

Idioms**LEVEL- I**

DIRECTIONS (Qs. 1-50): Select the correct meaning of following idioms.

1. To fall flat
(a) Retreat
(b) To meet accidentally
(c) Quarrel
(d) To be met with a cold reception
2. Right-hand man
(a) An honest person
(b) Most efficient assistant
(c) One who cannot use his left hand
(d) A foolish person
3. See eye to eye
(a) Stare at each other (b) Agree
(c) Depend on (d) Make an effort
4. All in all
(a) Every person
(b) Particular thing same in all
(c) Call all at once
(d) Most important
5. To eat humble pie
(a) To eat cheap food
(b) To eat slowly
(c) To swallow one's pride and apologise for doing something wrong
(d) To defy authority
6. A snake in the grass
(a) A very poisonous snake
(b) A secret agent
(c) An unrecognisable enemy or danger
(d) Not a reliable person
7. Black sheep
(a) A costly item
(b) A dark shiny object
(c) An unworthy person in a family or group
(d) A funny man
8. Oily tongue
(a) Flattery
(b) Hungry person
(c) Strong critic
(d) Rich food
9. Lion's share
(a) No share at all
(b) Greater share of a thing
(c) Miserly
(d) Very small item
10. To bury the hatchet
(a) To dispute over small things
(b) To destroy
(c) To make up a quarrel
(d) To repair a costly furniture
11. Heart and soul
(a) Very seriously and sincerely
(b) Honestly
(c) Wearily
(d) Very casually
12. To clear the air
(a) To work hard
(b) To wash properly
(c) To remove tension
(d) To create confusion
13. A good Samaritan
(a) A genuinely helpful person
(b) An honest politician
(c) A clever person
(d) A priest
14. To have cold feet
(a) To feel very cold
(b) To pay much attention to
(c) To lose confidence
(d) To pour water on something
15. All and sundry
(a) Greater share
(b) All of a sudden
(c) Completion of work
(d) Everyone without distinction
16. 'See eye to eye'
(a) Look each other in the eye
(b) Look from one eye to the other
(c) Agree with each other
(d) Opposite to each other.

- 17.** We have no time to lose
 (a) Been procrastinating
 (b) To remember what time it is
 (c) Extra time
 (d) To start right now
- 18.** 'If you pass this difficult examination it will be a feather in you 'cap'
 (a) Your parents will be very happy
 (b) You will get a scholarship for higher studies
 (c) You will feel proud of it
 (d) You will get a very good job
- 19.** 'Some people have a habit of wearing their heart on their sleeve.'
 (a) Saying something which is not to be taken seriously
 (b) Exposing their innermost feelings to others
 (c) Avoiding being friendly with others
 (d) Always trying to gain advantage over others
- 20.** Hang together
 (a) Conform each other
 (b) Live together
 (c) Hang with each other
 (d) Go together
- 21.** Hard boiled
 (a) Boiled hard (b) Extremely hot
 (c) Hardened (d) Hardly boiled
- 22.** Get cold feet
 (a) To run for life
 (b) To get cold
 (c) To be afraid
 (d) To become discourteous
- 23.** Make no bones about
 (a) To make no effort
 (b) To admit something readily
 (c) To make fuss about
 (d) To create no hindrance
- 24.** Turn out crabs
 (a) End in failure
 (b) To be successful
 (c) To bring up crabs
 (d) To be victorious
- 25.** Devil's Advocate
 (a) An advocate of a Devil
 (b) An advocate like a Devil
 (c) Discussion of an Advocate
 (d) One who is against religion
- 26.** Between the Devil and deep Sea
 (a) In a fix
 (b) A Devil in the sea
 (c) In a undesirable situation
 (d) A compromising situation
- 27.** An apple of discord
 (a) cause of wealth
 (b) cause of illness
 (c) cause of happiness
 (d) cause of quarrel
- 28.** Go a-begging
 (a) Go in vain
 (b) Go for begging
 (c) Beg for going
 (d) Request for something
- 29.** A Gala day
 (a) A day of success
 (b) A day of merry-making
 (c) An eventful day
 (d) A day of significance
- 30.** Go hot & cold
 (a) Get angry
 (b) Get irritated
 (c) Get out of cold
 (d) Sudden feeling of fear
- 31.** At a loss
 (a) At a business loss
 (b) At a relation loss
 (c) To be unable to decide
 (d) None of above
- 32.** Pocket an insult
 (a) Bear insult without protest
 (b) Not to take any action
 (c) Sit over a resolution
 (d) Ignore a case
- 33.** In pretty pass
 (a) Problems of a passage
 (b) In difficulties
 (c) In a difficult way
 (d) Caught in heavy traffic
- 34.** Smalltalk
 (a) Light conversation
 (b) Gossip
 (c) Backbiting
 (d) Whispering

