

**IDIOMS AND PHRASES/PROVERBS****LEVEL – I**

**DIRECTIONS (Qs. 1 - 10):** Choose the correct meaning of the followings.

1. To bite the dust  
(a) To be defeated in battle  
(b) To learn a lesson  
(c) To be ashamed of  
(d) To work very hard
2. Between the devil and the deep sea  
(a) in a dilemma  
(b) a man who is drowning  
(c) to be evil-tempered  
(d) a deep sea diver
3. He cannot make both ends meet.  
(a) control affairs  
(b) earn enough  
(c) work hard  
(d) manage the business
4. At close quarters  
(a) close examinations  
(b) live near to each other  
(c) live far to each other  
(d) in love
5. An apple of discord  
(a) cause of wealth      (b) cause of illness  
(c) cause of happiness      (d) cause of quarrel
6. At sixes and sevens  
(a) in perfect order      (b) very happy  
(c) in disorder      (d) very sad
7. A load of cobblers  
(a) Good news      (b) Very famous  
(c) Rubbish      (d) None of above
8. Break the ice  
(a) To do something with courage  
(b) To win a prize  
(c) To speak first after long silence  
(d) To win some one heart
9. Black and Blue  
(a) To put things in order  
(b) To put things in disorder  
(c) To trust someone

(d) To beat very badly

10. Bring to book  
(a) To punish      (b) To serve  
(c) To praise      (d) To write a story

**DIRECTIONS (Qs. 11 - 20):** Choose the right meaning of idioms in bold letters.

11. He will go to any length to achieve success.  
(a) lose her sanity  
(b) do all that is possible  
(c) can do all misdeeds  
(d) can humiliate
12. My family needs to tighten the belt in this time of scarcity.  
(a) be more careful  
(b) be attentive  
(c) make economies in expenditure  
(d) revive itself
13. The director took him to task for this misconduct.  
(a) reprimanded him  
(b) forced him to resign  
(c) give him additional work  
(d) suspended his assignment
14. There was criticism to the new policy of the Government by the rank and file.  
(a) the ordinary members  
(b) the majority  
(c) the official machinery  
(d) the ministers
15. It is not good to add fuel to the fire.  
(a) humiliate      (b) aggravate trouble  
(c) become aggressive      (d) lighten
16. Shekhar was left high and dry by his friends when he spent all his money.  
(a) depressed      (b) very alone  
(c) without help      (d) isolated
17. I will left no stone unturned to satisfy my superiors.  
(a) take no pains  
(b) resort to illegitimate  
(c) do very irrelevant things  
(d) use all available means

18. When she would say anything about herself, she is inclined **to draw the longbrow**.  
 (a) understate (b) get excited  
 (c) get emotional (d) exaggerate
19. He is **a great hand** at organising public events.  
 (a) well qualified for (b) very fond of  
 (c) expert at (d) accustomed to
20. It will be wise for her to let the **bygones be bygones**.  
 (a) ignore the past (b) resist the past  
 (c) revive the past (d) recollect the past

**DIRECTIONS (Q.S 21-30):** Match the following proverbs with their meaning.

A	B
A tree is known by its fruit	It's not good to do too many things at the same time.
Beauty lies in the eyes of the beholder	A person's character is more important than their appearance.
He who is everywhere is nowhere	A person shows their competence or ability when difficulties arise.
Beauty is only skin deep	It takes time to do a job properly. You should not expect to do it quickly.
Calm sea does not make a skilled sailor	A man is judged by his actions.
Learn to walk before you run	Trying to obtain everything will often result in gaining nothing.
Rome was not built in a day	Different people have different tastes.
Grasp all, lose all	Behaviour is more important than appearance.
Honesty is the best policy	Don't rush into doing something before you know how to do it.
Handsome is what handsome does	It's always better to be honest.

**DIRECTIONS (Qs. 31 - 35):** Choose the right meaning of the given proverb.

31. All's well that ends well.  
 (a) Once a decision has been made, it cannot be reversed.  
 (b) Everything that is attractive on the not be really valuable inside.

- (c) It is preferable to be cautious than be rash and get into trouble.  
 (d) A satisfactory conclusion makes up for earlier disappointments.

