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IDIOMS AND PHRASES

CHAPTER

(PRACTICE SET)

Directions : In questions 1 to 300, four alternatives are given for the idiom/ phrase underlined in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the idiom/phrase and mark it in the Answer Sheet.

1. **To strain every nerve**
(A) to make utmost efforts
(B) to feel weak and tired
(C) to be a diligent worker
(D) to be methodical in work
2. **To flog a dead horse**
(A) to whip a dead horse
(B) attempt to do the impossible
(C) waste one's efforts
(D) to take advantage of a weakness
3. **To show a clean pair of heels**
(A) to hide (B) to escape
(C) to pursue (D) to follow
4. **To die in harness**
(A) premeditated murder
(B) dying young in an accident
(C) to die while in service
(D) to be taken by surprise
5. **To feather one's nest**
(A) to make a residential house
(B) something that lasts for a short time
(C) to profit in a dishonest way
(D) none of the above
6. **To doctor the accounts**
(A) to make changes in account books
(B) to clear the doctors' bill
(C) to verify the accounts in detail
(D) to manipulate the accounts
7. **She could never measure up to her parent's expectation.**
(A) Reach the level
(B) Work as hard
(C) Assess the amount
(D) Increase her height
8. **The little girl with her flawless performance stole the show.**
(A) Stole something from the show
(B) Crept into the show
(C) Won everybody's praise
(D) Disappeared from the show
9. **The thief was on good terms with the police.**
(A) Kept terms and conditions
(B) Was friendly
(C) Followed the rules
(D) Agreed with them
10. **John's offer of help was turned down by the police.**
(A) Sent back
(B) Twisted around
(C) Refused
(D) Handed over
11. **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

- 12. To take to one's heels**
 (A) to walk slowly
 (B) to run away
 (C) to march forward
 (D) to hop and jump
- 13. To bite the dust**
 (A) eat voraciously
 (B) have nothing to eat
 (C) eat roots
 (D) to fail
- 14. A bolt from the blue**
 (A) a delayed event
 (B) an inexplicable event
 (C) an unexpected event
 (D) an unpleasant event
- 15. Cold comfort**
 (A) absurdity
 (B) deception
 (C) slight satisfaction
 (D) foolish proposal
- 16. The reputed company is in the red due to the recession.**
 (A) making money
 (B) losing money
 (C) in danger
 (D) spending money
- 17. When the Principal was entering the class, all my friends quietly disappeared, leaving me alone to face the music.**
 (A) to listen to him
 (B) to enter into the class
 (C) to bear the criticism
 (D) to listen to a favourable comment
- 18. The Kenyan team proved to be the dark horse in the ICC World Cup Cricket.**
 (A) a strong intruder
 (B) a skilled team
 (C) the most powerful
 (D) an unexpected winner
- 19. Having no arguments to defend his point, the speaker began to beat about the bush.**
 (A) wander across the words
 (B) speak in a haphazard manner
 (C) speak in a round-about manner
 (D) make use of irrelevant reference
- 20. They were offered six months' rent in lieu of notice to vacate the building.**
 (A) in spite of
 (B) in place of
 (C) despite of
 (D) in addition to
- 21. We know that he is the one responsible for the discord but as he is well - connected all we can do is send him to Coventry.**
 (A) transfer him
 (B) commend him
 (C) boycott him
 (D) dismiss him
- 22. The noble man gave up the ghost.**
 (A) left the ghost
 (B) lived like a ghost
 (C) invited ghost
 (D) died
- 23. A Prime Minister cannot ride roughshod over his ministerial colleagues for long.**
 (A) deal unkindly with
 (B) take for granted
 (C) be high-handed with
 (D) exploit wilfully
- 24. He was down in the mouth as he was defeated in the elections.**
 (A) unable to speak
 (B) very depressed
 (C) very angry
 (D) very confused
- 25. They say, join the Army to drink life to the lees.**
 (A) to have the best of fun and fortune
 (B) to enjoy a life of drinking and dancing
 (C) to have a life full of adventures
 (D) to have the best of life

26. **The car in the backyard is proving to be a white elephant.**
 (A) very huge item
 (B) costly and useless possession
 (C) very expensive investment
 (D) useful material
27. **He takes leave once in a blue moon.**
 (A) regularly
 (B) often
 (C) rarely
 (D) once a fortnight
28. **The meeting has been put off indefinitely.**
 (A) cancelled
 (B) postponed
 (C) advanced
 (D) announced
29. **The rules of the deal are set forth in the brochure.**
 (A) stated
 (B) accepted
 (C) contradicted
 (D) printed
30. **She bought her new house for a song.**
 (A) very cheaply
 (B) on loan
 (C) at a loss
 (D) very easily
31. **Raju had given up doing exercise after surgery.**
 (A) learned (B) started
 (C) continued (D) stopped
32. **The chairman tried to get his point across, but the members just wouldn't listen.**
 (A) give them a lesson
 (B) insist on
 (C) make them understand
 (D) motivate them
33. **Ashok had all fair-weather friends.**
 (A) friends who face difficulties calmly.
 (B) favourable friends
 (C) friends who desert you in difficulties
 (D) reliable friends
34. **Since the company has lost a good deal of time and money, you will have to make good the loss.**
 (A) make a good effort
 (B) try to minimize the loss
 (C) compensate for the loss
 (D) ensure that there are no forth losses
35. **a damp squib**
 (A) rainy weather
 (B) a disappointing result
 (C) a skirt in a laundry
 (D) none of the above
36. **in cold blood**
 (A) angrily
 (B) deliberately
 (C) excitedly
 (D) slowly
37. **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
38. **to move heaven and earth**
 (A) to cause an earthquake
 (B) to try everything possible
 (C) to pray to all Gods
 (D) to travel in a rocket
39. **to smell a rat**
 (A) to smell foul
 (B) to see a rat
 (C) to chase a rat
 (D) to be suspicious
40. **The possession of Jerusalem is a bone of contention between Israel and Palestine.**
 (A) a subject of peace
 (B) a subject of trade
 (C) a subject of dispute
 (D) a subject of exports
41. **My friend turned a deaf ear to my tale of loss and refused to help me.**
 (A) paid no heed
 (B) went far away
 (C) listened carefully
 (D) turned his ear away