- 35.** Plough a lonely furrow
(a) Work single handedly
(b) Plough the field
(c) Plough the sands
(d) Work in a furrow
- 36.** Rub shoulders with
(a) Come in contact with
(b) Quarrel with a person
(c) Rub shoulders of someone
(d) Have a cause to fight
- 37.** Run the gauntlet
(a) Lash with gauntlet
(b) Run away with gauntlet
(c) Face criticism
(d) Accept a challenge
- 38.** Rest on one's oars
(a) Take rest after working long
(b) Tired of working
(c) Tired of boating
(d) Rest with oars
- 39.** On the cards
(a) A winner (b) Accept defeat
(c) Play at cards (d) Likely to happen
- 40.** Join the majority
(a) On the side of majority
(b) To die
(c) A turn coat
(d) Have the majority
- 41.** Wash dirty linen in public
(a) To criticize
(b) Make personal quarrels public
(c) To talk dirty things in public
(d) To wash clothes.
- 42.** At the eleventh hour
(a) At eleven o'clock
(b) At the last hour
(c) Arrive late
(d) At the last possible time
- 43.** At sea
(a) Baffled (b) Very happy
(c) Very excited (d) Very sad
- 44.** At the helm of
(a) At the helm of the ship
(b) At the main situation
(c) In the centre of a storm

(d) In the centre of the ship

- 45.** Bring to book
(a) To punish
(b) To serve
(c) To praise
(d) To write a story
- 46.** Call one's shot
(a) Make intentions clear
(b) Call with a shot
(c) Shoot at a call
(d) To show determination
- 47.** Call it a day
(a) Good bye to day's work
(b) Name the day
(c) Call in day time
(d) Call on someone
- 48.** Few and far between
(a) Very small in number
(b) Very small in distance
(c) Very small in quantity
(d) Between near & far
- 49.** Force an issue
(a) Make an issue
(b) Force a decision
(c) Solve an issue
(d) Bring an issue
- 50.** To lose face
(a) To look angry
(b) To be humiliated
(c) To be helpless
(d) To look vacant

LEVEL- II

DIRECTIONS (Qs. 51-32): In each of the following questions part of sentence is in bold. Four alternative meanings of the **bolded** part of the sentence are given below in the sentence. Mark as your answer that alternative meaning which you think is correct

- 51.** He **burnt his fingers** by interfering in his neighbour's affair.
(a) got himself into trouble
(b) burnt himself
(c) got himself insulted
(d) got rebuked

52. I **racked my brains** to solve this difficult problem.
 (a) I read number of books
 (b) I consulted several people
 (c) I used my common sense
 (d) I subjected my mind to hard thinking
53. In the last few years India has advanced by **leaps and bounds** in the industrial sector.
 (a) Very rapidly
 (b) Very competently
 (c) Very slowly
 (d) Very pathetically
54. Well, he's not that at all. He's **a bird brain**.
 (a) a fool (b) a criminal
 (c) a conman (d) a devil
55. As soon as he **laid his hands** on all that money, he donated part of it to charitable institutions.
 (a) stole (b) scattered
 (c) released (d) took possession of
56. He has built a big business empire by his **sharp practices**.
 (a) extreme hard work
 (b) keen business skills
 (c) dishonest dealings
 (d) sharp intelligence
57. The secretary and the treasurer are **hand in glove** with each other.
 (a) very good friends
 (b) constantly fighting
 (c) associates in some action (something wrong)
 (d) suspicious of each other
58. He never liked the idea of keeping his wife **under his thumb** and so he let her do what she liked.
 (a) Pressed down
 (b) Unduly under control
 (c) Below his thumb
 (d) Under tyrannical conditions.
59. It is time that professors came down from their **ivory towers** and studied the real needs of the students.
 (a) Detachment and seclusion
 (b) A tower made of ivory
 (c) Prison
 (d) Dreamlands
60. You have to be **a cool customer** and be patient if you want to get the best buys.
 (a) Be calm and not be excitable
 (b) Have a cool head
 (c) Be uncommunicative
 (d) Be choosy
61. There was no opposition to the new policy by the **rank and file** of the Government.
 (a) the official machinery
 (b) the ordinary members
 (c) the majority
 (d) the cabinet ministers
62. The clerk **wiped the nose** of his employer by submitting a false bill and was dismissed from his job.
 (a) Cleaned the nose (b) Cheated
 (c) Abused (d) Slapped
63. **I have a bone to pick** with you in this matter.
 (a) Am in agreement
 (b) Am angry
 (c) Am indebted
 (d) Will join hands
64. The new C.M **stuck his neck out** today and promised 10kg free wheat a month for all rural families.
 (a) took an oath
 (b) took a risk
 (c) extended help
 (d) caused embarrassment
65. Having sold off his factory, he is now **agentleman at large**.
 (a) Has no serious occupation
 (b) Is living comfortably
 (c) Is respected by everybody
 (d) Is held in high esteem
66. Though he has lot of money, yet all his plans are **built upon sand**.
 (a) established on insecure foundations
 (b) based on inexperience
 (c) resting on cheap material
 (d) resting on immature ideas
67. His plan was so complicated that it **floored** his listeners.
 (a) entertained
 (b) puzzled
 (c) annoyed
 (d) encouraged

