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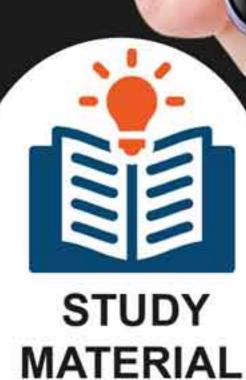
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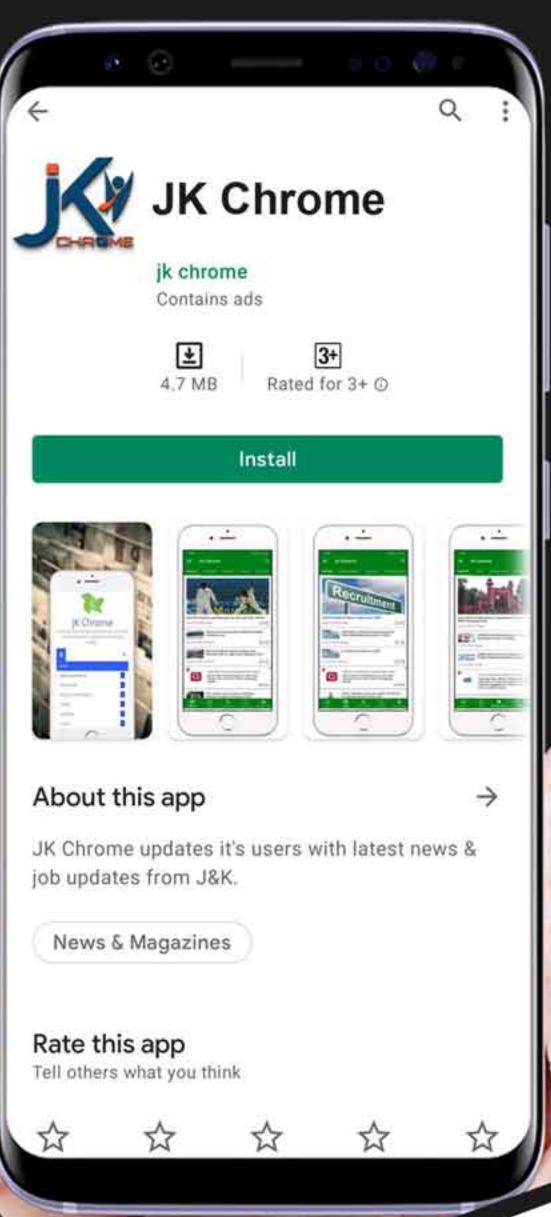
















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Chapter 9

# Idioms/Phrases

**DIRECTIONS (Qs. 1-5):** In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the meaning of the given Idiom/Phrase. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

# (SSC CGL 1st Sit. 2011)

- 1. A bolt from the blue
  - (a) a delayed event
- (b) an inexplicable event
- (c) an unexpected event
- (d) an unpleasant event
- Cold comfort
  - (a) absurdity
- (b) deception
- (c) slight satisfaction
- (d) foolish proposal
- To be all at sea.
  - (a) a family voyage
  - (b) lost and confused
  - (c) in the middle of the ocean
  - (d) a string of islands
- 4. To take to one's heels
  - (a) to walk slowly
- (b) to run away
- (c) to march forward
- (d) to hop and jump
- To bite the dust
  - (a) eat voraciously
- (b) have nothing to eat
- (c) eat roots
- (d) None of the above

**DIRECTIONS (Qs. 6-10):** In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the given Idiom/Phrase. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

# (SSC CGL 2<sup>nd</sup> Sit. 2011)

- 6. A damp squib
  - (a) rainy weather
- (b) a disappointing result
- (c) a skirt in a laundry
- (d) None of the above
- In cold blood
  - (a) angrily
- (b) deliberately
- (c) excitedly
- (d) slowly
- 8. To take someone for a ride
  - (a) to give a ride to someone
  - (b) to deceive someone
  - (c) to be indifferent
  - (d) to disclose a secret
- 9. To move heaven and earth
  - (a) to cause an earthquake
  - (b) to try everything possible
  - (c) to pray to all Gods
  - (d) to tavel in a rocket

- 10. To smell a rat
  - (a) to smell foul
- (b) to see a rat
- (c) to chase a rat
- (d) to be suspicious

**DIRECTIONS (Qs. 11-15):** In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the idiom / phrase underlined in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the idiom/phrase as your answer.

#### (SSC CGL 1st Sit. 2012)

- 11. Ram is very calculative and always has an axe to grind.
  - (a) has no result
- (b) works for both sides
- (c) has a private agenda
- (d) fails to arouse interest
- The police looked all over for him but <u>drew a blank</u>.
  - (a) did not find him
- (b) put him in prison
- (c) arrested him
- (d) took him to court
- 13. On the issue of marriage, Sarita put her foot down.
  - (a) stood up
- (b) was firm
- (c) got down
- (d) walked fast
- His investments helped him <u>make a killing</u> in the stock market.
  - (a) lose money quickly
  - (b) plan a murder quickly
  - (c) murder someone quickly
  - (d) make money quickly
- There is <u>no gainsaying</u> the fact that the country is in difficulties.
  - (a) ignoring
- (b) hiding
- (c) forgetting
- (d) denying

**DIRECTIONS (Qs. 16 - 20):** In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase given in bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/phrase.

#### (SSC CGL 2<sup>nd</sup> Sit. 2012)

- 16. His speech has taken the wind out of my sails.
  - (a) made my words or actions ineffective
  - (b) made me depressed
  - (c) made me think for the future
  - (d) made me remember my past
- There is no point in discussing the new project with him as he always pours cold water on any ideas.
  - (a) puts off
- (b) dislikes
- (c) disapproves of
- (d) postpones
- Regardless of what her parents said, she wanted to let her hair down that night.
  - (a) really enjoy
- (b) wash her hair
- (c) comb her hair
- (d) work till late

- 19. I **jumped out of my skin** when the explosion happened.
  - (a) was in panic
- (b) was excited
- (c) was nervous
- (d) was angry
- She didn't realize that the clever salesman was taking her for a ride.
  - (a) trying to trick her
- (b) taking her in a car
- (c) pulling her a long
- (d) forcing her to go with him

**DIRECTIONS (Qs. 21-25):** In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the idiom/phrase printed in bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the idiom/phrase.

## (SSC CGL 1st Sit. 2012)

- The project is carried over to this year, and we need to keep the ball rolling.
  - (a) to continue the work
  - (b) more information
  - (c) to do better
  - (d) new strategies
- 22. The host team **bore the palm** in the league matches.
  - (a) played quite well
  - (b) was victorious
  - (c) was defeated
  - (d) played a very boring match
- 23. Just **keep your wig on**, everything will be alright.
  - (a) Hold on to your wig, so it won't fall off
  - (b) Get another hair cut
  - (c) Calm down
  - (d) Take off your wig
- 24. Parents pay through the nose for their children's education.
  - (a) by taking loans
- (b) an extremely high price
- (c) grudgingly
- (d) willingly
- Monica's habit of picking holes in every relationship is very irksome.
  - (a) admiring people
- (b) finding fault
- (c) criticizing people
- (d) arguing with people

**DIRECTIONS (Qs. 26 - 30):** In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the idiom / phrase and italicised in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the idiom / phrase.