42. **Helena was over head and ears in love with Demetrius.**
 (A) carefully (B) completely
 (C) brilliantly (D) cautiously
43. **Gopi works by fits and starts.**
 (A) consistently
 (B) irregularly
 (C) in high spirits
 (D) enthusiastically
44. **Naresh Goyal had to stand on his feet very early in his life.**
 (A) to be physically strong
 (B) to be independent
 (C) to stand erect
 (D) to be successful
45. **It is high time he came out of his shell.**
 (A) appeared suddenly
 (B) became more sociable
 (C) became a loser
 (D) removed his clothes
46. **Every political party is at present playing to the gallery.**
 (A) adopting cheap tactics
 (B) befooling the common man
 (C) fighting for votes
 (D) appeasing the masses
47. **His blood ran cold when he heard his uncle was murdered.**
 (A) He was frightened
 (B) He was horrified
 (C) He was disgusted
 (D) He was depressed
48. **This is so simple that even a man in the street can understand it.**
 (A) an ordinary person
 (B) an illiterate person
 (C) an unknown person
 (D) a stranger
49. **When he went to claim insurance for his car, the agent said he hadn't a leg to stand on.**
 (A) had been injured in an accident
 (B) was lame
 (C) did not have much hope of getting it
 (D) would have to wait for some time
50. **to cast aspersions**
 (A) to act as the pillar of support
 (B) to raise aspirations
 (C) to make unpleasant remarks
 (D) to dissolve all the differences
51. **on the cards**
 (A) impossible
 (B) shocking
 (C) evident
 (D) anticipated
52. **To turn over a new leaf**
 (A) to change for the better
 (B) to start writing a new book
 (C) to work on a novel idea
 (D) to clear the garden
53. **To keep up one's appearances**
 (A) to make public appearances now and then.
 (B) to maintain one's looks and appearance.
 (C) to keep up an outward show of prosperity.
 (D) to make it appear that one is not concerned.
54. **Off and on**
 (A) repeatedly
 (B) always
 (C) occasionally
 (D) never
55. **To take with a grain of salt**
 (A) to make more palatable
 (B) to take a small quantity of
 (C) to make something meaningful
 (D) to accept with misgiving
56. **To talk through one's hat**
 (A) to talk carefully
 (B) to talk softly
 (C) to talk nonsense
 (D) to talk secretly
57. **Ins and outs**
 (A) entrances and exits
 (B) details and complexities
 (C) passages and pathways
 (D) rules and regulations

58. The thief passed himself off as a ticket examiner.
 (A) described himself
 (B) deceived everyone
 (C) disguised himself
 (D) was regarded
59. A brave soldier will never show the white feather in the face of his enemy.
 (A) show signs of cowardice
 (B) act arrogantly
 (C) show intimacy
 (D) act impudently
60. The poor man moved from pillar to post to get money.
 (A) went to pillars
 (B) went to post
 (C) went to money lender
 (D) tried his best
61. You have to be tactful in handling the sensitive matters rather than putting the cart before the horse.
 (A) treating these indifferently
 (B) behaving thoughtlessly
 (C) dealing with these in haste
 (D) tackling things in the wrong way
62. The boys cried with one voice that the examination should be postponed.
 (A) unanimously
 (B) vehemently
 (C) loudly
 (D) strongly
63. The scheme appears worthless at the first blush.
 (A) first attempt (B) first sight
 (C) first step (D) first phase
64. His pronunciation was so bad and his voice so low that the speech he made was all Greek to me.
 (A) strange
 (B) incomprehensible
 (C) inaudible
 (D) uninteresting
65. He looked blank when he was informed about his dismissal.
 (A) was without any emotion
 (B) was puzzled and surprised
 (C) was uninterested
 (D) was unhappy
66. That fellow trumped up a story
 (A) translated
 (B) sang with the music of a trumpet
 (C) concocted
 (D) copied
67. Though he is not a scholar, he wins arguments because he has the gift of the gab.
 (A) gifts from many people
 (B) a lot of money
 (C) talent for speaking
 (D) a good memory
68. The A.T.S. set the bait to arrest the terrorists.
 (A) laid the trap
 (B) announced the reward
 (C) set the record
 (D) put the bet
69. I have decided to give it a shot.
 (A) click a picture
 (B) try something
 (C) pose for a picture
 (D) injure someone
70. He turned a blind eye to his son's pranks.
 (A) pretended not to notice
 (B) paid special attention to
 (C) covered up for
 (D) punished severely
71. All his schemes to murder the king ended in smoke.
 (A) fructified gradually
 (B) came to nothing
 (C) were discarded
 (D) were partially carried out

72. **This fashion of long flowing skirts will run its course.**
 (A) continue for a long time
 (B) become very popular
 (C) develop and then come to its usual end
 (D) end very soon
73. **The police caught the thief red-handed.**
 (A) in a red uniform
 (B) with blood in hands
 (C) at the time of committing the crime
 (D) after reading the rules
74. **I was so disappointed when my close friend left me in the lurch.**
 (A) went away without waiting for me
 (B) helped me in difficult times
 (C) abandoned me when I needed help
 (D) stopped helping me in emergency
75. **His position in the company was on the brink of disaster.**
 (A) at the top of
 (B) at the point of
 (C) on the side of
 (D) on the back of
76. **The car broke down just as it reached the edge of a cliff. It was indeed a close shave.**
 (A) to share one's brand
 (B) very risky
 (C) narrow escape from danger
 (D) to be happy
77. **The parents are in high spirits as their son has got a decent job.**
 (A) in good position (B) drunk
 (C) cheerful (D) shocked
78. **When she realised that she had bought a fake product, she knew that her money had gone down the drain.**
 (A) was lost forever
 (B) dropped in the drain
 (C) got washed away
 (D) her money was safe
79. **Even though the new clerk was given a difficult task, he remained cool as a cucumber.**
 (A) not nervous or emotional
 (B) caught cold
 (C) was happy
 (D) was scared
80. **Some people do not grease anybody's palm on any account.**
 (A) bribe (B) flatter
 (C) cheat (D) fight
81. **I had to pull strings to put up a good show.**
 (A) play music
 (B) use personal influence
 (C) use the instrument
 (D) play a song
82. **You can easily overcome this situation if you keep your head.**
 (A) keep faith in
 (B) remain calm
 (C) believe in
 (D) trust the others
83. **It is clear that the ideas of both reformers ran in the same groove.**
 (A) promoted each other
 (B) clashed with each other
 (C) moved in harmony
 (D) moved in different directions
84. **This place affords a bird's eye view of the green valley below.**
 (A) a beautiful view
 (B) a narrow view
 (C) an overview
 (D) an ugly view
85. **To foam at one's mouth**
 (A) to brush properly
 (B) to get very angry
 (C) to salivate on seeing food
 (D) none of the above
86. **To feel like a fish out of water**
 (A) disgusted
 (B) uncomfortable
 (C) disappointed
 (D) homeless