32. The child is father of the man.  
 (a) People who talk a lot or threaten may not be actually harmful.  
 (b) One's actions whether good or bad determine one's rewards or punishments.  
 (c) The character of a child shows the kind of man he will grow up to be.  
 (d) What pleases the sight varies from one person to another.
33. Slow but sure wins the race.  
 (a) A satisfactory conclusion makes up for earlier disappointments.  
 (b) If one arrives early, one gets a better choice  
 (c) The character of a child shows the kind of man he will grow up to be.  
 (d) Steady progress is better in the long run than inconsistent speed.
34. Birds of a feather flock together.  
 (a) It is better to accept the little we have than reject it hoping to get a lot later.  
 (b) People with similar interests and tastes tend to group.  
 (c) The character of a child shows the kind of man he will grow up to be.  
 (d) There are often early indications of future happenings.
35. A burnt child dreads the fire.  
 (a) It is not good to only toil and have no recreation.  
 (b) Family ties are stronger than other relationships.  
 (c) A mistake can be a great teacher.  
 (d) What pleases the sight varies from one person to another.

## LEVEL - II

**DIRECTIONS (Qs. 1 - 8):** Choose the right meaning of the idioms in bold letters.

36. Whenever we went out to dinner, I had to **foot the bill**.  
 (a) beyond control  
 (b) pay for it  
 (c) finds favour with  
 (d) lower than expectation

37. You have **hit the nail on the head**.  
 (a) said/ done the right thing  
 (b) ran away fast  
 (c) scolded him for  
 (d) to inflict severe punishment
38. When the politician raised hate slogans, the crowd got **out of hand**.  
 (a) pay for it (b) beyond control  
 (c) finds favour with (d) ran away
39. She is **in the good books** of the teacher.  
 (a) said/ done the right thing  
 (b) finds favour with  
 (c) ran away fast  
 (d) good relations
40. He is working **against time** on this project  
 (a) at great speed (b) beyond control  
 (c) finds favour with (d) a great delay
41. The headmaster **took him to task** for his unpunctuality.  
 (a) scolded him (b) beyond control  
 (c) finds favour with (d) punished severely
42. They wanted the agreement **in black and white**.  
 (a) finds favour with (b) in writing  
 (c) beyond control (d) in a simple way
43. The boys **took to their heels** on seeing the hive.  
 (a) beyond control (b) ran away fast  
 (c) scolded him for (d) throw away shoes
44. Pinky and Rosy are very **hard of hearing**.  
 (a) disinterested (b) deaf  
 (c) inaudible (d) insensitive
45. Ashok's family is really **a broken reed**.  
 (a) undependable (b) frustrated  
 (c) unsuccessful (d) unhealthy one
46. We do not like to **rake up** old issues and create troubles.  
 (a) revive (b) end  
 (c) forget (d) blame
47. He is a **queer fish**, we could not understand him.  
 (a) sensitive person (b) fanny person  
 (c) contemplating (d) strange person
48. Prakash used to **chew the cud** in every situation.  
 (a) forget others (b) get disturbed  
 (c) muse on (d) accuse others
49. Despite having a lot of money and stamina, yet all his plans are **built on sand**.  
 (a) unstable (b) inexperienced  
 (c) immature (d) cheap
50. Rohan is always **picking holes** in every assignment.  
 (a) suggesting improvements  
 (b) finding faults  
 (c) creating problems  
 (d) asking irrelevant questions
51. His blaming attitude **gets on my nerves**.  
 (a) pierces my eardrums (b) shivers me  
 (c) makes me ill (d) irritates me
52. The supervisor dominates his employees with **a high hand**.  
 (a) democratically (b) oppressively  
 (c) sympathetically (d) kindly
53. My boss brought **matters to my head** by forcing me to work more.  
 (a) pierces my eardrums (b) shivers me  
 (c) makes me ill (d) irritates me
54. I met him after a long time, but he gave me **the cold shoulder**  
 (a) scolded me (b) insulted me  
 (c) abused me (d) ignored me
55. I warned him not to indulge in any **monkey business**.  
 (a) dishonest schemes  
 (b) fanny tasks  
 (c) futile tasks  
 (d) underhanded business
56. The officer played **ducks and drakes** with his job.  
 (a) took unjustifiable risk  
 (b) tried to improve  
 (c) tried to popularise  
 (d) tried to make extra money
57. Her attempt to flying the helicopter was like trying to **square a circle**.  
 (a) train oneself  
 (b) do the impossible  
 (c) drive in a round about manner  
 (d) try to show off
58. Rohit has a **stick-in-the-mud** attitude to life.  
 (a) slow and unprogressive  
 (b) from attitude  
 (c) disagreeable and unacceptable