# (SSC CGL 2<sup>nd</sup> Sit. 2012)

- Once the case reached the court, the police washed their hands off it.
  - (a) waited for a response to
  - (b) claimed credit for
  - (c) disassociated themselves from
  - (d) seemed eager to continue
- She wanted to go hitch-hiking but her mother put her foot down and now she's going by bus.
  - (a) took a firm stand
  - (b) expressed her displeasure
  - (c) scolded her badly
  - (d) got irritated

- Adolescence is a period of halcyon days.
- (a) hard days
- (b) of mental pressure
- (c) happy days
- (d) days of preparation
- 29. My sincere advice to my maidservant fell on stony ground.
  - (a) was counter productive
  - (b) had a strong impact
  - (c) made on stubborn
  - (d) had little success
- 30. He has all his ducks in a row; he is complacent.
  - (a) has everything ready
  - (b) is well organised
  - (c) always scores a zero
  - (d) never gets confused

**DIRECTIONS (Qs. 31-35):** In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the idiom/phrase underlined in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the idiom/phrase.

#### (SSC Sub. Ins. 2012)

- 31. For some people, writing verse is as duck takes to water.
  - (a) like taking the duck to water
  - (b) like bursting out suddenly
  - (c) like dropping the duck in the water
  - (d) like easily and naturally speaking
- 32. He <u>made my day</u> by telling me how important I was to him.
  - (a) gave me great pleasure
  - (b) displeased me
  - (c) spoiled my day
  - (d) made me resentful
- He <u>made away with</u> ten thousand rupees in the course of three months.
  - (a) earned
- (b) ran away with
- (c) squandered
- (d) saved
- 34. The students of that group have assured their project guide that they will all work against the clock.
  - (a) work while keeping patience
  - (b) work with vigour to finish in limited time
  - (c) work with enthusiasm
  - (d) work hard to go against the time
- 35. To let off steam, my friend started murmuring.
  - (a) to release his tension (b) to show his anger
  - (c) to show his approval (d) to show his displeasure

**DIRECTIONS (Qs. 36 - 40):** In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase bolded in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

### (SSC CHSL 2012)

- I could have continued my higher studies if I wanted but, that's water under the bridge.
  - (a) something I cannot change
  - (b) the time I met with an accident near the bridge
  - (c) something my family did not want
  - (d) the time I went on a cruise

- My parents want me to study science, but I will stick to my guns and graduate in Economics.
  - (a) prefer to disobey them
  - (b) hold on to my decision
  - (c) refuse to listen to them
  - (d) show them that they are wrong
- The manager dismissed the proposal out of hand and said that it was not at all practical.
  - (a) completely
- (b) directly
- (c) simply
- (d) quickly
- 39. The people of this village are the salt of the earth.
  - (a) rich
- (b) educated
- (c) quarrelsome
- (d) kind
- He accused her of talking through her hat and refused to accept a word of what she said.
  - (a) talking straight
- (b) talking nonsense
- (c) talking tough
- (d) talking sense

**DIRECTIONS (Qs. 41-45):** In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase underlined. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

#### (SSC CGL 1st Sit. 2013)

- 41. Villagers always call a spade a spade.
  - (a) to speak about spades
  - (b) to speak in a straightforward manner
  - (c) to call someone a spade
  - (d) to speak ill about someone
- Marty broke a dining-room window and had to <u>face the</u> music when her father got home.
  - (a) accept the punishment (b) listen carefully
  - (c) ask a lot of questions (d) listen to music
- 43. To play second fiddle
  - (a) to be happy, cheerful and healthy
  - (b) to reduce the importance of one's senior
  - (c) take a subordinate role
  - (d) to do back seat driving
- Why are you jumping down my throat? I wasn't even in the house when it happened.
  - (a) running away
- (b) making a joke
- (c) scolding me
- (d) forcing me to eat
- I am <u>out of my wits</u> and therefore cannot find a way to solve the problem immediately.
  - (a) not intelligent enough
  - (b) greatly confused
  - (c) helpless without power
  - (d) totally ignorant

**DIRECTIONS (Qs. 46-50):** In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase printed in **bold** in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

# (SSC CGL 2<sup>nd</sup> Sit. 2013)

- 46. Hard work pays in the long run.
  - (a) always
- (b) over a period of time
- (c) indefinitely
- (d) never

- I felt a fish out of water among the lawyers.
  - (a) special
- (b) happy
- (c) uncomfortable
- (d) proud
- The Cauvery water issue led to apple of discord between the two Governments.
  - (a) cause of anger
- (b) cause of hatred
- (c) cause of quarrel
- (d) cause of animosity
- 9. The construction remains unfinished and the workers have let the grass grow under their feet.
  - (a) grown grass all over the lawn
  - (b) gone on a luxury tour
  - (c) delayed doing the work
  - (d) demanded more benefits
- 50. The police **smelt the rat** behind the death of the girl.
  - (a) got very much confused
  - (b) identified the cause of death
  - (c) suspected that something is fishy
  - (d) jumped to the conclusion

**DIRECTIONS (Qs. Nos. 51-55)**: In these questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase given in bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

(SSC CGL 1st Sit. 2013)

- 51. Let sleeping dogs lie.
  - (a) Do not bring up an old controversial issue
  - (b) Dogs can raise tempers
  - (c) Do not allow dogs to stand
  - (d) Prevent dog mobility
- 52. To get admission in present day educational institutions, all children should be born with a silver spoon in the mouth.
  - (a) be born to silver spoon manufacturer
  - (b) always hold a silver spoon
  - (c) be born with silver spoon
  - (d) be born in a rich family
- 53. A man of straw means
  - (a) a worthy fellow
- (b) an unreasonable person
- (c) a man of no substance (d) a very active person
- 54. Children complain about their parents' gifts. They should learn not to **look gift horse in the mouth.** 
  - (a) look at a horse's mouth
  - (b) find fault with the gifts received
  - (c) ask for more gift
  - (d) find goodness in the gifts
- Acquiring a job is a cakewalk for a student who has good academic performance coupled with the good attitude.
  - (a) walk away with a cake
  - (b) a difficult achievement
  - (c) a walkway made with cakes
  - (d) an easy achievement

**DIRECTIONS (Qs. 56-60):** In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase underlined. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

(SSC CGL 1st Sit. 2013)

- 56. To be above board.
  - (a) To have a good height
  - (b) To be honest in any business deal
  - (c) Having no debts
  - (d) To try to be beautiful
- 57. To cry wolf.
  - (a) To listen eagerly
- (b) To give false alarm
- (c) To turn pale
- (d) To keep off starvation
- He is on the wrong side of seventy.
  - (a) more than seventy years old
  - (b) less than seventy years old
  - (c) seventy years old
  - (d) eighty years old
- 59. To have an axe to grind.
  - (a) a private end to serve (b) to fail to arouse interest
  - (c) to have no result
- (d) to work for both sides
- To drive home.
  - (a) To find one's root
  - (b) To return to place of rest
  - (c) Back to original position
  - (d) To emphasise

**DIRECTIONS (61–65):** In the following questions, four alternatives are given to the Idiom/Phrase underlined in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

### (SSC CGL 1st Sit. 2013)

- 61. What <u>egged you on</u> to become a social worker?
  - (a) urged
- (b) dampened
- (c) hindered
- (d) discouraged
- Many politicians in India are not fit to hold a candle to Mahatma Gandhi.
  - (a) superior
- (b) equal
- (c) inferior
- (d) indifferent
- She must be paying through the nose for the face left.
  - (a) paying less than necessary
  - (b) paying too much
  - (c) paying the right amount
  - (d) paying reluctantly
- 64. He is <u>putting the cart before the horse</u> by purchasing furniture before buying a house.
  - (a) doing a thing in the wrong way
  - (b) doing a thing in the right way
  - (c) committing a great crime
  - (d) doing things meticulously
- 65. Casting pearls before swine.
  - (a) speaking nice words and convincing them
  - (b) offering good things to underserving people
  - (c) uplifting the needy for their welfare
  - (d) doing worthwhile things to unknown people

**DIRECTIONS (Qs. 66-70):** In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase printed in **bold** in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/ Phrase.