87. At the eleventh hour

- (A) too late
- (B) too early
- (C) immediately
- (D) at the last moment

88. to burn one's fingers

- (A) to get hurt physically
- (B) to suffer financial losses
- (C) to find work
- (D) to suffer nervous breakdown

89. to add fuel to fire

- (A) to investigate
- (B) to insulate
- (C) to initiate
- (D) to incite

90. To bring to light

- (A) to reveal
- (B) to conceal
- (C) to provide luminescence
- (D) to appeal

91. To hit the jackpot

- (A) to gamble
- (B) to get an unexpected victory
- (C) to be wealthy
- (D) to make money quickly

92. To burn the candle at both ends

- (A) to spend cautiously
- (B) to be stingy
- (C) to be extravagant
- (D) to survive difficulty

93. Status quo

- (A) unchanged position
- (B) excellent place
- (C) unbreakable statue
- (D) long queue

94. By fair means or foul

- (A) without using common sense
- (B) without difficulty
- (C) in any way, honest or dishonest
- (D) having been instigated

95. at one's beck and call

- (A) to attend a call
- (B) to be helped by someone
- (C) to be useful to someone
- (D) to be dominated by someone

96. to explore every avenue

- (A) to search all streets
- (B) to scout the wilderness
- (C) to find adventure
- (D) to try every opportunity

97. a red letter day

- (A) a dangerous day in one's life
- (B) a sorrowful day in one's life
- (C) an important or joyful occasion in one's life
- (D) both a dangerous and sorrowful day in one's life

98. to have something up one's sleeve

- (A) to hide something in the sleeve
- (B) to play a magician trick
- (C) to have a secret plan
- (D) to play hide and seek

99. on the spur of the moment

- (A) to act at once
- (B) to ride a horse in a race
- (C) to act deliberately
- (D) to act at the appointed time

100. When my friend was in Kolkata, he ran into an old friend at the theatre.

- (A) hit
- (B) met accidentally
- (C) planned to meet
- (D) invited

101. The news of the President's death spread like wild fire.

- (A) spread rapidly
- (B) caused a major confusion
- (C) was a wild rumour
- (D) set the nation on fire

102. Going abroad for a holiday was out of the question.

- (A) undesirable
- (B) impossible
- (C) unpleasant
- (D) irresistible

- 103. As a businessman, my father always maintained that his transactions constituted an open book.**
 (A) an account book always open
 (B) a book of open confessions
 (C) an opening for new ventures
 (D) straight forward and honest dealings
- 104. The project advanced by leaps and bounds.**
 (A) rapidly (B) slowly
 (C) sharply (D) simply
- 105. She is too fond of her own voice.**
 (A) loves singing
 (B) very selfish
 (C) does not listen properly to anyone else
 (D) very talkative
- 106. Indian police is, on the whole, high handed in dealing with citizens.**
 (A) kind
 (B) overbearing
 (C) prompt
 (D) adept
- 107. I take exception to your statement that I am bad tempered.**
 (A) do not agree
 (B) feel unhappy
 (C) object
 (D) feel angry
- 108. His speech fell short on the audience.**
 (A) had no effect
 (B) moved the audience
 (C) impressed the audience
 (D) was quite short
- 109. The officer called for an explanation from the cashier for the shortage of cash.**
 (A) asked (B) begged
 (C) served a notice (D) demanded
- 110. We wanted the gift to be a surprise for my mother, but my sister gave the game away.**
 (A) lost the game
 (B) gave out the secret
 (C) gave away the gift
 (D) withdrew from the plan
- 111. The actress took cue from her brother and became successful.**
 (A) some help
 (B) a hint
 (C) some money
 (D) learnt acting
- 112. Let us have a heart to heart talk to solve this problem.**
 (A) good talk
 (B) emotional talk
 (C) frank talk
 (D) loving talk
- 113. To miss the bus**
 (A) to miss the bus that one regularly takes
 (B) to miss an opportunity
 (C) to have something to fall back upon
 (D) to find fault with others
- 114. Birds of the same feather**
 (A) persons of same caste
 (B) persons of same colour
 (C) birds with same type of feather
 (D) persons of same character
- 115. To fight tooth and nail**
 (A) to fight a losing battle
 (B) to fight heroically
 (C) to fight cowardly
 (D) to make every possible effort
- 116. To call a spade a spade**
 (A) to be frank
 (B) to be sly
 (C) to be rude
 (D) to be diplomatic
- 117. by putting two and two together**
 (A) to mix several things
 (B) to make an arithmetical calculation
 (C) to keep people in pairs
 (D) to deduce from given facts
- 118. to look down one's nose**
 (A) to show anger
 (B) to retaliate
 (C) to insult in the presence of others
 (D) to regard with contempt

119. to shed crocodile tears

- (A) to weep profusely
- (B) to pretend grief
- (C) to grieve seriously
- (D) to mock something

120. To call it a day

- (A) to conclude proceedings
- (B) to initiate proceedings
- (C) to work through the day
- (D) None of the above