68. There has been **bad blood** between the two communities even before shouting.
 (a) Impure blood (b) Ill feeling
 (c) Bloody fights (d) Quarrels
69. The curious neighbours were disappointed as the young couple's quarrel was just **a storm in a teacup**.
 (a) violent quarrel
 (b) fuss about a trifle
 (c) brittle situation
 (d) quarrel about tea cups
70. Mohan always **keeps himself to himself**.
 (a) Is too busy
 (b) Is selfish
 (c) Is unsociable
 (d) Does not take sides
71. While the ladies continued their **small talk** in the drawing room, I felt bored.
 (a) whispering
 (b) Backbiting
 (c) gossip
 (d) light conversation
72. My car **broke down on** way to the railway station.
 (a) stopped
 (b) met with an accident
 (c) ran out of petrol
 (d) failed to work
73. My father **strained every nerve** to enable me to settle in life.
 (a) worked very hard
 (b) spent a huge amount
 (c) tried all tricks
 (d) bribed several persons
74. The teacher warned the student **once for all** that no mischief shall be tolerated in the class.
 (a) authoritatively
 (b) finally
 (c) angrily
 (d) coldly
75. I hope it will not **put you out** if I am late.
 (a) harm you (b) irritate you
 (c) please you (d) worry out
76. Govind has left his country **for good**.
 (a) for better opportunities
 (b) on an important mission
 (c) forever
 (d) to return soon
77. Sanjay was the real **power behind the throne** and all politicians were aware of this.
 (a) The person who had the real control and power
 (b) The acknowledged leader
 (c) The person who controlled the monarch
 (d) The person who advised the queen
78. His friends **let him down**.
 (a) Failed (b) comforted
 (c) succeeded (d) stood by
79. I felt **like a fish out of water** among all those business tycoons.
 (a) troubled (b) stupid
 (c) uncomfortable (d) inferior
80. Some people now wonder whether we just **paylip service** or genuinely subscribe to democracy.
 (a) pay oral tribute
 (b) attach no value
 (c) remain indifferent
 (d) show only outward respect
81. Don't **thrust your nose** into my affairs.
 (a) Advise me about
 (b) Be in opposition
 (c) Deal with
82. He visits the doctor **off and on**.
 (a) everyday (b) regularly
 (c) never at all (d) occasionally