(SSC Sub. Ins. 2013)

- 66. I tried to **feel his pulse** on the issue, but in vain.
  - (a) find his views
  - (b) enlighten him
  - (c) argue with him
  - (d) guide him
- For this act of indifference, he will be taken to task by the authority.
  - (a) he will get an offical reprimand from the authority.
  - (b) he will be rewarded by the authority.
  - (c) he will tender his resignation to the authority.
  - (d) he will be entrusted with an official job.
- You need to have something up your sleeve if the present plan does not work.
  - (a) have some honest means
  - (b) have some hidden sources of money
  - (c) have a secret pocket in the sleeve
  - (d) have an alternative plan
- 69. The new manager **ruled the roost** to every one.
  - (a) exercised authority
  - (b) rushed through work
  - (c) got paid very handsomely
  - (d) created good impression
- 70. Despite his initial arrogance, he had to eat humble pie.
  - (a) he had to yield under pressure
  - (b) he maintained composure
  - (c) he failed to protest eventually
  - (d) he accepted the food offered

**DIRECTIONS (Qs. 71-73):** In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom / Phrase underlined in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

# (SSC CHSL 2013)

- 71. The police cordoned off the area after the explosion.
  - (a) The police checked everyone in the area
  - (b) The police did not allow anyone to leave the area
  - (c) The police filled the whole area
  - (d) The police isolated the area
- 72. The manager hesitated to assign the job to the newcomer as he was wet behind the ears.
  - (a) stupid and slow-witted
  - (b) young and inexperienced
  - (c) drenched-in the rain.
  - (d) unpunctual and lethargic
- 73. Mrs. Roy <u>keeps an open house</u> on Saturday evening parties—you'll find all kinds of people there.
  - (a) keeps the doors of the house open
  - (b) keeps the gates open for a few persons
  - (c) welcomes all members
  - (d) welcomes a select group of people

**DIRECTIONS (Qs. 74 - 76):** In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the idiom / phrase underlined in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom / Phrase.

# (SSC Multitasking 2013)

- The man <u>changed colours</u> when I questioned him on the allocation of funds.
  - (a) became different
- (b) got numbed
- (c) turned happy
- (d) get motivated
- We cannot depend on him for this assignment as it needs careful handling and he is <u>like a bull in a China shop</u>.
  - (a) a felicitous person
- (b) a clumsy person
- (c) a tactful person
- (d) a no-nonsense person
- The mother always insists on keeping the house <u>spick and span</u>.
  - (a) open
- (b) locked
- (c) safe
- (d) tidy

**DIRECTIONS (Qs. 77-81):** In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom / Phrase. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idion / Phrase.

# (SSC Stenographer 2013)

- 77. Hue and cry
  - (a) lot of laughter
- (b) an uproar
- (c) a burst of anger
- (d) plenty of tears
- 78. To win laurels
  - (a) to achieve success
- (b) to win the hearts of ladies
- (c) to win praise
- (d) to win a lottery
- 79. To pay heed
  - (a) to submit
- (b) to listen
- (c) to care for
- (d) to understand
- 80. To eat a humble pie
  - (a) feel humiliated
- (b) feel abandoned
- (c) feel rejected
- (d) feel glorified
- 81. A tall order
  - (a) too difficult a task
- (b) a normal task
- (c) a simple task
- (d) an easy task

**DIRECTIONS (Qs. 82-86):** In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase underlined in the sentences. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom\Phrase.

### (SSC CGL 2014)

- With great difficulty, he was able to carve out a niche for himself.
  - (a) became a sculptor
  - (b) did the best he could do
  - (c) destroyed his career
  - (d) developed a specific position for himself
- 83. You will succeed if you follow my advice to the letter.
  - (a) about writing letters
- (b) written in the letter
- (c) in every detail
- (d) very thoughtfully
- 84. A critic's work is to read between the lines.
  - (a) to comprehend the meaning
  - (b) to appreciate the inner beauty

- (c) to understand the inner meaning
- (d) to read carefully
- 85. Where discipline is concerned, I put my foot down.
  - (a) take a firm stand
- (b) take a light stand
- the take a first stand (b) to
- (c) take a heavy stand
- (d) take a shaky stand
- The convict claimed innocence and stood his ground in spite of the repeated accusations.
  - (a) knelt
- (b) surrendered
- (c) kept standing
- (d) refused to yield

**DIRECTIONS (Qs. 87-91):** In questions below, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase underlined in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

# (SSC Sub. Ins. 2014)

- We must work with <u>all our might and main</u>, otherwise we cannot succeed.
  - (a) full force
- (b) complete trust
- (c) exceptional skill
- (d) full unity
- 88. The sailors <u>nailed their colours to their mast.</u>
  - (a) put up a colourful mast
  - (b) refused to climb down
  - (c) took over the ship
  - (d) decided to abandon the ship
- 89. We had better <u>batten down the hatches</u>. The weather is unpredictable.
  - (a) stay in-door
  - (b) prepare for a difficult situation
  - (c) go somewhere safe
  - (d) face the obstacles
- It is difficult to have a sensible discussion with her as she flies off at a tangent.
  - (a) gets carried away
  - (b) starts discussing something irrelevant
  - (c) loses her temper easily
  - (d) does not really understand anything
- The students found it hard to go at equal speed with the professor.
  - (a) get away from
- (b) put up with
- (c) keep up with
- (d) race against

**DIRECTIONS (Qs. 92-96):** In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase underlined in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom /Phrase.

(SSC CHSL 2014)

- 92. You cannot throw dust into my eyes.
  - (a) terrify me
- (b) cheat me
- (c) hurt me
- (d) abuse me
- He spoke well though it was his <u>maiden speech.</u>
  - (a) long speech
  - (b) first speech
  - (c) brief speech
  - (d) emotional speech

- The students were all ears, when the speaker started talking 104. The day the new product was launched, people made a about the changes in the exam. beeline to purchase it. (a) smiling (b) silent rushed (b) were doubtful (a) (c) restless (d) attentive went online (c) refused (d) In his salad days he was quite a dandy. DIRECTIONS (Qs. 105-109): In the following questions, four (a) childhood (b) adolescence (c) school days (d) old age He is cool about working at night. meaning of the Idiom/Phrase. (a) ready to work (b) not ready to work (c) excited about working (d) grudgingly working **DIRECTIONS (Qs. 97-99):** In the following questions, four to excuse you. alaternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase underlined in the (a) improve sentence. Choose the alternative that best expresses the meaning (b) pay debt of the Idiom/Phrase. (c) confess (SSC MTS 2014) (d) compensate The son wants to purchase a new car, but his father is dragging his feet. (a) acting in a slow and hesitant manner work, he just left me high and dry. (b) acting methodically (a) left me feeling like a fool acting quickly with firm conviction (c) (b) left me in a state of anger acting courageously
  - The student passed out in the lab during the practical exam.
    - fell down
- (b) became anxious
- (c) rushed out
- (d) fainted
- My friend Rahim is fair and square in all his dealings.
  - (a) dishondest and complex
  - (b) cruel
  - (c) rough and complex
  - (d) honest and simple

**DIRECTIONS (Qs. 100-104):** *In the following Five Questions,* four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase underlined in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom\Phrase.