- (d) non-yielding
59. There is simply **no royal road** to be successful.  
 (a) strife-filled route  
 (b) cheap manner  
 (c) quickest and easiest way  
 (d) luxurious way
60. **Words failed** the victim when she was accused of the forgery.  
 (a) Unable to utter sounds  
 (b) Tried to speak glibly  
 (c) Shocked and angered and unable to speak  
 (d) Threatened by words
61. Why don't you believe me, I am **all at sea**.  
 (a) puzzled (b) drowning  
 (c) out of reach (d) disheartened
62. Our school is **within a stone's throw** of our house.  
 (a) at a short distance  
 (b) within certain circumference  
 (c) within the place  
 (d) resembles
63. I **made no bones** about such conducts and thus faced a tough opposition.  
 (a) made no plans  
 (b) done without hesitation  
 (c) not invited any comments  
 (d) wasted no time
64. All the political leaders are **tarred with the same brush**.  
 (a) have the same merits  
 (b) profess the same policies  
 (c) possess the same defects  
 (d) treated equally
65. **By and large**, the papers he presented were quite impressive.  
 (a) In spite of many mistakes  
 (b) In addition to  
 (c) Mostly  
 (d) In a big amount
66. Rajat and I have remained friends through **thick and thin**.  
 (a) In all good and bad conditions  
 (b) through the days of struggle  
 (c) in spite of all difficulties  
 (d) narrow escape
67. Discipline is **on the wane** among students these days.  
 (a) Increasing (b) spiralling  
 (c) declining (d) spreading
- DIRECTIONS (Qs. 33 - 40):** Complete the following proverbs.
68. The apple doesn't far from the \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) river (b) farm  
 (c) tree (d) sky
69. A bad man is better than a bad \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) name (b) cloth  
 (c) woman (d) boy
70. A bird in hand is worth \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) one in the sky (b) two in the bush  
 (c) two in the pocket (d) two in the table
71. A little learning is a \_\_\_\_\_ thing.  
 (a) sweet (b) profitable  
 (c) good (d) dangerous
72. An empty mind is the \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) God's house (b) giant's office  
 (c) devil's workshop (d) man's office
73. A wise foe is better than \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) a foolish relative  
 (b) a foolish friend  
 (c) a wise son  
 (d) an intelligent father
74. Practice makes a man \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) perfect (b) idle  
 (c) angry (d) handsome
75. First deserves than \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) snatch (b) rob  
 (c) desire (d) give

