonight." Choose the reply that agrees with the plan.
✔ **B) Sounds good!**
Sounds good! is the fixed short reply for agreeing. It is short for It sounds good.

3. Which word means "now, at this time"?
✔ **C) currently**
Currently (or at the moment) means now. Actually means "in fact", not "now".

4. "You're from Australia, aren't you?" "___, I'm from New Zealand."
✔ **A) Actually**
Actually corrects what the other person said or adds something surprising.

5. "Well, that's enough about the weather. ___, I'd better go. My train leaves at six."
✔ **C) Anyway**
Anyway ends a topic or a conversation and moves back to what matters.

6. "I passed my driving test!" "___ That's brilliant!"
✔ **B) Did you?**
The short question copies the tense of the sentence: passed (past simple) becomes Did you?

7. Which phrase do we use to add a new point that is not connected to the topic?
✔ **D) By the way**
By the way introduces a new, unrelated point: By the way, did you call Sam?

8. "Thanks so much for the lift!" Choose the natural reply.
✔ **B) No worries.**
No worries (or No problem, Any time) answers thanks. Never mind and It doesn't matter answer an apology or a problem.

9. "The film was good. ___, it wasn't perfect, but I really enjoyed it."
✔ **D) I mean**
I mean explains or corrects what you have just said.

10. The teacher is ready to start the lesson. "___, let's look at page 20."
✔ **A) Right**
Right (or OK) moves the group on to the next thing, often at the start of an activity.

11. What is the full form of "Want a coffee?"
✔ **C) Do you want a coffee?**
In speech we often leave out the first words: Want a coffee? = Do you want a coffee?

12. Which word is best in formal writing? "The plan was cheap. ___, it did not work."
✔ **B) However**
Spoken markers like anyway and I mean are too informal for writing. Use however, therefore or in fact.

13. In British English, "Cheers!" at the end of a conversation often means ___.
✔ **D) thanks**
Cheers is a very common informal way to say thanks in Britain.

14. "I've just got a puppy!" Which reply shows interest?
✔ **A) Have you? What breed is it?**
Have you? copies the auxiliary in I've got and shows you are interested. Yes on its own sounds cold.

15. "Shall we walk to the station?" "___ It's a lovely evening."
✔ **D) Why not?**
Why not? is a short, friendly way to agree to a suggestion.

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