### (SSC CGL 1<sup>st</sup> Sit. 2015)

- 100. At his wit's end, he turned to his old trade.
  - After careful thinking (a)
  - (b) Confidently
  - Not knowing what to do (c)
  - Overjoyed
- Then it comes to dancing, he is all-thumbs.
  - (a) an expert
- (b) a trainer
- clumsy
- (d) lazy
- 102. He usually goes to bed very early and rises with the lark.
  - (a) very late
  - (b) very early
  - (c) after sunrise
  - (d) at midnight
- 103. Their attempt to get back the stolen necklace proved to be a wild goose chase.
  - (a) wise decision
  - (b) useless search
  - (c) timely action
  - (d) delayed action

- alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase underlined in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the

#### (SSC CGL 1st Sit. 2015)

- 105. Unless you make amends for the loss, nobody is prepared
- 106. Instead of keeping his promise of helping me with office
  - (c) left me without a drop of water
  - (d) left me alone to do the work
- 107. Amit said to Rekha, "Don't make a mountain out of a molehill".
  - (a) attempt an impossible task
  - (b) start looking for molehills in mountains.
  - (c) create problems
  - (d) exaggerate a minor problem
- Before the report reached the authority, the media spilled the beans.
  - (a) dropped the charges
  - (b) hinted at the consequences
  - (c) revealed the secret information
  - (d) spilled the content of the package
- 109. His friend turned out to be snake in the grass.
  - (a) cowardly and brutal
  - (b) low and mean
  - (c) a hidden enemy
  - (d) an unreliable and deceitful person.

**DIRECTIONS (Qs. 110-114):** *In the following questions below,* four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase underlined in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

#### (SSC Sub. Ins. 2015)

- 110. The shopping mall is a beehive of activity.
  - a secure place
- (b) a sweet place
- (c) a busy place
- (d) a costly place
- 111. To win laurels.
  - (a) To be disappointed
  - (b) To memories
  - (c) To be victorious in a game
  - (d) To earn great prestige

- 112. The officer was in the soup when there was a raid in his office.
  - (a) preparing soup
- (b) distributing soup
- (c) to be in trouble
- (d) drinking soup
- 113. We must draw the line somewhere.
  - (a) turn the tables
- (b) put the screw on
- (c) fix a limit
- (d) aim at the sky
- 114. To cut the Gordian knot.
  - (a) to do a job perfunctorily
  - (b) to cut a piece of cloth
  - (c) to perform an easy task
  - (d) to perform a difficult task

**DIRECTIONS (Qs. 115-118):** In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom / Phrase underlined. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom / Phrase. (SSC CHSL 2015)

- 115. To put in a nut-shell
  - (a) To state something very concisely
  - (b) To place something
  - (c) To be blunt about something
  - (d) To be long and exhaustive about something
- 116. To make up one's mind
  - (a) To remember things clearly
  - (b) To remember oneself of something
  - (c) To think creatively
  - (d) To decide what to do
- 117. Nowadays, it has become a fashion to take French leave.
  - (a) Saying goodbye in French style
  - (b) Absenting oneself without permission
  - (c) Taking leave to go to France
  - (d) Seeking permission from French Embassy
- International monetary affairs are governed by the gnomes of Zurich.
  - (a) foreign leaders
- (b) big international bankers
- (c) guardians of treasure (d) witchcraft of Zurich

**DIRECTIONS (Qs. 119-122):** Four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase underlined. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

(SSC CHSL 2015)

- A Sacred Cow
  - (a) a person never to be criticised
  - (b) a saintly person
  - (c) a very religious person
  - (d) a helpful person
- 120. To shun evil company
  - (a) To kick out evil company
  - (b) To give up evil company
  - (c) To put off evil company
  - (d) To let loose evil company
- 121. He has made a dog's breakfast of these accounts.
  - (a) A total mess
  - (b) A breakfast for the dogs..

- (c) An accurate summary
- (d) A breakfast being served by the dogs
- 122. You will be reminded of <u>the seamy side</u> of life if you visit the slum tenements.
  - (a) the softer aspects
- (b) the unpleasant aspects
- (c) the pleasanter aspects (d) the gentler aspects

**DIRECTIONS (Qs. 123-125):** In each of the questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase and click the button corresponding to it.

(SSC CGL 1st Sit. 2016)

- 123. To keep in abeyance
  - (a) In a state of permanence
  - (b) In a state of emergency
  - (c) In a state of suspension
  - (d) In a state of revision
- 124. To be in a fix
  - (a) In pain
- (b) In distress
- (c) Depressed
- (d) In a difficult situation
- 125. To break the ice
  - (a) Made people angry
  - (b) Made people laugh
  - (c) Made people excited
  - (d) Made people relaxed and comfortable

**DIRECTON (Qs. 126-128) :** In each of the questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

(SSC CGL 1st Sit. 2016)

- 126. Wild goose chase
  - (a) An admirable enterprise
  - (b) An honest effort
  - (c) A foolish, unprofitable adventure
  - (d) A powerful effort
- 127. Smell a rat
  - (a) Detect bad smell
- (b) Suspect a trick or deceit
- (c) Misunderstand
- (d) See hidden meaning
- 128. A live wire
  - (a) Industrious and brilliant
  - (b) Lively and active
  - (c) Sincere and intelligent
  - (d) Sincere and efficient

**DIRECTIONS (Qs. 129-131):** In each of the questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase and click the button corresponding to it.

(SSC CGL 1st Sit. 2016)

- 129. pull a fast one
  - (a) as fast as lightning
  - (b) play a trick
  - (c) carry a heavy burden
  - (d) take a deep breath

