

English Proficiency

Idioms & Phrases

Check Your Concepts

Q.1. Match the following:

Directions: Given below are two columns - column I and column II. Match the two columns and write the correct answer in the given blank grid.

1. Match the following:

Column – I (Phrases)		Column – II (Meaning)	
(A)	A Dime A Dozen	(i)	Have a dispute with someone
(B)	A Slap on the Wrist	(ii)	Rushed and short on time
(C)	Against The Clock	(iii)	common and easy to get
(D)	An Axe To Grind	(iv)	A two person conflict where both people are at fault
(E)	Beat A Dead Horse	(v)	To forget about an argument or issue
(F)	Bite Your Tongue	(vi)	A very mild punishment
(G)	Give Him The Slip	(vii)	To escape
(H)	It Takes Two To Tango	(viii)	To keep quiet
(I)	Lend Me Your Ear	(ix)	To politely ask for full attention
(J)	Let Bygones	(x)	To try without any hope of success

2. Match the following:

Column – I (Phrases)		Column – II (Meaning)	
(A)	In black and white	(i)	Desire strongly
(B)	A wind of change	(ii)	Covered with bruises
(C)	Get wrong	(iii)	Secret or hidden
(D)	Zip into	(iv)	Not valid
(E)	Under wraps	(v)	Foolish
(F)	In black and blue	(vi)	Misunderstand
(G)	Null and void	(vii)	Express freely
(H)	yearn for	(viii)	In writing
(I)	Give vent to	(ix)	Move quickly
(J)	Wild-geese chase	(x)	Tendency to change

Q.2. Fill in the blanks:

Directions: Complete the following statements with an appropriate word / term to be filled in the blank space(s).

1. A _____ of all _____ is a _____ of none.
2. Don't _____ your _____ before they _____.
3. All _____ And No _____.
4. A _____ Paints a _____ Words.
5. From _____ To _____.
6. Great _____ Think _____.
7. _____ Makes _____.
8. An _____ mind is a _____.
9. Let The _____ Out Of The _____.
10. You Can't _____ A Book By Its _____.

Q.3. Multiple choice questions:

Directions: Each of these questions has an idiomatic expression followed by four options. Choose the one closest to its meaning.

1. 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
2. Black sheep
(a) a costly item (b) a dark shiny object
(c) an unworthy person in a family or group (d) a funny man
3. To clear the air
(a) to work hard (b) to wash properly
(c) to resolve a problem (d) to create confusion
4. No axe to grind
(a) a bad situation (b) to rebuke (c) no selfish motive (d) to confuse others

- 5.** To steal a march
(a) To outside (b) to start early (c) to command an army (d) to overtake
- 6.** Pillar to post
(a) driven from one place to another (b) very tiresome journey
(c) main supports of a building (d) clumsy looking objects
- 7.** 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
- 8.** A lady's man
(a) A woman-tailor (b) A lover of woman company
(c) A man working, as per a lady's directions (d) A timid husband
- 9.** To play fast and loose
(a) To beguile others (b) To be winning sometimes and losing at other times
(c) To play with someone's feelings (d) To be unreliable and inconsistent
- 10.** a square peg in a round hole
(a) An impossible task (b) A scheme that never works
(c) A person unsuited to the position he fills (d) To steal all wealth and flee
- 11.** Leave one to sink or swim
(a) To be in a dilemma (b) To leave to one's fate
(c) To put one in difficulty (d) Not to help one
- 12.** To take the wind out of another's sails
(a) To manoeuvre to mislead another on the high seas
(b) To cause harm to another
(c) To defeat the motives of another
(d) To anticipate another and to gain advantage over him

13. To run amuck

(a) To run a race

(c) To feel exhausted

(b) To run about in frenzy

(d) To run to somebody's help