HINTS & EXPLANATIONS

LEVEL – I

1. (d) To fall flat means failing miserably or not being able to create the effect or achieve the result one wanted to and, thus, meet cold reception.
2. (b) This means the most important and efficient person working for you.
3. (b) Seeing eye to eye means approving of each other or agreeing with each other.
4. (d) As she is only girl in a big family, so she is all in all in her home.
5. (c) This phrase means to make a humble apology and accept humiliation.
6. (d) This phrase means a treacherous or deceitful person.
7. (c) This phrase means a member of a family or group who is regarded as a disgrace to it.
8. (a) Someone with an oily tongue is a "smooth talker who's trying to con you into doing something."
9. (b) The largest part of something.
10. (c) End a quarrel or conflict and become friendly.
11. (a) This idiom means the entirety of one's energies or affections. For example, He put heart and soul into his music.
12. (c) This phrase means to defuse an angry or tense situation by frank discussion.
13. (a) A charitable or helpful person.
14. (c) Fear of doing something; cowardice at the moment of action.
15. (d) This Cliché everyone; one and all. Cold drinks were served to all and sundry.
16. (c) Be in full agreement.
17. (d) Something that you say when it is important to do something immediately. Her plane gets in at 3 o'clock so there's no time to lose.
18. (c) An achievement to be proud of.
19. (b) This idiom means to reveal your emotions so that they are subject to the comments of others.
20. (a) Remain associated; help or support each other
21. (c) Tough and cynical.
22. (c) to suddenly become too frightened to do something you had planned to do, especially something important
23. (b) Have no hesitation in stating or dealing with (something), however unpleasant or awkward it is.
24. (a) To be unsuccessful in endeavor
25. (c) A person who expresses a contentious opinion in order to provoke debate or test the strength of the opposing arguments.
26. (a) Between two equally unacceptable choices.
27. (d) Land is apple of discord between two brothers.
28. (a) A figurative phrase to express the absence of demand for something which elsewhere brings a price; as, grapes are so plentiful there that they go a-begging.
29. (b) a festive and joyful day
30. (d) Experience a sudden feeling of fear or shock.
31. (c) I am at a loss to know what to do.
32. (a) To submit to an insult without apparent displeasure
33. (b) Something that you say which means a situation is very bad (often + when) Things have come to a pretty pass when old people are dying

of hypothermia because they can't afford to heat their homes.

- 34.** (a) Polite conversation about unimportant or uncontroversial matters, especially as engaged in on social occasions.
- 35.** (a) Follow a course of action in which one is isolated or in which one can act independently.
- 36.** (a) Associate or come into contact with another person. He rubbed shoulders with TV stars at the party.
- 37.** (c) Go through an intimidating or dangerous crowd or experience in order to reach a goal. She had to run the gauntlet of male autograph seekers
- 38.** (a) Relax one's efforts.
- 39.** (d) Possible or likely.
- 40.** (b) The majority of people who have lived have died. So to die is to join them. Either give me back my money or get ready to join the majority.
- 41.** (b) Discuss one's personal affairs in public.
- 42.** (d) The latest possible moment.
- 43.** (a) My brother is at sea in maths, he cannot solve even the easy problems.
- 44.** Something. The president is at the helm of the company.
- 45.** (a) He was brought to book for his mistake.
- 46.** (d) To make the decisions; to decide what is to be done. Sally always wants to call the shots, and Mary doesn't like to be bossed around.
- 47.** (a) Decide or agree to stop doing something for the day.
- 48.** (a) Scarce; infrequent. My inspired moments are few and far between.
- 49.** (b) Compel the making of an immediate decision.

- 50.** (b) Humiliation, He could step aside now without loss of face.

LEVEL-2

- 51.** (a) The idiom means to get unpleased about result of an action especially loss of money.
- 52.** (d) This idiomatic expression means to try very hard to remember or think of something she racked her brains for a subject they could discuss without an argument.
- 53.** (a) Rapidly; by large movements forward. The brush we cut back last fall is growing by leaps and bounds. The profits of my company are increasing by leaps and bounds. He is gaining by leaps and bound.
- 54.** (a) A silly or stupid person.
- 55.** (d) Find or get something.
- 56.** (c) Not available
- 57.** (c) Not available
- 58.** (b) Not available
- 59.** (a) Not available
- 60.** (a) Not available
- 61.** (b) Not available
- 62.** (b) Not available
- 63.** (b) Not available
- 64.** (b) Not available
- 65.** (a) Not available
- 66.** (d) Not available
- 67.** (b) Not available
- 68.** (b) Not available
- 69.** (b) Not available
- 70.** (c) Not available
- 71.** (d) Not available

- 72.** (a) Not available
- 73.** (a) Not available
- 74.** (b) Not available
- 75.** (b) Not available
- 76.** (c) Not available
- 77.** (a) Not available
- 78.** (a) Not available
- 79.** (c) Not available
- 80.** (d) Not available
- 81.** (d) Not available
- 82.** (d) Not available