130. Grease the palm 141. Do not pull a long face. (a) dirty one's hands (b) work in a garage (a) look dejected (b) look happy (c) slip and fall (d) bribe (c) look ugly (d) look tired 131. turn turtle **DIRECTIONS (Qs. 142 – 143):** In the following questions, out (a) slow like a turtle (b) turn upside down of the four alternatives, select the alternative which best (c) over-turn (d) a game turtles play expresses the meaning of the idiom/phrase. **DIRECTIONS (Qs. 132-136):** In the following Five Questions, (SSC CGL 2017) four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase underlined. 142. To keep the wolf from door Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the (a) Avoid starvation (b) Crack the deal Idiom/Phrase. (c) Entry Prohibited (d) Have a pleasant tour (SSC Sub. Ins. 2016) 143. Teething problems 132. To put his foot down. (a) Oral problems (a) To act firmly (b) Resign (b) Problems at the start of a new project (c) Ready to work (d) Concede (c) Problems for quite a long time in adjusting in the new place 133. Have a foot in the grave. (d) Problem of having good dentist. (a) be close to death. (b) have no interest in life. **DIRECTIONS (Qs. 144 – 145):** In the following questions, out (c) have an incurable disease. of the four alternatives, select the alternative which best expresses (d) be afraid to nest the meaning of the idiom/phrase. 134. A hornet's nest. (SSC CGL 2017) (a) an unpleasant situation (b) a dilemma 144. The alpha and the omega (c) a comfortable position (d) among thorns (a) Happy and sad 135. To roll out the red carpet. (b) The beginning and the end (a) to decorate the room (b) to give a grand welcome (c) The love and the hatred (c) to give a warning signal (d) to buy a gift (d) Truth and dare 136. To have an axe to grind. 145. Throw up the sponge (a) To work for both sides. (a) To attack (b) To fail to arouse interest (b) To laugh at someone (c) To criticize someone (c) To surrender (d) To have a selfish end to serve (d) To talk loudly **DIRECTIONS (Qs. 146 – 147):** In the following questions, out **DIRECTIONS (Qs. 137-141):** In the following Five Questions, of the four alternatives, select the alternative which best four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase underlined in expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase. the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the (SSC CGL 2017) meaning of the Idiom/Phrase. (SSC Stenographer 2016) 146. Spick and Span (a) High and low (b) Dark and light 137. Who will believe, your cock and bull story? (c) Neat and clean (d) Happy and sad (a) Absurd story (b) Common story 147. To draw the longbow (c) Ambiguous story (d) Authentic story (a) To nullify 138. For years I could not shake off the trauma of that day: (b) To exaggerate (c) To underrate (d) To demarcate (a) imagine (b) None of these DIRECTIONS (Qs. 148 - 149): In the following questions, out (c) forget (d) remember of the four alternatives, select the alternative which best 139. Sit on the fence. expresses the meaning of the idiom/phrase. (a) halting between two opinions (SSC CGL 2017) (b) to be defeated and dejected (c) to be in a tricky situation 148. Ended in a fiasco

(a) A complete failure

(b) A successful event (d) Twisted around

149. Sow wild oats

(a) To make someone fool

(c) Changed one completely

- (b) To make space to red
- (c) To take revenge
- (d) To waste time by doing foolish things

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(d) to be relaxed and comfortable

(a) under scrutiny

(b) warned severely

(d) under suspicion

(c) under suspension

140. The manager is not dismissed, but he is definitely under a

150. In the following question, out of the four alternatives, select the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the idiom/phrase:

An outline representing or bounding the shape or form of something. (SSC CHSL 2017)

- (a) tracery
- (b) contour
- (c) doodle
- (d) pattern
- 151. In the following question, out of the four alternatives, select the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the idiom/phrase.

Head over heels

(SSC CHSL 2017)

- (a) to think with instead of heart
- (b) to run away from an unpleasant situation
- (c) to take a nasty fall
- (d) to be madly in love

**DIRECTIONS (Qs. 152 – 156):** In the following questions, out of the four alternatives, select the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the idiom/phrase.

#### (SSC Sub. Insp. 2017)

- 152. An iron will
  - (a) A widely debated issue (b) A fair bargain
  - (c) An impracticable plan
- (d) A firm opinion
- 153. Get into a soup
  - (a) To make things difficult (b) To be worrisome
  - (c) To be familiar of
- (d) To get an advantage
- 154. Haul over the coals
  - (a) Talk irrelevantly
- (b) Laugh heartily
- (c) To scold
- (d) Without hope
- 155. To carry the day
  - (a) To run away
  - (b) To die while in service
  - (c) To take an unimportant task
  - (d) To succeed
- Go over
  - Continue (a)
- (b) Review
- (c) Harmonize
- (d) Terminate

**DIRECTIONS (Qs. 157 – 161):** In the following questions, out of the four given alternatives, select the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

- 157. Apple of one's eye
  - (a) the person with sweet tastes
  - (b) the person with wide pupils
  - (c) the person who likes apple
  - (d) the person who someone loves or cherishes the most
- 158. Ball is in your court
  - (a) Make the right decision
  - (b) The judgement in is your favour
  - (c) You should catch the ball
  - (d) It is upto you to decide something
- 159. Last Straw
  - (a) Last problem in the series of problems
  - (b) Last attempt to do something

- (c) Last change to take decision
  - (d) Last chance
- 160. Back to Square One
  - to go back to the beginning
  - going forward
  - yor are holding a grudge
  - to go back to a square (d)
- 161. Burst Your Bubble
  - to blow away the balloons
  - to ruin someone's happiness
  - (c) to give up
  - to talk with someone (d)

**DIRECTIONS (Qs. 162 – 164):** In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase underlined in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

# (SSC MTS 2017)

- 162. John was as good as his word and came on time for the meeting.
  - (a) convincing
  - punctual (b)
  - able to fulfill his promise
  - a promising young man
- 163. He came to work looking very off colour.
  - (a) tired

- (b) unhappy
- (c) worried
- (d) ill
- 164. I was asked to take a hike for a comment I made.
  - (a) be quiet
- (b) think
- (c) leave
- (d) take a break
- 165. Select the most appropriate meaning of the underlined idiom in the given sentence.

My aunt who orders every one around is a pain in the neck.

(SSC CHSL 2018)

- irritating
- short tempered (b)
- curious (c)
- (d) argumentative
- 166. Select the most appropriate meaning of the underlined idiom in the given sentence.

Please come to the point, don't beat around the bush.

(SSC CHSL 2018)

- avoid the topic
- hide behind a bush
- make excuses
- (d) accept defeat
- 167. Select the most appropriate meaning of the underlined idiom in the given sentence. (SSC CGL 2018)

Let us have all the regulations in black and white.

- (a) painted in colour
- printed in coloured ink
- written on the black-board
- (d) in writing

177. Select the most appropriate meaning of the underlined idiom 168. Select the most appropriate meaning of the underlined idiom in the given sentence. (SSC Sub. Ins. 2018) in the given sentence. Getting the Fulbright Scholarship at this young age is a The invigilator did not know that the two boys were feather in his cap. exchanging notes under his nose. (SSC CGL 2018) a sign of his intelligence (a) written in small letters (b) Something he can show off about (b) rolled into small pellets an accomplishment to be proud of (c) (c) wrapped in handkerchiefs an award not to be given up (d) right in front of him 178. Select the most appropriate meaning of the underlined idiom 169. Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom. in the given sentence. (SSC Sub. Ins. 2018) Smell a rat (SSC Steno 2018) I am fed up with his false promises. (a) Have no doubts about something furious (a) disgusted (b) Feel that there is a loss in business hopeful (c) pleased (d) (c) Think that there is a dead animal 179. Select the most appropriate meaning of the underlined idiom (d) Have a reason to suspect something in the given sentence. (SSC Sub. Ins. 2018) 170. Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom. The cost of living has increased so much that many people Move heaven and earth (SSC Steno 2018) find it difficult to make both ends meet. (a) Pay for something help other people (b) Make every effort to achieve something buy something new (b) buy expensive gadgets (c) Start something new (c) earn enough to survive (d) Make difficult choices (d) 180. Select the meaning of the given idiom. 171. Select the correct passive form of the given sentence. Apples and oranges. (SSC MTS 2018) Can you read this book? (SSC Steno 2018) (a) Same things (a) Can you have read this book? (b) Different things (b) Could this book have been read by you? (c) Fresh (c) Can this book be read by you? (d) Nutritious (d) This book can be read by you. 181. Select the meaning of the given idiom. 172. Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom. At the drop of a hat. (SSC MTS 2018) In the nick of time (SSC Steno 2018) (a) Facing difficulties (a) The beginning of a month (b) Completely (b) A special occasion Immediately (c) (c) At the last possible moment (d) Losing a hat (d) A long delay 182. Select the appropriate meaning of the given idiom 173. Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom. To take French leave (SSC CGL 2019-20) To turn over a new leaf (SSC Steno 2018) (a) Welcome the host (a) To change your behaviour in a positive way (b) Acknowledge the host (b) To become famous (c) Leave with written permission (c) To buy new things (d) Leave without any intimation 183. Select the appropriate meaning of the given idiom. (d) To understand others' problems 174. Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom. A hard nut to crack (SSC CGL 2019-20) (a) Easily encouraged (b) Easily disappointed Once in a blue moon (SSC Steno 2018) (c) A difficult problem (d) Not restrained (b) Rarely and infrequently (a) Always 184. Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom. (c) At regular intervals (d) A natural occurrence The ball is in (one's) court. (SSC MTS 2019-20) 175. Select the most appropriate meaning of the underlined idiom (a) To be responsible for further action in the given sentence. If you go for this training, it will be beneficial to you in the (b) To pass the responsibility to another long run. (SSC Sub. Ins. 2018) (c) To be fearful of taking any action (a) regularly eventually (b) (d) To risk everything in one venture immediately (c) (d) intermittently 185. Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.

