

## Idioms and Phrases

### Multiple Choice Questions

**Directions (Qs. 1 to 10):** Select the correct meaning of the underlined word from the options given.

1. It's raining cats and dogs today. We will have to cancel our field trip.  
(a) It's sunny (b) Cats and dogs are playing in the rain  
(c) It's raining heavily (d) It's very warm
2. Samuel lost the project file. It meant we had to start the project from scratch.  
(a) Cancel (b) Finish  
(c) Find (d) Beginning
3. Amanda thanked Derek from the bottom of her heart for helping her.  
(a) Unfriendly (b) Falsely  
(c) Angrily (d) Sincerely
4. Everyone in the town knows that Mr. Mathew has a heart of gold.  
(a) Mr. Mathew is a selfish.  
(b) Mr. Mathew has lots of gold.  
(c) Mr. Mathew is a very kind and honest person.  
(d) Mr. Mathew has a heart problem.
5. When Julia won the Best Student of the Year Award, Kristy was green with envy.  
(a) Kristy was happy, (b) Kristy was jealous.  
(c) Kristy painted her face green, (d) Kristy fell sick.
6. Last night Vanessa's outstanding performance swept everyone off their feet.  
(a) To disappoint (b) To underestimate  
(c) To impress greatly (d) To make people angry
7. "How long can I help you with your work?" "Sooner or later you would have to learn to stand on your own two feet."  
(a) To take responsibilities (b) To learn how to walk  
(c) To learn how to talk (d) To help someone
8. When Laura said something about her parent's surprise sixtieth anniversary party, she let the cat out of the bag.  
(a) Laura revealed a secret.  
(b) Laura invited people to the party.  
(c) Laura didn't tell anyone about the party.  
(d) Laura's cat was hiding inside a bag.
9. I am going to brush up on my computer skills before the job interview.  
(a) To brush teeth (b) To review  
(c) To dress warmly (d) To disappear
10. The population of Somerville city is increasing by leaps and bounds.  
(a) Slowly (b) Accidentally  
(c) Similarly (d) Rapidly

**Directions (Qs. 11 to 25):** Choose the correct option.

- 11.** A poor workman blames his tools.  
(a) A person who blames others for his failures.  
(b) A person whose tools are of no use.  
(c) A person who cannot use the tools properly.  
(d) Both (a) and (c).
- 12.** Action speaks louder than words.  
(a) Action can speak words.  
(b) One should implement his actions, rather than keep talking about them.  
(c) Action is a better speaker than word.  
(d) None of the above
- 13.** A Jack of all trades is a master of none.  
(a) Jack is a master of all trades.  
(b) Jack can do everything, perfectly.  
(c) One should excel in one skill rather than dabbling in too many.  
(d) Both (b) and (c).
- 14.** A penny saved is a penny earned.  
(a) A saved penny earns you the other one.  
(b) One must understand the importance of saving money.  
(c) Both (a) and (b).  
(d) None of the above.
- 15.** A little learning is a dangerous thing.  
(a) One should have full knowledge, rather than spreading incomplete information.  
(b) Learning is dangerous.  
(c) One should learn to spread dangerous information.  
(d) Both (b) and (c).
- 16.** A person is known by the company he keeps.  
(a) A person is known by the company he works for.  
(b) A company judges the person.  
(c) One is judged according to the friends he has.  
(d) All of the above
- 17.** Old is gold.  
(a) Old is a precious metal.  
(b) Old is more valuable than gold.  
(c) Gold is old.  
(d) The past has important lessons in our present.
- 18.** A picture paints a thousand words.  
(a) Picture is well versed in painting.  
(b) One thousand words are painted in the picture.  
(c) A visual presentation is far more descriptive than words.  
(d) None of the above.
- 19.** At the drop of a hat.  
(a) Willing to do something immediately.  
(b) Something beneath the hat.  
(c) Drop the hat before wearing it.  
(d) Both (a) and (b).

- 20.** A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.  
 (a) A bird in hand will call the other two birds.  
 (b) One bird in hand becomes three.  
 (c) Be grateful for whatever you have.  
 (d) None of the above.
- 21.** Beat a dead horse. .  
 (a) To force an issue that has already ended.  
 (b) Beat the horse which is dead.  
 (c) Both (a) and (b).  
 (d) None of the above.
- 22.** Bark horse.  
 (a) A horse of dark colour.  
 (b) One who was previously unknown and is not prominent.  
 (c) The person who comes out of nowhere.  
 (d) All the above options.
- 23.** Finger lickin' good.  
 (a) Fingers are looking good.  
 (b) Licking finger is a good habit.  
 (c) Very tasty meal or dish.  
 (d) Both (a) and (b).
- 24.** In the heat of the moment.  
 (a) The moment is very hot.  
 (b) In the days of summer.  
 (c) Overwhelmed by what is happening in the moment.  
 (d) Excited about the things to happen in the future.
- 25.** The ball is in your court.  
 (a) Your turn to hit the ball.  
 (b) It is your decision this time.  
 (c) Pick the ball and hit.  
 (d) None of above.

**Directions (Qs. 26 to 28):** Match the following:

- 26.** Match the following:

List I		List II	
<b>A.</b>	Costs an arm and leg	<b>1.</b>	Being very hungry
<b>B.</b>	Eat a horse	<b>2.</b>	A lazy person
<b>C.</b>	Let the car out of the bag	<b>3.</b>	Expensive
<b>D.</b>	Couch potato	<b>4.</b>	Tell someone a secret

- (a) A - 2 B - 4 C - 1 D - 3  
 (b) A - 1 B - 2 C - 3 D - 4  
 (c) A - 3 B - 1 C - 4 D - 2  
 (d) A - 4 B - 3 C - 2 D - 1

27. Match the following:

List I		List II	
A.	Drive up the wall	1.	Extra benefit that was unexpected.
B.	On the fence	2.	Cannot make up mind.
C.	Icing on the cake	3.	He is not as fierce as he looks.
D.	His bark is worse than his bite	4.	Make me go crazy.

