



English- Best Idioms and Phrases Questions

Directions (1-15): In the following questions, out of the four alternatives, select the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the idiom/phrase.

Q1. Turn a blind eye

- (a) Not able to see the obvious truth
- (b) Hide the ugly truth from someone
- (c) Pretend not to notice
- (d) Stay away from bad habits

Ans.(c)

Sol. 'Turn a blind eye' — Pretend not to notice.

Q2. Up a blind alley

- (a) Hiding something intentionally from another person
- (b) Not warning a person who is in danger
- (c) One can enjoy thrills only if one takes risk
- (d) Following a course of action that is certain to lead to an undesirable outcome

Ans.(d)

Sol. 'Up a blind alley' — Following a course of action that is certain to lead to an undesirable outcome.

Q3. Blood is thicker than water



- (a) Relations are more important than merit
- (b) All crimes are not equal so punishment for murder is not same as that of theft
- (c) Family relationships and loyalties are the strongest and most important ones
- (d) Deceit from a family member hurts more than being cheated by strangers

Ans.(c)

Sol. 'Blood is thicker than water' — Family relationships and loyalties are the strongest and most important ones.

Q4. The squeaky wheel gets the grease

- (a) The most noticeable problems are the ones most likely to get attention
- (b) One unfortunate child always keep getting punished
- (c) The person who complains the most is hated the most
- (d) The favourite child or student gets the most attention

Ans.(a)

Sol. 'The squeaky wheel gets the grease' — The most noticeable problems are the ones most likely to get attention.

Q5. Run out of steam

- (a) To lose impetus or enthusiasm
- (b) To work quickly like a machine
- (c) To give up easily
- (d) No more money to spend



Ans.(a)

Sol. 'Run out of steam' — To lose impetus or enthusiasm.

Q6. To go for broke

- (a) To risk everything in an all-out effort
- (b) Failure in relationship or partnership
- (c) Losing all money in an effort to revive a failing business
- (d) To start again after failing in a business.

Ans.(a)

Sol. 'To go for broke' — To risk everything in an all-out effort.

Q7. To sleep with the fishes

- (a) Always be in a dream world
- (b) To make absurd excuses
- (c) To sleep peacefully
- (d) To be dead

Ans.(d)

Sol. 'To sleep with the fishes' — To be dead.

Q8. To go down like a lead balloon

- (a) Losing all the money while gambling



- (b) An idea on which one has a lot of hope, but it falls
- (c) Failure in business or venture
- (d) A speech, proposal, or joke that is poorly received

Ans.(d)

Sol. 'To go down like a lead balloon' — A speech, proposal, or joke that is poorly received.

Q9. To get one's walking papers

- (a) One has the right to entry within a country or community
- (b) One is discharged from a hospital or mental asylum
- (c) One can leave
- (d) One is free of imprisonment

Ans.(c)

Sol. 'To get one's walking papers' — One can leave.

Q10. There's no such thing as a free lunch

- (a) It isn't possible to get something for nothing
- (b) There is no genuine kindness in this world
- (c) Even a mother will expect something for her love
- (d) Those who are tempted by free things, end up spending more

Ans.(a)

Sol. 'There's no such thing as a free lunch' — It isn't possible to get something for nothing.



Q11. Beating around the bush

- (a) Not accepting the real issue and solving minor problems
- (b) To avoid getting to the point of an issue
- (c) To run around in circles and never accomplishing results
- (d) Avoiding coming face to face with a problem, escaping

Ans.(b)

Sol. 'Beating around the bush' — To avoid getting to the point of an issue.

Q12. To beat a dead horse

- (a) To revive interest in hopeless issue
- (b) A cruel master will expect a slave to work even after his death
- (c) To extract everything from a resource till it fails
- (d) Doing a cruel act

Ans.(a)

Sol. 'To beat a dead horse' — To revive interest in a hopeless issue.

Q13. To chew someone out

- (a) To bore someone by talking ceaselessly
- (b) To discourage someone who is going to start a new venture
- (c) Reprimand someone severely
- (d) To save someone

Ans.(c)

Sol. 'To chew someone out' — Reprimand someone severely.



Q14. To chip on his shoulder

- (a) To have huge responsibilities on one's shoulders
- (b) Uniform decorated with stars and medals
- (c) Wearing your battle scars like medals
- (d) Holding a grudge or grievance that readily provokes a fight

Ans.(d)

Sol. 'To chip on his shoulder' — Holding a grudge or grievance that readily provokes a fight.

Q15. To shoot the breeze

- (a) To do random acts hoping one will be successful
- (b) To have a casual conversation
- (c) To release stomach gases
- (d) To brag about some mild achievement

Ans.(b)

Sol. 'To shoot the breeze' — To have a casual conversation.

Direction (16-25): Four alternatives are given for the Idioms/Phrase printed in bold. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of Idiom/Phrase.

Q16. Get someone's goat

- (a) To improvise



- (b) To annoy someone
- (c) To do something special for someone
- (d) To explain something to someone in a very clear way with details

Q17. Spick and Span

- (a) High and Low
- (b) Dark and Light
- (c) Neat and Clean
- (d) Happy and Sad

Q18. The thin end of the wedge

- (a) In strict vigilance
- (b) Start of harmful development
- (c) Be aware of the trick
- (d) Not a worthy possession

Q19. Get your walking papers

- (a) Compromise
- (b) Get fired from the job
- (c) To be received gracefully
- (d) To sign on papers

Q20. Know the ropes

- (a) Unable to understand



- (b) Main support
- (c) To understand the details
- (d) To climb on a rope

Q21. On tiptoe

- (a) Greatly excited
- (b) To be disappointed
- (c) To be in a confusing state
- (d) To be doubtful

Q22. Have kittens

- (a) To pet kittens
- (b) Be worried
- (c) To have a successful outcome
- (d) To be carefree

Q23. While away

- (a) Spend time uselessly
- (b) To utilize time efficiently
- (c) To be on time
- (d) To be late

Q24. Turn up

- (a) Disappear



- (b) Appear
- (c) To take a right side
- (d) To get lost

Q25. By a long chalk

- (a) Majority
- (b) Occasionally
- (c) Suddenly
- (d) A case of emergency

Solutions (16-25)

S16. Ans.(b)

S17. Ans.(c)

S18. Ans.(b)

S19. Ans.(b)

S20. Ans.(c)

S21. Ans.(a)

S22. Ans.(b)



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S23. Ans.(a)

S24. Ans.(b)

S25. Ans.(a)





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