176. Select the most appropriate meaning of the underlined idiom in the given sentence. (SSC Sub. Ins. 2018)
Let's hope they will bury the hatchet and be friends again.

(a) make plans cleverly (b)

keep quiet

(c) take courage

(d) forget past quarrels

Bend over backwards.

(SSC MTS 2019-20)

(a) To express sudden shock

(b) To exert a lot of effort towards some end

(c) To end all activities

(d) To confess to a crime

186. Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom. (c) To sit and discuss (SSC CHSL 2019-20) Actions speak louder than words (d) To agree unwillingly What you don't say is what you are 194. Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom. What you do is your own business (b) At a stretch (SSC MTS 2020-21) What you do reveals the real you (a) Within a month (b) After some time (d) What you can see may not be true (c) During a year (d) Without a stop 195. Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom. 187. Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom. Once and for all (SSC Stenographer 2020-21) A piece of cake (SSC CHSL 2019-20) (a) Finally (b) Effictively (a) Something serious (d) Out of Control (c) happily (b) Something difficult Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom. Something easy (c) Twist someone's arm (SSC Stenographer 2020-21) (d) Something amusing (a) hurt someone by mittake 188. Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom. understand a problematic situation Be at a loss for words (SSC CGL 2020-21) handle a situation cleverly (a) Not aware of the language (d) persuade someone to do something (b) Not know what to say Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom. (c) Habituated to using difficult words To call the shots (SSC Stenographer 2020-21) (d) Lost the urge to speek To call someone (b) To shoot someone 189. Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom. (c) To have control (d) To take pictures (SSC CGL 2020-21) Want to curl up and die 198. Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom. (a) Unable to sleep well Dry run (SSC Stenographer 2020-21) (a) Running without shoes (b) Want to die comfortably (b) Rehearsal of an event (c) Too tired from physical labour Running is a desert (d) Feel terribly ashamed and sorry (d) Jogging in a park 190. Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom. Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom. Not one's cup of tea (SSC CHSL 2020-21) At a snail's pace (SSC Stenographer 2020-21) (a) Beyond one's comprehension (b) peacefully (a) rapidly (b) Not absolutely true (c) very slowly (d) carelessly (c) Not according to one's interest 200. Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom. (d) Of no concern for someone (SSC Sub-Inspector 2020-21) A dry run (b) a poor harvest 191. Select the most appropriate meaning of the idiomatic (a) a rehearsal (c) a slow run (d) a run on dry ground expression given. (SSC CHSL 2020-21) 201. Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom. To cross one's mind (SSC Sub-Inspector 2020-21) Little by little (a) To think of something (a) a few (b) not much (b) To forget something (c) only once (d) gradually (c) To move from one idea to another 202. Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom. (d) To put a thought away from one's mind (SSC Sub-Inspector 2020-21) Give a hand 192. Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word. (a) donate an organ (b) assist (c) encourage (d) clap hands (SSC MTS 2020-21) SUFFICIENT 203. Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom. (a) Enough (b) Inadequate Look out (SSC Sub-Inspector 2020-21) (c) Precise (d) Intense (a) find out (b) search (c) be careful (d) locate 193. Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom. 204. Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom. At loggerheads (SSC MTS 2020-21) (SSC Sub-Inspector 2020-21) (a) To disagree strongly. step out (b) visit (b) To hit someone with a log (c) telephone (d) announce

# **HINTS & EXPLANATIONS**

- (c) Idiom 'a bolt from the blue' means: an event or a piece of news which is sudden and unexpected; a complete surprise.
- (c) Cold Comfort (Noun) means: the fact that something that would normally be good does not make you happy because the whole situation is bad.
- (b) Idiom to be all at sea means: confused and not knowing what to do.
- (b) Idiom take to your heels means: to run away from somebody/something.
- (d) Idiom bite the dust means: to fail or to be defeated or destroyed.
- (b) Idiom 'A damp Squib' means: a situation or event which is much less impressive than expected.
- 7. (a) Idiom 'In cold blood' means: violent or aggressive.
- (b) Idiom 'To take someone for a ride' means: to trick or cheat somebody.
- (b) Idiom 'To move heaven and earth' means: to try everything possible, to exert the utmost effort.
- (d) Idiom 'To smell a rat' means: to believe that something is wrong in a particular situation, to be suspicious.
- (c) Idiom have an axe to grind means: to have private reasons for being involved in something or for arguing for a particular cause.
- 12. (a) Idiom draw a blank means: to get no response or result.
- (b) Idiom put your foot down means: to be very strict in opposing what somebody wishes to do; to drive faster.
- (d) Idiom make a killing means: to make a lot of money quickly.
- 15. (d) Idiom Gainsay (verb) means: to disagree; to deny.
- 16. (a) Idiom take the wind out of somebody's sails means: to make somebody suddenly less confident or angry when you say or do something that they do not expect.
- 17. (c) Idiom pour/throw cold water on something means: to give reasons for not being in favour of something; to criticize something
- (a) Idiom let your hair down means: to relax and enjoy your-self especially in a lively way.
- (a) Idiom jump out of your skin means: to move violently because of a sudden shock.
- (a) Idiom take somebody for a ride means: to cheat or trick somebody.
- (a) Idiom get/set/start/keep the ball rolling means: to make something start happening; to make sure that something continues to happen.
- 22. (b) Idiom 'bore the palm' means: to win, victory
- (c) Idiom 'keep your wig on' means: to tell someone to calmdown
- 24. (b) Idiom pay through the nose means: to pay too much money for something.

