

English Proficiency

Idioms & Phrases

Skill Based Questions

Q.1. Subjective questions:

1. 'To be worth its weight in gold' is a very famous idiom. Cite one example of a situation from your real life which really demonstrates this idiom.

Ans.
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2. 'To let the grass grow under your feet' is a very famous idiom. Cite one example of a situation from your real life which really demonstrates this idiom.

Ans.
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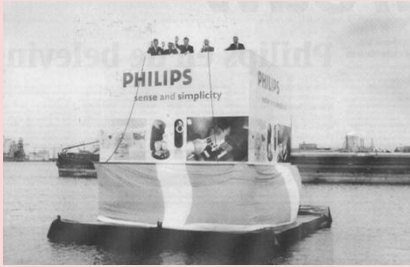


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Q.2. Punch lines:

1. Punchlines have become a very effective way of describing oneself. The tourism departments of various states use some punchline to promote their state. Below are given three punchlines, with the name of the state using it in brackets. You are required to elaborate the punchline in the context of the particular state, emphasizing on why it fits well with the image of that state.

(i) The Perfect Host (Himachal Pradesh)	(ii) Amazing Heritage, Grand Experience (UP)	(iii) Complete Destination (West Bengal)

Q.3. Slogans:

Philips – Sense and Simplicity	Infosys- Driven by intellect Powered by values	L & T. We make the Thing that Make India Proud
		

Q.4. Find more slogans:

- List 5 slogans, you have ever heard of, that you feel are/ were most effective. These slogans can be related to history, politics, sports etc.

For Example: GIVE ME BLOOD, I WILL GIVE YOU FREEDOM.

Ans.

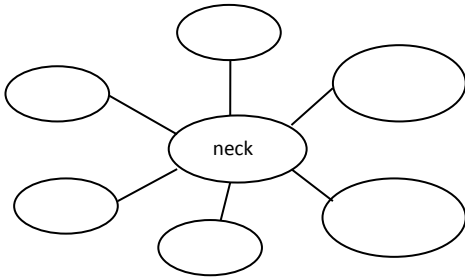
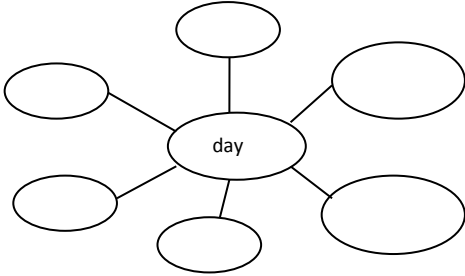
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Q.5. Learn new idioms:

Directions: A lot of idioms contain parts of the body. In the diagram given below you have to list different idioms which use the word 'neck' and 'day'. Try to collect as many idioms possible. Write the meaning of each of the idioms and an example sentence for each of them.

A.	B.
	

Q.6. Idiomatic pairs:

Directions: There are many idiomatic pairs like 'here and there', 'on and on', 'peace and quite' etc. usually with a linking word. There are pairs of adverbs, pairs of nouns and identical / prepositional pairs as well as pairs of adjectives and pairs of verbs used as set phrases or idiomatically. Given below are certain idiomatic pairs. Find out their meanings from dictionary or some other source. Further use each of them in a sentence of your own.

1.

Ans.

2. Bright and Breezy

Ans.
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3. Cut and dried

Ans.
.....
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4. Hale and hearty

Ans.
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.....

5. Home and dry

Ans.
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6. Meek and mild

Ans.
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7. Rough and ready

Ans.
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8. Sick and tired

Ans.
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9. Spick and span

Ans.
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Q.7. Cloze Test:

Directions: Given below is a conversation between two friends. Complete the blanks by choosing the correct idioms from the ones provided here in the box.

a cog in the machine, another cup of tea, a blessing in disguise, a mug's game, a feather in his cap, a pillar of society, the gift of the gab, the tricks of the trade, a piece of cake, his own man

A. 'Have you heard about Sanjeev? He says that losing his job was probably ___1___, because he was sick of being just one of a thousand workers at the company, just ___2___. He thinks working for someone else is really ___3___, when you can work for yourself. So he's going to start his own business now, a hardware shop.'

'I don't believe this! Well, it will be ___4___ if he makes a success of it.'

'He has taken Manish into partnership with him.'

'Oh, no! Now he's ___5___ I don't like him at all.'

'Well, he may not be what one could call ___6___, but he's the right sort of man to get a business going. He's a good talker.'

'Oh yes. Manish's certainly got ___7___ And it won't take him long to learn ___8___.'

'I told Sanjeev that having his own business certainly won't be ___9___ It's hard work. But he's determined to be ___10___ at last, so I wish him good luck.'

Directions: Given below is a conversation between two friends. Complete the blanks by choosing the correct idioms from the ones provided here in the box.

on the off-chance. On balance, on call, on the beat, on the run, on the move, on the dole, on the dot, on the rack, on the tiles,

B. 'Hello, Karan!'

'Hello, Harinder. I wasn't sure that you would be at home. I came ____1____. How are you?' '____2____, not too bad, but rather nervous at the moment, I'm waiting for the post to come. I'm expecting a letter with my examination results today.'

'Do you still want to study medicine?'

'Not really. Being a doctor has its disadvantages- you're ____3____ at weekends and sometimes at night.'

'Why not join the police force?'

'As a detective, yes, but for the first few years you're a constable ____4____ or you're chasing escaped prisoners ____5____. I wouldn't like that.'

'How about journalism?'

'No/ you're ____6____ too much, never in one place for long.

But I'll have to start applying for jobs soon, or I shall end up ____7____, like thousands of others. Look here's the postman.

Ten o'clock ____8____, And here's my letter!'

'Well, go on, open it! Don't leave me ____9____!'

'It says I've passed with A grades in all subjects.'

'Congrats!'

'Well, tonight we'll have a night ____10____ to celebrate.'

Q.8. Breaking generalization:

Directions: Certain proverbs are generalized in our day-to-day life. For this reason it is not always wise to follow them sacrosanctly. For example, 'Curiosity killed the cat'. If scientists were not curious, they would not make many important discoveries. Now consider the following proverbs. Give an example showing why the proverb is not always true.

1. All that glitters is not gold.

Ans.
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2. Advice should be viewed from behind.

Ans.
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.....

3. As you sow, so shall you reap.

Ans.
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4. Death pays all debts.

Ans.
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Q.9. Foreign phrases:

Directions: Some foreign phrases have been adopted in English language. Given below are certain sentences which are to be filled with certain foreign phrases provided in the box.

coup de grace, ad infinitum, ipso facto, quid pro quo, in situ, sine qua non

1. I prefer seeing statues _____ rather than in the confines of a museum.
2. An extremist _____ cannot become part of a coalition.
3. She vowed that when she had the means, she would return his favors _____.
4. Lemon is the _____ of this recipe.
5. After an already wildly successful day, the _____ came when she won best all-around athlete.
6. The lecture seemed to drone on _____.