121. To put up with

- (A) to accommodate
- (B) to adjust
- (C) to understand
- (D) to tolerate

122. To take to heart

- (A) to be encouraged
- (B) to grieve over
- (C) to like
- (D) to hate

123. Yeoman's service

- (A) medical help
- (B) excellent work
- (C) social work
- (D) hard work

124. to go scot-free

- (A) to walk like a native of Scotland
- (B) to get something free
- (C) to escape without punishment
- (D) to save tax

125. to see red

- (A) get broke
- (B) get angry
- (C) feel lucky
- (D) become rich

126. in the nick of time

- (A) in an unexpected time
- (B) after some time
- (C) at a time when it was too late
- (D) precisely in the right time

127. the stage has been set

- (A) the conditions are beyond control
- (B) the platform for meeting is ready
- (C) the situation is getting worse
- (D) the situation is conducive

128. on this side of the grave

- (A) outside the grave
- (B) by the side of the grave
- (C) in this world
- (D) before going to grave

129. A man who, while pretending to be your friend, sets a spy to watch your activities is indeed a snake in the grass.

- (A) secret enemy
- (B) mean fellow
- (C) dangerous man
- (D) cunning fellow

130. The audience was greatly impressed though I spoke off the cuff.

- (A) away from the mike
- (B) without preparation
- (C) off the subject
- (D) about the cuff

131. After listening to the student's statements, the teacher had to eat her words.

- (A) withdraw her words
- (B) stop speaking
- (C) apologize
- (D) quarrel

132. to lose ground

- (A) to become less powerful
- (B) to become less popular
- (C) to lose foundation
- (D) to be without a leader

133. to make both ends meet

- (A) to buy costly articles
- (B) live a luxurious life
- (C) to live within one's income
- (D) to please all people

134. to fall back on

- (A) to oppose something important
- (B) to suffer an injury on the back in an accident
- (C) to fail to do something important in time
- (D) to seek support out of necessity

- 135. to make one's blood boil**
 (A) to make somebody furious
 (B) to develop fever
 (C) to get excited
 (D) to make someone nervous
- 136. She decided that she would get this job by hook or by crook.**
 (A) by compromising or other responsibilities
 (B) by impressing the interviewers
 (C) by any means, right or wrong
 (D) by becoming a specialist in the field
- 137. In a debate, no one is allowed to sit on the fence.**
 (A) to avoid taking sides
 (B) to insult a speaker
 (C) to relax while others speak
 (D) to agree with everyone
- 138. The matter has been sorted out.**
 (A) revised (B) supported
 (C) resolved (D) changed
- 139. The soldiers carried out the orders of the General very effectively.**
 (A) exited (B) executed
 (C) supported (D) applied
- 140. They set off by car for Mumbai late in the evening.**
 (A) started (B) travelled
 (C) entered (D) resonated
- 141. Once his crime was discovered, he had no option but to come clean.**
 (A) to deny the crime
 (B) to confess to the crime
 (C) to accuse someone else of the crime
 (D) to apologize for the crime
- 142. The employees were kept in the dark about the latest developments.**
 (A) were informed after office hours
 (B) were informed when it was too late
 (C) were given secret information
 (D) were not informed at all
- 143. When things go wrong, everyone starts passing the buck.**
 (A) analyses the problem
 (B) prepares to resign
 (C) pays a bribe
 (D) blames someone else
- 144. To keep the wolf away from the door.**
 (A) to avoid a bad person
 (B) to clean the house
 (C) to avoid extreme poverty
 (D) to visit the zoo
- 145. To break the ice**
 (A) to clear the snow
 (B) to start quarreling
 (C) to commence an interaction
 (D) to revive old enmity
- 146. Spick and span**
 (A) neat and clean
 (B) hard-working
 (C) kitchen implements
 (D) calm and quiet
- 147. The pros and cons**
 (A) good and evil
 (B) first and last
 (C) fair and foul
 (D) for and against
- 148. Build castles in the air**
 (A) waste time (B) daydream
 (C) build houses (D) work hard
- 149. Sought after**
 (A) highly paid
 (B) pursued by
 (C) in great demand
 (D) with great talent
- 150. All at sea**
 (A) very proud (B) overjoyed
 (C) puzzled (D) excited
- 151. To hit below the belt**
 (A) to punish
 (B) to tie with a belt
 (C) to hit with a belt
 (D) to attack unfairly

152. Pot-luck dinner

- (A) dinner where everybody brings something to eat
- (B) dinner where everybody brings his food
- (C) dinner where only soup is served
- (D) dinner where people eat and play games at the same time

153. His friends beat the boy to pay off old scores.

- (A) to refund old dues.
- (B) to take revenge.
- (C) to force him to be a scorer in a match.
- (D) because he had not scored well earlier.

154. Chintan is so innocent that he wears his heart on his sleeve.

- (A) Wears dress that does not match.
- (B) Expresses his feelings openly.
- (C) Wears colourful dresses.
- (D) Expresses his feelings with the shape of a heart printed on its sleeve.

155. Tagore was a man of letters.

- (A) of wide contacts.
- (B) an excellent letter dictator.
- (C) a great writer of letters.
- (D) proficient in literaterary art.

156. The poor subordinates are made scapegoats by their superiors.

- (A) punished for others' misdeeds.
- (B) developed poor relations.
- (C) treated humbly and respectfully.
- (D) scolded with arrogant reactions.

157. She was on the horns of a dilemma as she had either to leave her job or divorce her husband.

- (A) in nervous condition
- (B) in terrible mood
- (C) in difficult situation
- (D) in suspense

158. Brown study

- (A) to study sincerely
- (B) to study uselessly

(C) deep in thought

(D) practical advantage

159. The young boy was kicking his heels inspite of his mother's stern warnings.

- (A) playing happily
- (B) kicking someone
- (C) forced to wait
- (D) passing a gesture of disrespect

160. She denied point-blank her involvement in the crime.

- (A) directly
- (B) desperately
- (C) stubbornly
- (D) rudely

161. It is hard to strike a bargain with a woman.

- (A) to finalize a deal
- (B) to negotiate a deal
- (C) to negotiate
- (D) to deal

162. He took his father's advice to heart.

- (A) casually
- (B) patiently
- (C) seriously
- (D) quietly

163. Can you give me a hand with this luggage?

- (A) keep a watch on
- (B) handle
- (C) provide me with
- (D) help me with

164. Fling away

- (A) to have an affair
- (B) to flare up
- (C) to throw violently
- (D) to swing