- 25. (b) Idiom pick holes in something means: to find the weak points in something such as a plan, suggestion etc.
- (c) Idiom washed their hands off means: to absolve oneself of responsibility or future blame.
- 27. (a) Idiom put her foot down means: to tell someone in a strong way that they must do something or that they must stop doing something.
- (c) Idiom Halcyon days means: a very happy or successful period in the past.
- (d) Idiom fell on stony ground means: If a request, a warning, or advice falls on stony ground, people ignore it
- (b) Idiom has all his ducks in a row means: to organize things well.
- (d) Idiom 'as duck takes to water' means: easily and smoothly.
- 32. (a) Idiom 'made my day' means: to put in a good mood, to give great pleasure.
- (c) Idiom 'made away with' means: to escape with stolen thing, to run away.
- 34. (b) The meaning of against the clock: in a great hurry to get something done before a particular time.
- 35. (b) The meaning of let off steam: to release one's pent-up emotions, such as anger, usually verbally.
- 36. (a) Phrase 'water under the bridge' means: problems that someone has had in the past that they do not worry about because they happened a long time ago and can't be changed now.
- 37. (b) Idiom 'stick to one's gun' means: to remain determined or steadfast in one's opinion.
- (d) Phrase 'Out of hand' means: without taking time to think, quickly.
- (d) Idiom 'Salt of the earth' means: A person or a group that is regarded as genuine, unpretentious and morally sound.
- (b) Phrase 'talk through your hat' means: to talk about something without understanding and thinking; nonsense.
- (b) Phrase 'call a spade a spade' means: speak frankly and directly.
- 42. (a) Phrase 'face the music means: be confronted with the unpleasant consequences of one's actions.
- 43. (c) Phrase 'to play second fiddle' means: to have a subordinate role to someone or something.
- 44 (c) Idiom 'Jumping down my throat' means: to scold someone severely.
- 45. (b) Idiom 'Out of my wits' means: to frighten someone to such an extent that they behave irrationally.
- 46. (b) Phrase 'In the long run' means: concerning a longer period in the future.

- 47. (c) Phrase 'A fish out of water' means: a person who feels uncomfortable or awkward.
- 48. (c) Idiom 'Apple of discord' means: cause of quarrel.
- 49. (c) Idiom 'Let the grass grow under your feet' means: to delay in getting things done.
- (c) Idiom 'Smell the rat' means: to suspect that somebody is wrong about a situation.
- (a) Idiom 'Let sleeping dogs lie' means to avoid mentioning a subject that happened in the past, in order to avoid any problems or argument.
- (d) Phrase 'Born with a silver spoon in your mouth' means having rich parents.
- (c) Idiom 'A man of straw' means a man of no substance; an ordinary man.
- 54. (b) Phrase 'Look a gift horse in the mouth' means to refuse or criticize something that is given to you for nothing.
- (d) Idiom 'A cakewalk' means something that is extremely easy to do.
- (b) Phrase If somebody is 'above board,' he/she is honest in any business deal.
- (b) Phrase 'To cry wolf' means that someone is giving false alarm.
- 58. (a) Idiom 'on the wrong side of (any age)' means: some age.
- 59. (a) Phrase If you have 'an axe to grind' that means you have a private end to serve.
- 60. (d) Idiom If you 'drive something home', that means you are making something completely clear to someone. She didn't have to drive the point home. The movie had done that.
- 61. (a) Idiom 'egged you on' means: to encourage somebody to do something, to urge, push and incite etc.
- (c) Phrase 'not fit to hold a candle' means: not to be named in comparison with, inferior or of a lower quality.
- 63. (b) Idiom 'Paying through the nose' means: to pay an exorbitant amount of money, to pay excessive amount of money.
- 64. (a) Idiom 'putting the cart before the horse' means: to do things in a wrong order.
- 65. (b) Idiom 'Casting pearls before swine' means: to offer something valuable or good to someone who does not know its value.
- 66. (a) Idiom **Feel pulse** means: to try to know someone's views.
- 67. (a) Phrase Take somebody to task means: to criticize somebody strongly for something they have done.
- 68. (d) Idiom Have/keep something up your sleeve means: to keep a plan or an idea secret until you need to use it.
- (a) Phrase Rule the roost means: to be the most powerful member of a group.
- (a) Phrase Eat humble pie means: to say and show that you are sorry for a mistake that you made.
- (d) Phrase 'Cordon off' means: to close, isolate, block and barricade etc.

- 72. (b) Idiom 'wet behind the ears' means: inexperienced, often because one is young.
  - (c) Idiom 'keep an open office' means: to have one's house in a state or condition in which visitors or guests are welcomed at any time.
- 74. (a) Phrase 'change colour' means: to give a completely different form and to cause to be different etc.
- 75. (b) Idiom 'bull in a China Shop' means: one who is aggressive and clumsy in a situation that requires delicacy and care.
- 76. (d) Idiom 'spick and span' means: totally clean/organized.
- (b) Idiom 'Hue and Cry' means a loud clamour or public outcry.
- 78. (c) Idiom 'To win laurels' means: to win honour/respect.
- 79. (b) Phrase 'To pay heed' means: to pay attention or to listen.
- (a) Idiom 'eat a humble pie' means: to admit that one is wrong, usually when doing so triggers great embarrassment or shame.
- 81 (a) Idiom 'A tall order' means: very difficult to do or get.
- (d) In the sentence, 'to carve out a niche' means 'to develop a specific position for oneself'. The word 'niche' means 'a specialized area or sector'.
- 83. (c) The alternative meaning of the phrase 'to the letter' is
- 84. (c) The meaning of the idiom 'to read between the lines' is 'to understand the inner meaning'. So, the critic's work is to understand the inner meanings.
- 85. (a) The meaning of the idiom 'put my foot down' is 'to take a firm stand'. So, the meaning of the sentence implies that where discipline matters, one should take a firm stand.
- 86. (d) The idiom 'stood his ground' means 'refuse to yield'. So, as the meaning of the sentence implies, the convict claimed his innocence and refused to yield for the blames that were laid upon him.
- 87. (a) The idiom 'with all our might and main' means with great physical strength; great force.
- 88. (b) The idiom 'nailed their colours to their mast' means to defiantly display one's opinions and beliefs. Also, to show one's intention to hold on to those beliefs until the end.
- (b) The idiom 'batten down the hatches' means to prepare for difficult times.
- 90. (b) The idiom' she flies off at a tangent' means to pursue a somewhat related or irrelevant course while neglecting the main subject.
- 91. (b) The idiom ' go at equal speed' means to go neck-to-neck.
- (b) The idiom 'throw dust into eyes' means to confuse or mislead somebody to deceive.
- 93. (b) The idiom 'Maiden speech' means first speech.
- 94. (d) The idiom 'all ears' means listening eagerly and carefully.

- 95. (b) The idiom 'Salad days' refers to the time of youth, innocence, and inexperience.
- (a) The idiom 'Cool about working' means to be relaxed and having no problem.
- (a) The idiom 'dragging his feet' means to deal with something slowly because you do not really want to do it.
- (d) The idiom 'pass out' means to become unconscious and faint.
- (d) The idiom 'fair and square' means completely fair; justly; within the rules.
- 100. (c) At 'one's wit's end' means at the limits of one's mental resources; very upset.
- 101. (c) The idiom'All thumbs' means very awkward and clumsy, especially with one's hands.
- 102. (b) The phrase 'To rise with the lark' entails to rise very early in the morning.
- 103. (b) The idiom 'Wild-goose chase' means a worthless hunt or chase; a futile pursuit.
- 104. (a) The idiom 'Make a beeline' for someone or something means heading straight toward someone or something.
- 105. (d) The phrase 'Make amends for' means make payment to; compensate
- 106. (d) The idiom 'Leave somebody high and dry' means to leave someone alone in problem.
- 107. (d) If you are making a mountain out of a molehill, it means you are exaggerating things, blowing them out of proportion.
- 108. (c) The idiom 'spills the beans' means revealing the secret information.
- 109. (c) The idiom 'A snake in the grass' means a hidden enemy.
- 110. (c) 'Beehive' means a very busy place.
- 111. (d) To win laurels means to earn respect and prestige.
- 112. (c) Phrase 'In the Soup' means in trouble.
- 113. (c) Idiom 'draw the line' means to clearly seperate or create boundaries for two things.
- 114. (d) The idiom 'Cut the Gordian Knot' means to solve a very challenging or daunting problem decisively.
- 115. (a) The idiom 'To put in a nut-shell' means to state something very concisely.
- 116. (d) The idiom 'To make up one's mind' means to come to an opinion or decision.
- 117. (b) The idiom 'Take French leave' means a period when you are absent from work without asking for permission.
- 118. (b) The idiom 'The gnomes of Zurick' refers to Swiss bankers and the power and influence with which they control foreign money.
- (a) The idiom 'A sacred cow' means a person held to be above criticism.
- 120. (b) The idiom 'Shun evil company' means to avoid or to evade from a bad company (Group of People).
- 121. (a) The idiom A dog's breakfast means a complete mess.
- 122. (b) The idiom 'The seamy side of life' means the most unpleasant or roughest aspect of life.