- (a) A - 2 B - 4 C - 1 D - 3  
 (b) A - 4 B - 2 C - 1 D - 3  
 (c) A - 4 B - 3 C - 2 D - 1  
 (d) A - 1 B - 3 C - 2 D - 4

28. Match the following:

List I		List II	
A.	To be none of someone's business	1.	Occasionally
B.	Along the way	2.	To have had enough of
C.	Every now and then	3.	As you go
D.	To be fed up with	4.	To not be your concern

- (a) A - 3 B - 2 C - 1 D - 4  
 (b) A - 2 B - 1 C - 4 D - 3  
 (c) A - 4 B - 3 C - 1 D - 2  
 (d) A - 1 B - 4 C - 2 D - 3

**Directions (Qs. 29 to 35):** Read the sentence and choose the correct option.

29. The speaker gave a bird's eye view of the political conditions in the country.

- (a) A detailed presentation, (b) A biased view.  
 (c) A general view. (d) A brief view.

30. He is plain, simple and sincere man. He will always call a spade a spade.

- (a) Find meaning or purpose in your action.  
 (b) Avoid controversial situations.  
 (c) Be outspoken.  
 (d) Desist from making controversial statement.

31. Ricky had to look high and low before he could find his scooter key.

- (a) Everywhere (b) Somewhere  
 (c) Nowhere (d) Always

32. He has come up during the last five years.

- (a) Become humble, (b) Become proud.  
 (c) Fallen in rank. (d) Risen in status.

33. My plan to have a new car fell through because of the price rise.

- (a) Was postponed, (b) Failed to materialize  
 (c) Was completed, (d) Was competed with difficulty.

34. He has rejoined office after a week and looks run down.

- (a) Cheerful and bubbly (b) Weak and tired  
 (c) Active and energetic (d) Busy and preoccupied

35. In summer, woollen goods are a drug in the market.  
(a) Rarely available  
(b) Worthless products  
(c) Commodities not in demand  
(d) Available at cheap rates

**Directions (Qs. 36 to 50):** Complete the proverb using a suggested answer.

36. A leopard can't change its \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) tail (b) stripes  
(c) spots (d) nature
37. Every cloud has a silver \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) colour (b) hue  
(c) lining (d) finish
38. One man's \_\_\_\_\_ is another's poison.  
(a) food (b) medicine  
(c) drink (d) meat
39. Familiarity \_\_\_\_\_ contempt.  
(a) makes (b) breeds  
(c) generates (d) produces
40. Think before you \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) leap (b) jump  
(c) run (d) act
41. Don't look a gift horse in the \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) face (b) head  
(c) tummy (d) mouth
42. People in glass houses should not \_\_\_\_\_ stones.  
(a) toss (b) throw  
(c) hurl (d) collect
43. You can't have your \_\_\_\_\_ and eat it too.  
(a) pudding (b) meat  
(c) cake (d) ice cream
44. When in Rome \_\_\_\_\_ as Romans do.  
(a) do (b) behave  
(c) act (d) think
45. Paddle your own \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) boat (b) yacht  
(c) canoe (d) rift
46. As you sow, so shall you \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) reap (b) harvest  
(c) gain (d) achieve
47. \_\_\_\_\_ of all trades master of none.  
(a) Tom (b) Harry  
(c) Jack (d) Peter

- 48.** A bad worker always blames his \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) fate (b) tools  
(c) equipment (d) misfortune
- 49.** Don't cry over split \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) milk (b) butter  
(c) porridge (d) soup
- 50.** A burnt child \_\_\_\_\_ fire.  
(a) fears (b) hates  
(c) stops (d) dreads

## Answers with Explanations

1. (c) Its raining heavily.
2. (d) Beginning
3. (d) Sincerely
4. (c) Mr. Mathew is very kind and honest person.
5. (b) Kristy was jealous.
6. (c) To impress greatly
7. (a) To take responsibilities
8. (a) Laura revealed a secret.
9. (b) To review
10. (d) Rapidly
11. (a) A person who blames others for his failures.
12. (b) One should implement his actions, rather than keep talking about them.
13. (c) One should excel in one skill rather than dabbling in too many.
14. (b) One must understand the importance of saving money.
15. (a) One should have full knowledge, rather than spreading incomplete information.
16. (c) One is judged according to the friends he has.
17. (d) The past has important lessons in our present.
18. (c) A visual presentation is far more descriptive than words.
19. (a) Willing to do something immediately.
20. (c) Be grateful for whatever you have.
21. (a) To force an issue that has already ended.
22. (b) One who was previously unknown and is not prominent.
23. (c) Very tasty meal or dish.
24. (c) Overwhelmed by what is happening in the moment.
25. (b) It is your decision this time
26. (c) Not available
27. (b) Not available

- 28.** (c) Not available
- 29.** (c) A general view.
- 30.** (c) Be outspoken.
- 31.** (a) Everywhere.
- 32.** (d) Risen in status.
- 33.** (b) Failed to materialize.
- 34.** (b) Weak and tired.
- 35.** (c) Commodities not in demand.
- 36.** (c) spots
- 37.** (c) lining
- 38.** (d) meat
- 39.** (b) breeds
- 40.** (a) leap
- 41.** (d) mouth
- 42.** (b) throw
- 43.** (c) cake
- 44.** (a) do
- 45.** (c) canoe
- 46.** (a) reap
- 47.** (c) Jack
- 48.** (b) tools
- 49.** (a) milk
- 50.** (d) dreads