165. Stick by

- (A) to adhere closely
- (B) stand by someone
- (C) to paste
- (D) to pass by

166. Wink at

- (A) to tease somebody
- (B) to like someone
- (C) to pretend not to see
- (D) to stare at

167. To be on the wane

- (A) to complain
- (B) to be sick
- (C) to be on boat
- (D) to be diminishing

168. To give a person the cold shoulder

- (A) to offer someone ice-cream
- (B) to be humble
- (C) to threaten
- (D) to treat coldly

169. To get one's back up

- (A) to become irritated or angry
- (B) to sit straight
- (C) to act proud
- (D) to give support

170. To strike oil

- (A) to have found an oil well
- (B) to have lucky success
- (C) to have a close escape
- (D) to be unsuccessful

171. To talk shop

- (A) to talk a lot
- (B) to use phrases peculiar to one's employment
- (C) to like to shop
- (D) to lie

172. To draw a line

- (A) to fix a limit
- (B) to caution someone
- (C) to be stern
- (D) to insult someone

173. A swan song

- (A) melodious song
- (B) disharmonious display
- (C) utterance/statement made just before death or retirement
- (D) concocted tale

174. Knit one's brows

- (A) to disappoint somebody
- (B) to frown
- (C) to have a headache
- (D) to express discontentment

175. To plough the sands

- (A) to be extremely accomplished
- (B) to be resourceful
- (C) to be dejected
- (D) to busy oneself in an unprofitable proposition

176. To rip up old sores

- (A) to destroy something
- (B) to act cruelly
- (C) to reopen a quarrel
- (D) to inflict pain on someone

177. To rate soundly

- (A) to censure strongly
- (B) to acquire heavy profits
- (C) to be at peace
- (D) to assure somebody

178. To be no spring chicken

- (A) to be brave
- (B) to be honest
- (C) to be no longer young
- (D) to be childish

179. To take to one's bed

- (A) to be very attached to one's belongings
- (B) to lie in bed due to illness
- (C) to fight with one's husband
- (D) to agree with someone

180. To stand on ceremony

- (A) to celebrate an occasion in a grand way
- (B) to be extravagant
- (C) to get married
- (D) to insist on excessive formality

181. To be at sixes and sevens

- (A) a state of total confusion and disorder
- (B) to be a great success
- (C) to be certain
- (D) to give away generously

182. To break the ice

- (A) a strong man
- (B) to start a quarrel
- (C) to break the awkward silence
- (D) to become violent

183. Put one's foot down

- (A) to demand
- (B) to take rest
- (C) to be firm about something
- (D) to do something stupid

184. Backstairs influence

- (A) one who is easily influenced
- (B) influential person
- (C) influence exerted secretly
- (D) wife's influence on her husband

185. Long in the tooth

- (A) distant journey
- (B) rather old
- (C) ailment
- (D) young

186. A brazen-faced fellow

- (A) cruel person
- (B) ugly person
- (C) dark-complexioned person
- (D) impudent fellow

187. To see pink elephants

- (A) to dream
- (B) to anticipate luck
- (C) to be afraid of
- (D) to have hallucination due to excessive alcoholic intake.

188. Elbow room

- (A) opportunity for freedom of action
- (B) special room for the guest
- (C) to give enough space to move or work in
- (D) to add a new room to the house

189. French leave

- (A) a person who does not take leave
- (B) leave without permission
- (C) to take long leave
- (D) to take a day off and have fun

190. To commit to memory

- (A) to learn by heart
- (B) to tax one's memory
- (C) to be forgetful
- (D) to commit oneself totally to a task

191. To burn a hole in the pocket

- (A) to steal from someone's pocket
- (B) to destroy other's belongings
- (C) to be very miserly
- (D) money that is spent quickly

192. To bury the hatchet

- (A) to have found a treasure
- (B) to make peace
- (C) to purchase something without discretion
- (D) to act in a suspicious manner

193. To beggar description

- (A) something of least importance
- (B) something beyond description
- (C) to describe a beggar
- (D) an accurate description

194. To beat the air

- (A) efforts that are vain or useless
- (B) to be satisfied with one's performance
- (C) to be extremely relieved
- (D) to be very happy

195. To provide against a rainy day

- (A) to provide plentiful
- (B) to provide for a possible future, in time of difficulty or need
- (C) to store for the family
- (D) to store for the rainy season

196. To be all eyes

- (A) to be cautious
- (B) watching closely and attentively
- (C) to be amazed
- (D) to be non-plussed

197. Swollen headed

- (A) to be suffering from illness
- (B) to be conceited
- (C) to be narrow-minded
- (D) to be dumb

198. To stir up a hornet's nest

- (A) to excite the hostility of people
- (B) to do some social service
- (C) to be totally at a loss in a situation
- (D) to be bankrupt

199. My hands are full

- (A) I am having a lot of things to carry
- (B) I am having lots of money
- (C) I am very busy
- (D) I am anxious

200. No love lost between them

- (A) to have a fight
- (B) to dislike each other
- (C) to be as friendly as ever
- (D) to be upset

201. To be hand and glove with someone

- (A) to be social
- (B) to be playful
- (C) to be annoyed
- (D) to be intimate

202. To play fast and loose

- (A) to deceive someone
- (B) to be agile
- (C) say one thing and do another
- (D) to be efficient

203. To take stock of

- (A) to imagine
- (B) to supply
- (C) to survey
- (D) to attract

204. A man of straw

- (A) a man of no substance
- (B) a man without means
- (C) a man of character
- (D) a generous man

205. Wolf in sheep's clothing

- (A) to act on the sly
- (B) to be a good actor
- (C) to be a hypocrite
- (D) to be money-minded or materialistic

206. To cut someone short

- (A) to oblige someone
- (B) to assist someone
- (C) to interrupt someone
- (D) to insult someone

207. To stick to one's colours

- (A) to refuse to yield
- (B) to be patriotic
- (C) to be notorious
- (D) to be straightforward

