

English Proficiency

Idioms & Phrases

Application Based Questions

Q.1. Multiple choice questions:

Directions: Given below are certain sentences which use idioms/ phrases (given in italics). For each of the following sentences choose the most suitable answer to replace the words in italics.

1. For the first week, the apprentice *felt like a fish out of water*:
(a) frustrated (b) unfamiliar (c) disappointed (d) uncomfortable
2. His friends failed to see why he should ride the high horse just because he had won an election.
(a) become abnormal (b) appear arrogant
(c) indulge in dreams (d) hate others
3. The cooperation and esprit de corps between the soldiers and the officers was directly responsible for their victory.
(a) bravery (b) loyalty (c) subordination (d) unity
4. It is evident from the minister's statement that heads will roll.
(a) transfers will take place (b) people will die
(c) dismissals will occur (d) heads of department will have to repent
5. I saw him make a wry face
(a) abuse (b) feel sick (c) cry with pain (d) show disappointment

Directions: Choose an appropriate idiom from the four options to replace the expression in the brackets:

6. The computer software patent is (a good source of money) for our company.
(a) a cash cow (b) as strong as an ox
(c) a horse of a different color (d) a dark horse

7. When the police arrived the two men looked frightened and suddenly (ran away).
(a) hit the bull's eye (b) let the cat out of the bag
(c) turned tail (d) cried wolf
8. The car engine stopping while driving on the freeway was the (thing that finally made me decide to do something) so I sold the car.
(a) straw that broke the earners back (b) black sheep of the family
(c) cat on a hot tin roof (d) wolf in sheep's clothing
9. I had not seen my cousin for a long time so when we finally met we talked (for a long time).
(a) in the dog house (b) as busy as a beaver
(c) until the cows came home (d) like lambs to the slaughter
10. The young boy (pretended to be asleep) when his friend came into the room.
(a) went to the dogs (b) put on the dog
(c) served as a guinea pig (d) played possum
11. I knew that our company was (supporting someone who could not win) but still we continued to support our candidate in the election.
(a) killing the fatted calf (b) making a silk purse out of a sow's ear
(c) backing the wrong horse (d) separating the sheep from the goats

Q.2. Cartoon reading:

1. Observe the picture given below.
(i) Which phrase are you reminded of after looking at this picture?
(ii) Can you use this phrase in sentences of your own? Write 2 such sentences.



Ans.
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Q.3. Framing sentences:

Directions: Below are listed certain idioms commonly used in our day to day communication. Explain their meaning and frame one sentence using each of the idioms.

1. heap coals of fire on his head

Ans.
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2. esprit de corps

Ans.
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3. heads will roll

Ans.
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4. ride the high horse

Ans.
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5. duck in a thunderstorm

Ans.
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6. feathering his own nest.

Ans.
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Q.4. Replacing idioms:

Directions: Given below are certain sentences which use an idiom. Clearly write the idiom being used. Further rewrite the sentences without using idiom such that it do not change the sense.

1. I had not planned to take a holiday just then but the offer was so good that I decided to make hay while the sun shone.
2. After a game lasting nearly three hours, Sanjeev lowered his sail.
3. A man on the make is not to be trusted.
4. You cannot have respect for a leader who passes the buck.
5. They were not enthusiastic about the scheme, but his forceful personality and eloquence roped them in eventually.

Ans.
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