ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Half-Said Proverbs Quiz: When in Rome, Every Cloud

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1	**A**	2	**B**	3	**C**	4	**D**	5	**A**	6	**B**	7	**C**	8	**D**	9	**A**	10	**B**
11	**C**	12	**D**	13	**A**	14	**B**	15	**C**										

Explanations

1. “When in Rome…” What is the unsaid half?
✔ **A) do as the Romans do**
The full proverb is “When in Rome, do as the Romans do”: behave the way the locals do.

2. You are talking about Ana when she walks into the room. What do you say?
✔ **B) Speak of the devil!**
Speak of the devil is said when the person you are discussing appears.

3. Complete the full proverb: The early bird catches the ___.
✔ **C) worm**
The early bird catches the worm: people who act early get the best chances.

4. Eight people tried to plan one meeting and it was chaos. Which proverb fits best?
✔ **D) Too many cooks…**
Too many cooks spoil the broth: a job goes badly when too many people control it.

5. They’re both lazy and they both skip meetings: birds of a ___. And when they suggested the same pub at the same moment, they laughed: “Great ___!”
✔ **A) feather … minds**
Birds of a feather (flock together): people who are alike tend to become friends. Great minds (think alike): a joke when two people have the same idea.

6. Which is the British form of this proverb?
✔ **B) If the cap fits…**
British English says If the cap fits (wear it). American English says If the shoe fits.

7. “When the going gets tough…” How does it end?
✔ **C) the tough get going**
When the going gets tough, the tough get going: the determined ones keep going when life gets hard.

8. Match the proverbs. (a) My flight was cancelled, so I got an extra day at the beach. (b) The storm closed every road, but the village shop sold all its bread.
✔ **D) (a) Every cloud… (b) It’s an ill wind…**
Every cloud (has a silver lining): your own bad luck has a good side. It’s an ill wind (that blows nobody any good): a bad event helps someone else, here the shop.

9. The interview went well, but I’m not ___ my chickens yet.
✔ **A) counting**
Don’t count your chickens (before they hatch): don’t rely on a result before it happens.

10. “A bird in the hand…” means:
✔ **B) what you have now is better than something bigger you might get**
A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.

11. He criticised my spelling, but his emails are full of mistakes. ___
✔ **C) People who live in glass houses…**
People who live in glass houses shouldn’t throw stones: you have no right to blame others for something you do too.

12. I gave him all the information he needed, but he still didn’t apply. ___
✔ **D) You can lead a horse to water…**
You can lead a horse to water, but you can’t make it drink: you can’t force someone to use a chance.

13. “The proof of the pudding…” What is the unsaid half?
✔ **A) is in the eating**
The proof of the pudding is in the eating: you can only judge something by trying it.

14. I don’t love my bank, but I won’t switch. Better the devil ___.
✔ **B) you know**
Better the devil you know (than the devil you don’t): a known problem is safer than an unknown one.

15. There are no buses, so I’ll have to walk home in the rain. Oh well. ___
✔ **C) Needs must.**
Needs must (when the devil drives): you have to do it because there is no choice.