208. An old head on young shoulders

- (A) to be old before one's age
- (B) to be wise beyond one's age
- (C) to be youthful in spite of one's old age
- (D) to maintain good health

209. To snap one's fingers at

- (A) to honour someone
- (B) to greet someone
- (C) to beckon someone
- (D) to treat with contempt

210. Falling foul of

- (A) quarrelling with
- (B) becoming friends with
- (C) being dishonest with
- (D) being scared of

211. Harp on the same string

- (A) to play music
- (B) to dwell tediously on the same subject
- (C) to beat someone
- (D) to acknowledge

212. Keep a good table

- (A) to have an artistic taste
- (B) to throw a party
- (C) to be a good host
- (D) to be extravagant

213. Take up the cudgels

- (A) to take notice
- (B) to accept a present
- (C) to defend someone vigorously
- (D) to accept a challenge

214. Splitting hairs

- (A) to be worried
- (B) to be venturesome
- (C) to trouble someone
- (D) to dispute over petty points

215. A great hand at

- (A) to be a good artist
- (B) to be an expert
- (C) to be a good player
- (D) to be generous

216. To make a pile

- (A) to make a fortune
- (B) to make a mess
- (C) to be absent-minded
- (D) to be corrupt

217. Under someone's wing

- (A) to work under someone
- (B) to be under someone's protection
- (C) to be alert
- (D) to be in the army

218. To sow one's wild oats

- (A) to swear
- (B) to be at ease
- (C) to engage in youthful excesses
- (D) to till the land

219. An olive branch

- (A) an offer of peace
- (B) an idea
- (C) a lady
- (D) a wicked person

220. Not worth a rap

- (A) worth nothing
- (B) very expensive
- (C) worth a lot
- (D) modestly priced

221. In merry pin

- (A) perplexed
- (B) merry making
- (C) embarrassed
- (D) in a cheerful mood

222. To leap the pale

- (A) to throw a bucket
- (B) to get into debt, to spend more than one's income
- (C) to have much of fear
- (D) to become pale

223. To cut the gordian knot

- (A) to perform the opening ceremony
- (B) to be present at the opening ceremony
- (C) to solve a difficult problem
- (D) to get a sharp cut

224. To sow the wind and reap the whirlwind

- (A) to enjoy the fruits of hard work
- (B) to be deprived of one's reward
- (C) to act wisely
- (D) to suffer for one's foolish conduct

225. To play possum

- (A) to play hide and seek
- (B) to feign ignorance or pretend to be sleeping or dead
- (C) to cheat somebody
- (D) to play seriously

226. A grass widow

- (A) a young widow
- (B) widow who has illicit relations with men
- (C) a woman whose husband is temporarily away from her
- (D) a working old woman

227. Mad as a March hare

- (A) sane
- (B) intoxicated
- (C) as mad as a hare in spring
- (D) slightly touched in the brain

228. Halcyon days

- (A) long days
- (B) short days
- (C) happy and peaceful days
- (D) disturbed days

229. Mother wit

- (A) to have an intelligent mother
- (B) university
- (C) silly
- (D) common sense

230. A blind date

- (A) a cloudy day
- (B) unknown future
- (C) meeting with someone you do not know
- (D) death-day

231. Much ado about nothing

- (A) to take something seriously
- (B) to play false
- (C) to make a fuss
- (D) to add

232. Judas' kiss

- (A) wooing
- (B) a narrow escape
- (C) hypocritical affection
- (D) a religious person

233. To have no truck with

- (A) have no means of conveyance
- (B) scientifically backward
- (C) to have no trade with
- (D) to have no dealings with

234. To clean the Augean stables

- (A) to purge/ clean the administration of its abuses
- (B) to buy horses
- (C) to sell horses
- (D) to improve working conditions

235. A fly in the ointment

- (A) to clean a thing
- (B) to sterilise
- (C) Small annoyance that spoils a pleasant experience.
- (D) an unsuccessful attempt

236. Of the deepest dye

- (A) of the worst/ extreme type
- (B) of the best type
- (C) of the most colourless type
- (D) of the colourless type

237. To throw up the sponge

- (A) to accept the challenge
- (B) to forget the past offences
- (C) to admit defeat
- (D) to send message

238. To rule the roost

- (A) to measure the height of something
- (B) to measure the depth
- (C) to strike with a stick
- (D) to dominate

239. Bats in the belfry

- (A) to be mad
- (B) something needed cleanliness
- (C) an impending danger
- (D) to be deceived

240. To have a jaundice eye

- (A) to have jaundice
- (B) to have fever
- (C) to be prejudiced
- (D) to lose colour

241. Rank and file

- (A) Common people
- (B) Officers
- (C) People of high rank
- (D) Army personnel

242. To egg on

- (A) to egg on slowly
- (B) to destroy slowly
- (C) to give a walk over
- (D) to instigate/ cause to proceed further

243. To haul over the coals

- (A) to walk over the fire
- (B) to burn
- (C) to scold for something done wrong
- (D) to throw into fire

244. To draw a bead on

- (A) to say prayers
- (B) to count the beads
- (C) to do one's best
- (D) to take careful aim at

245. Fabian policy

- (A) dictatorial policy
- (B) democratic policy
- (C) systematic policy
- (D) policy of cautious persistence

246. To play to the gallery

- (A) to try to get the appreciation from the least intelligent people
- (B) to try to win appreciation of intelligent people
- (C) to play in the gallery
- (D) to disturb people sitting in the gallery

247. Pyrrhic victory

- (A) Permanent victory
- (B) Defeat
- (C) Easy victory
- (D) Victory at high cost

248. Go the whole hog

- (A) to do something thoroughly
- (B) sleep
- (C) to neglect duty
- (D) to mishandle the case

249. To bite one's lips

- (A) to feel sorry
- (B) to repress one's anger or other emotions
- (C) laugh at others
- (D) to have doubt

250. To hold someone in leash

- (A) to restrain
- (B) to be firm
- (C) to be unsure
- (D) to touch the exact point

251. To cool one's heels

- (A) to give a cold treatment to somebody
- (B) to be kept waiting for sometime
- (C) a closed chapter
- (D) a hot issue