## HINTS & EXPLANATIONS

### LEVEL – 1

1. (a) Suffer defeat or death is related with battle.
2. (a) In a difficult situation where there are two equally unpleasant choices.
3. (b) Manage so that one's financial means are
4. enough for one's needs In close proximity; very near together
5. (d) Something attractive that causes envy and quarrels among people who think they deserve it.
6. (c) In complete disorder
7. (c) Nonsense, rubbish
8. (c) Do or say something to relieve tension or get conversation going in a strained situation or when strangers meet.
9. (d) Bruised, physically or emotionally.
10. (a) To punish someone a
11. (b) Go to any length means—do absolutely anything, go to any extreme, go to any limits, observe no limits
12. (c) Tighten one's belt means cut one's expenditure; live more frugally.
13. (a) Take someone to task means reprimand or criticise someone severely for a fault or mistake.
14. (a) Rank and file means the ordinary members of an organization as opposed to its leaders.
15. (b) Add fuel to the fire means cause a situation or conflict to become more intense.
16. (c) Left high and dry means without resources or help.
17. (d) Leave no stone unturned means try every possible course of action in order to achieve something.
18. (d) To draw the long brow means to exaggerate in telling stories; overstate something.
19. (c) A great hand here suggests expert man in his profession.
20. (a) Let bygones be bygones means forget past offences or causes of conflict and be reconciled.
21. (e) This proverb means, people judge your character by what you do.
22. (g) This proverb means, different people have different ideas about what is beautiful otherwise saying something that you say which means that each person has their own opinion about what or who is beautiful.
23. (a) This proverb means it's not good to do too many things at the same time.
24. (b) This proverb means a pleasing appearance is not a guide to character.
25. (c) This African proverb means calm times do not show anything; it's the tough times that make you what you are.
26. (i) This proverb means you must master a basic skill before you are able to learn more complex things.
27. (d) The proverb means a complex task is bound to take a long time and should not be rushed.
28. (f) This proverb means one who wants everything, may lose it all.
29. (j) This proverb means there are often practical as well as moral reasons for being honest.
30. (h) It is more important to treat people well than to be good-looking; Just because you are good-looking does not mean you are a good person
31. (d) Not available
32. (c) Not available
33. (d) Not available
34. (b) Not available
35. (c) Not available

## LEVEL – II

36. (b) This idiom means to pay all the costs for something.
37. (a) The idiom means find exactly the right answer.
38. (b) This idiom means not under control
39. (b) This idiom means among those he likes, on his list of good people
40. (a) This idiom means with utmost speed, so as to finish by a specified time.
41. (a) This idiom means reprimand or criticize someone severely for a fault or mistake.
42. (b) This idiom means in writing or print.
43. (b) This idiom means to run away.
44. (b) This idiomatic use means to be deaf.
45. (b) This idiomatic expression means a weak or ineffectual person.
46. (a) Rake up means to revive the memory of an incident or period that is best forgotten.
47. (d) The idiom means a person whose behaviour seems strange or unusual.
48. (c) Chew the cud means to think about something carefully and for a long time.
49. (a) This phrase means without reliable foundations or any real substance.
50. (b) This phrase means to find mistakes in something someone has done or said, to show that it is not good or not correct
51. (d) This idiom means to annoy someone, especially by doing something again and again.
52. (b) This idiom means with power; in force; triumphantly or arbitrarily.
53. (c) This phrase means to put extra pressure.
54. (d) This idiomatic use means to show ignorance towards someone.
55. (d) This phrase means mischievous or deceitful behaviour.
56. (a) The phrase means not having any serious purpose or value.
57. (b) This phrase means to find a good solution to a problem when that seems impossible, especially because the people involved have very different needs or opinions about it.
58. (a) This idiomatic phrase refers to a person who is dull and unadventurous and who resists change.
59. (c) The idiomatic use here means a way of attaining or reaching something without trouble.
60. (c) This phrase is used to express one's disbelief or dismay.
61. (a) The phrase means in a state of confusion and disorder.
62. (a) This phrase means very close to something.
63. (b) To be frank about something without any hesitation is the meaning of this phrase.
64. (c) This phrase means to consider certain people to have the same faults.
65. (c) This idiomatic expression means on the whole; everything considered.
66. (a) This idiomatic use means under all circumstances, no matter how difficult.
67. (c) This idiomatic phrase means becoming weaker or less extensive.
68. (c) This proverbial saying means children are not different from their parents.
69. (a) Ill reputation is worse than ill-deeds.
70. (b) A small but sure gain is better than a doubtful double gain.
71. (d) The implication is that a small amount of knowledge can lead to overconfidence, leaping to invalid conclusions based on what you do know without taking into account the things that you don't know.

- 72.** (c) People who have nothing worthwhile to think about will usually think of something bad to do.
- 73.** (b) One of the meanings of this proverb could be... Foolish friends are more dangerous than an enemy who is intelligent.
- 74.** (a) Doing something over and over again is the only way to learn to do it well.
- 75.** (c) In order to get almost any earthly thing on your own, you must first deserve it before it is healthy to desire it. You deserve something - in the only sense that ultimately satisfies - only when you work for it.