- 123. (c) Phrase 'To keep in abeyance' means a state of temporary disuse or suspension.
- 124. (d) The idiom 'To be in a fix' means in a difficult situation.
- 125. (d) Idiom 'break the ice' means to do something as a means of reducing or eliminating shyness, awkward tension or unfamiliarity.
- 126. (c) Idiom 'wild goose chase' means a chaotic search for something that is difficult to find.
- 127. (b) Idiom 'Smell a rat' means to suspect a trick or deceit.
- 128. (b) 'A live wire' means an energetic, lively and active person.
- 129. (b) Phrase Pull a fast one- to succeed in an act of deception.
- 130. (d) Idiom Grease somebody's palmmeans to give someone money to persuade them to do what you want; to bribe someone.
- 131. (b) Idiom Turn turtle- to turn upside down.
- (a) Phrase 'to put one's foot down' means to act firmly or stand firmly.
- 133. (a) Idiom 'Have a foot in the grave' means to be on the verge of death/ to be almost dead.
- 134. (a) Idiom 'hornet's nest' means a dangerous or complicated situation
- 135. (b) Phrase 'To roll out the red Carpet' means to welcome someone with great or elaborate hospitality.
- 136. (d) Phrase 'To have an axe to grind' means to have a personal motivation or selfish reason for saying or doing something.
- (a) Phrase 'Cock and bull story' means a widly exaggerated or falsified story.
- 138. (c) Idiom 'Shake off' means: to rid or free oneself from someone or something that one finds upsetting or annoying.
- 139. (a) Idiom 'Sit on the fence' means: to not make a decision when presented with two options or possibilities.
- 140. (d) Idiom 'Under a cloud' means viewed with distrust or thought to be dishonorable.
- 141 (a) Phrase 'Pull a long face' means, to look sad, glum or disapproving.
- 142. (a) The idiom 'To keep the wolf from door' means to ward off starvation or financial ruin.
- 143. (b) If a project or new product has teething problems, it has problems in its early stages or when it first becomes available.
- 144. (b) Alpha and omega are the first and last letters of the greek alphabet. It means 'from beginning to end'.
- 145. (c) The idiom 'Throw up the sponge' means to admit defeat.
- 146. (c) Phrase 'Spick and span' means spotlessly clean.
- 147. (b) The idiom "to draw the long bow" means to exaggerate.
- 148. (a) Idiom 'Ended in a fiasco' means to end with a failure.
- 149. (d) Idiom 'Sow wild oats' means to do wild and foolish things.
- 150. (b) An outline representing or bounding the shape or form of something is called 'contour'.
- 151. (d) Idiom 'Head over heels' means to be madly in love.

- 152. (d) Phrase 'An iron will' mean a burning determination that cannot be stopped or hindered by anything.
- 153. (a) Idiom 'Get into a soup' mean be in, or get yourself or somebody into, trouble or difficulties.
- 154. (c) Idiom 'Haul over the coals' means to scold, reprimand, or reprove someone severely for an error or mistake.
- 155. (d) Phrase 'To carry the day' mean to be victorious or successful.
- 156. (b) Phrase 'Go over' means to examine or look at something in a careful or detailed way.
- 157. (d) Idiom 'Apple of one's eye' means something or someone that one cherishes above all others.
- 158. (d) Idiom 'Ball is in your court' means -One needs to take some action to keep something going.
- 159. (a) Idiom 'Last straw' means the final difficulty in a series; the last little burden or problem that causes everything to collapse.
- 160. (a) Phrase 'Back to square one' means back to where one started, with no progress having been made.
- 161. (b) Phrase 'Burst your bubble' means giving information to another person that will more likely disappoint them.
- 162. (c) Phrase 'As good as word' means obedient to one's promise; dependable in keeping one's promises.
- 163. (d) Phrase 'Off colour' means slightly unwell.
- 164. (c) Phrase 'Take a hike' means leave or go away (used as an expression of irritation or annoyance).
- 165. (a) The idiom 'pain in the neck' means 'very irritating, aggravating, or obnoxious'.
- 166. (a) The idiom 'beat around the bush' means 'to avoid talking about what is important'.
- 167. (d) The idiom 'in black and white' means 'in written or printed form'. All other options are irrelevant.
- 168. (d) The idiom 'under somebody's nose' means 'directly in front of someone'. Hence, option (d) is correct.
- 169. (d) 170. (b) 171. (c)
- 172. (c) The idiom 'in the nick of time' means 'only just in time'.
- 173. (a) The idiom 'To turn over a new leaf' mean 'start to act or below in a better or more responsible only.
- 174. (b)
- 175. (b) The idiom 'in a long run' means 'eventually'.

- 176. (d) The idiom 'bury the hatchet' means 'to forget past quarrels'.
- 177. (c) The idiom 'feather in the cap' means 'an achievement, a success or an honour'.
- 178. (b) Fed up means annoyed, unhappy or bored.
- 179. (d)
- 180. (b) 'Apples and oranges' have no match, so, the idiom 'apples and oranges' means 'different thing'
- 181. (c) The idiom 'at the drop of a hat' means 'immediately'. So, the option no. (c) is the correct option.
- 182. (d) The idiom to take French leave means to go without permission; go away without telling anyone. Hence, option (d) is the right answer.
- 183. (c) The idiom 'a hard nut to crack' means a difficult problem.
- 184. (a) The ball is in one's court means to be responsible for further action.
- 185. (b) Bend over backwards means to go the extra mile to do something. Therefore, 'to exert a lot of effort towards some end' is the correct response.
- 186. (c) Actions speak louder than words means what you do reveals the real you.
- 187. (c) A Piece of cake is something easy.
- 188. (b) Be at a loss for words means not knowing what to say.
- 189. (d) Want to curl up and die means to "feel terribly ashamed and sorry."
- 190. (c) Not one's cup of tea is not according to one's interest.
- 191. (a) To cross one's mind is 'To think of something'.
- 192. (b) Sufficient means adequate and its opposite is inadequate.
- 193. (a) At loggerheads means-to disagree strongly.
- 194. (d) At a stretch means without a stop.
- 195. (a) Once and for all means -finally.
- 196. (d) To twist someone's arm is to persuade someone to do something.
- 197. (c) To call the shots means to have control.
- 198. (b) Dry run means-rehearsal of an event.
- 199. (c) At a snail's pace means very slowly.
- 200. (a) A dry run means a rehearsal.
- 201. (d) little by little means gradually.
- 202. (b) give a hand means to assist.
- 203. (c) Look out means to be careful.
- 204. (b) Call on means visit.



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