252. Bag of bones

- (A) a bag full of bones
- (B) a dead person
- (C) a person about to die
- (D) an extremely weak person

253. All moonshine

- (A) show
- (B) lighted only by moon
- (C) false
- (D) far from reality

254. To shake the dust off one's feet

- (A) to wash feet
- (B) to walk fast
- (C) to leave a place with a sense of resentment
- (D) to rest after a long journey

255. Off hand

- (A) Without preparation
- (B) Out of hand
- (C) Rehearsed
- (D) In hand

256. A bird of passage

- (A) a flying bird
- (B) an unreliable person
- (C) one who stays for a short time
- (D) bad time

257. Count on

- (A) Depend on
- (B) as a result of
- (C) ceremonially
- (D) to wait for the benefactor

258. With a string

- (A) not to give any aid
- (B) to give unconditional aid
- (C) gift or aid with condition
- (D) to accept aid

259. To set stores by

- (A) to value highly
- (B) to hoard a large quantity of something
- (C) to set up store
- (D) fix a price

260. To draw the long bow

- (A) to shoot
- (B) to exaggerate
- (C) to criticize
- (D) to admire

261. To know the ropes

- (A) to recognize the lost things
- (B) to do rigging
- (C) to know the procedure of doing a job
- (D) to flog

262. To give the devil his due

- (A) to be just to a person even though he does not deserve such treatment
- (B) to surrender oneself willingly when one's mistake is detected
- (C) to punish an innocent person
- (D) to punish a guilty person

263. In the swim

- (A) knowing latest current things
- (B) to cross a river by a boat
- (C) to cross a river by swimming
- (D) to be in the river

264. To knuckle under

- (A) to be in a crisis
- (B) to submit
- (C) to take rest
- (D) to go to bed

265. To have a dig at

- (A) to criticise someone
- (B) to sow seeds
- (C) to weed out
- (D) to praise someone

266. In vogue

- (A) in fashion
- (B) fair
- (C) smooth
- (D) total absence

267. Three R's

- (A) radiogram, radiograph, radio telescope
- (B) rabble, rattle, razzle
- (C) reading, writing, arithmetic
- (D) rail, radar, raft

268. A wild goose chase

- (A) foolish and useless enterprise
- (B) to hunt
- (C) a violent chase
- (D) to speak harshly

269. To rest on one's laurels

- (A) to cease to strive for further glory
- (B) to be lazy
- (C) to be proud of one's victory
- (D) to die

270. Raw deal

- (A) unjust treatment
- (B) unripe fruit
- (C) early stage of business
- (D) contract not yet finally decided

271. A forlorn hope

- (A) a plan which has remote chances of success
- (B) hope about unforeseeable future
- (C) hope of a single person
- (D) hope of a silly person

272. Printer's devil

- (A) an apprentice in a printing office
- (B) blunder
- (C) low type of printed material
- (D) delay in printing

273. To call on the carpet

- (A) subject to criticism
- (B) to summon for a scolding
- (C) a heartfelt welcome
- (D) on the ground

274. To bring the house down

- (A) to appeal greatly to the audience

- (B) to pull down a building
- (C) to defame one's family
- (D) to pass a bill unanimously

275. To have an edge on

- (A) to cut with a knife
- (B) to threaten to wound
- (C) to be slightly better than
- (D) to be in a dangerous situation

276. In sackcloth and ashes

- (A) to cremate
- (B) in a state of great mourning
- (C) dirty clothes
- (D) cheap clothes

277. To put two and two together

- (A) to progress steadily
- (B) to compare the debit and credit
- (C) to conclude keeping in view the merits and demerits
- (D) to oppose as a last resort

278. To weather the storm

- (A) to face a crisis
- (B) to survive a crisis
- (C) to be the victim of a crisis
- (D) to create crisis

279. Lump in the throat

- (A) to be hoarse
- (B) a highly emotional state
- (C) food of low type
- (D) wind-pipe

280. To fight shy of

- (A) to keep aloof from
- (B) to fight social evils
- (C) to be bold
- (D) to fight and win

281. Hobson's choice

- (A) lion's share
- (B) the best choice
- (C) option of taking the one offered or nothing
- (D) the last chance

282. To hit it off

- (A) to quarrel
- (B) to be hostile
- (C) to agree or be congenial
- (D) to threaten

283. To whitewash

- (A) to clean a place
- (B) to work hard
- (C) to retrieve damaged reputation
- (D) to use cosmetics

284. Within an ace of

- (A) very close
- (B) within one's means
- (C) within a narrow circle
- (D) near centre

285. To keep an open mind

- (A) to remember
- (B) to forget
- (C) to come to no decision on a subject until one knows all the facts
- (D) to be clear-headed

286. Open question

- (A) a question put to all
- (B) a question without any generally agreed answer
- (C) a permanent problem
- (D) a clearly-written/expressed question

287. On one's mettle

- (A) roused to do one's best
- (B) to put on an overcoat
- (C) to safeguard against attack
- (D) to use one's own money properly

288. To keep the pot boiling

- (A) to maintain interest
- (B) to heat
- (C) to show anger
- (D) to do experiments

289. Grist to one's mill

- (A) grain to be ground
- (B) useful for one's purpose
- (C) income from will
- (D) to work one's machine

290. Kangaroo court

- (A) a group of kangaroos
- (B) the young kangaroo
- (C) unofficial court
- (D) unofficial estimate

291. Wool gathering

- (A) to become a shepherd
- (B) to shear sheep

- (C) to engage in idle or aimless day dreaming
- (D) to live in the countryside

292. Between Scylla and Charybdis

- (A) between two hills
- (B) between two rivers
- (C) between two enemies
- (D) between two dangers

293. Achilles' heel

- (A) bare-foot
- (B) to run fast
- (C) to wait on somebody
- (D) one's vulnerable or susceptible spot

294. To know which side the bread is buttered on

- (A) to know where one's interest lies
- (B) to be a glutton
- (C) to be fond of rich diet
- (D) to know how to increase one's income

295. To eke out

- (A) to subtract
- (B) to supplement
- (C) to etch
- (D) to oust

296. To be in the doldrums

- (A) to be in low spirits
- (B) to be within doors
- (C) to praise loudly
- (D) to be in a crisis

297. Wild cat strike

- (A) a furious attack
- (B) strike not approved by the trade union
- (C) a strike in which violence is committed
- (D) to face a strong enemy

298. Blind alley

- (A) blindness due to old age
- (B) a dark room
- (C) unprofitable action
- (D) to continue to make efforts in spite of confusion

299. Tied to the apron strings of

- (A) be independent
 (B) to be dominated by
 (C) to live together
 (D) to fall in love with

300. Our school is within a stone's throw from the railway station

- (A) Very far-off
 (B) with a certain radius
 (C) at a short distance
 (D) within a definite circumference

ANSWER KEY

- | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|---------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----|
| 1. (A) 31. | (D) 61. | (D) 91. | (D) 121. | (B) 151. | (D) 181. | (A) 211. | (B) 241. | (A) 271. | (A) |
| 2. (B) 32. | (C) 62. | (A) 92. | (C) 122. | (A) 152. | (B) 182. | (C) 212. | (C) 242. | (D) 272. | (A) |
| 3. (B) 33. | (C) 63. | (B) 93. | (A) 123. | (B) 153. | (B) 183. | (C) 213. | (C) 243. | (C) 273. | (B) |
| 4. (C) 34. | (C) 64. | (B) 94. | (C) 124. | (C) 154. | (B) 184. | (C) 214. | (D) 244. | (D) 274. | (A) |
| 5. (C) 35. | (B) 65. | (A) 95. | (D) 125. | (B) 155. | (D) 185. | (B) 215. | (B) 245. | (D) 275. | (C) |
| 6. (D) 36. | (A) 66. | (C) 96. | (D) 126. | (D) 156. | (A) 186. | (D) 216. | (A) 246. | (A) 276. | (B) |
| 7. (A) 37. | (B) 67. | (C) 97. | (C) 127. | (D) 157. | (C) 187. | (D) 217. | (B) 247. | (D) 277. | (C) |
| 8. (C) 38. | (B) 68. | (A) 98. | (C) 128. | (C) 158. | (C) 188. | (C) 218. | (C) 248. | (A) 278. | (B) |
| 9. (B) 39. | (D) 69. | (B) 99. | (A) 129. | (A) 159. | (C) 189. | (B) 219. | (A) 249. | (B) 279. | (B) |
| 10. (C) 40. | (C) 70. | (A) 100. | (B) 130. | (B) 160. | (A) 190. | (A) 220. | (A) 250. | (A) 280. | (A) |
| 11. (B) 41. | (A) 71. | (B) 101. | (A) 131. | (A) 161. | (A) 191. | (D) 221. | (D) 251. | (B) 281. | (C) |
| 12. (B) 42. | (B) 72. | (C) 102. | (B) 132. | (B) 162. | (C) 192. | (B) 222. | (B) 252. | (D) 282. | (C) |
| 13. (D) 43. | (B) 73. | (C) 103. | (D) 133. | (C) 163. | (D) 193. | (B) 223. | (C) 253. | (D) 283. | (C) |
| 14. (D) 44. | (B) 74. | (C) 104. | (A) 134. | (D) 164. | (C) 194. | (A) 224. | (D) 254. | (C) 284. | (A) |
| 15. (C) 45. | (B) 75. | (B) 105. | (D) 135. | (A) 165. | (A) 195. | (B) 225. | (B) 255. | (A) 285. | (C) |
| 16. (C) 46. | (D) 76. | (C) 106. | (B) 136. | (C) 166. | (C) 196. | (B) 226. | (C) 256. | (C) 286. | (B) |
| 17. (C) 47. | (A) 77. | (C) 107. | (C) 137. | (A) 167. | (D) 197. | (B) 227. | (C) 257. | (A) 287. | (A) |
| 18. (D) 48. | (A) 78. | (A) 108. | (A) 138. | (C) 168. | (D) 198. | (A) 228. | (C) 258. | (C) 288. | (A) |
| 19. (C) 49. | (C) 79. | (A) 109. | (D) 139. | (B) 169. | (A) 199. | (C) 229. | (D) 259. | (A) 289. | (B) |
| 20. (B) 50. | (C) 80. | (A) 110. | (B) 140. | (A) 170. | (B) 200. | (C) 230. | (C) 260. | (B) 290. | (C) |
| 21. (C) 51. | (D) 81. | (B) 111. | (B) 141. | (B) 171. | (B) 201. | (D) 231. | (C) 261. | (C) 291. | (C) |
| 22. (D) 52. | (A) 82. | (B) 112. | (C) 142. | (D) 172. | (A) 202. | (C) 232. | (C) 262. | (A) 292. | (D) |
| 23. (C) 53. | (C) 83. | (C) 113. | (B) 143. | (D) 173. | (C) 203. | (C) 233. | (D) 263. | (A) 293. | (D) |
| 24. (B) 54. | (C) 84. | (C) 114. | (D) 144. | (C) 174. | (B) 204. | (A) 234. | (A) 264. | (B) 294. | (A) |
| 25. (C) 55. | (D) 85. | (C) 115. | (D) 145. | (C) 175. | (D) 205. | (C) 235. | (C) 265. | (A) 295. | (B) |
| 26. (B) 56. | (C) 86. | (B) 116. | (A) 146. | (A) 176. | (C) 206. | (C) 236. | (A) 266. | (A) 296. | (A) |
| 27. (C) 57. | (B) 87. | (D) 117. | (D) 147. | (D) 177. | (A) 207. | (A) 237. | (C) 267. | (C) 297. | (B) |
| 28. (B) 58. | (C) 88. | (B) 118. | (D) 148. | (B) 178. | (C) 208. | (B) 238. | (D) 268. | (A) 298. | (C) |
| 29. (A) 59. | (A) 89. | (D) 119. | (B) 149. | (C) 179. | (B) 209. | (D) 239. | (A) 269. | (A) 299. | (B) |
| 30. (A) 60. | (D) 90. | (A) 120. | (A) 150. | (C) 180. | (D) 210. | (A) 240. | (C) 270. | (A) 300. | (C) |