

Chapter

6

Idioms *and* Phrases

Idioms (मुहावरे) का मुख्य उद्देश्य भाषा को प्रभावी एवं आकर्षक रूप से व्यक्त करना ही idioms कहलाता है। अर्थात् शब्दों के वे समूह जिसका एक विशेष अर्थ हो तथा शब्दों को अलग-अलग कर अर्थ नहीं समझा जा सके वे Idioms कहलाते हैं।

How to Solve Such Questions?

Idioms and Phrases के अर्थों का उचित ज्ञान तथा निरन्तर अभ्यास द्वारा और उनके प्रयोग का सही ज्ञान ही आपके लिए इस प्रकार के प्रश्नों को Solve करने में comfortable सिद्ध होगा।

Purpose of Such Questions

- विभिन्न Idioms and Phrases के अर्थों का उचित ज्ञान तथा निरन्तर अभ्यास द्वारा उनके प्रयोग का सही ज्ञान ही आपके लिए इस प्रकार के प्रश्नों को हल करने में सहायक सिद्ध होगा।
- अंग्रेजी भाषा में प्रयोग किए जाने वाले कुछ महत्वपूर्ण Idioms and Phrases का संग्रह यहाँ दिया जा रहा है जो परीक्षा के दृष्टिकोण से आपके लिए अत्यन्त उपयोगी सिद्ध होगा।

1. **To see eye to eye (to agree)** : He could never *see eye to eye* with his father.
2. **To go to the dogs (to be ruined)** : Anuj will soon *go to the dogs* because of his bad habits.
3. **To Kick the bucket (to die)** : Mr. Verma *kicked the bucket* after long illness.
4. **To assume airs (to pretend superiority)** : Neelam is in the habit of *assuming* airs in the presence of her friends.
5. **To smell a rat (to be suspicious)** : I *smelt a rat* in the bargain that Mr. Singh made with my brother.
6. **To laugh in one's sleeves (to laugh secretly)** : The staff *laughed in their sleeves* at the Manager's pompous speech.
7. **To bell the cat (to attempt something dangerous)** : They all boast of their bravery, but none can *bell the cat*.
8. **Black and blue (to beat mercilessly)** : Raju was beaten *black and blue* by the thieves.
9. **To draw the long bow (exaggerate)** : In calling Rekha the most beautiful girl of the town, her mother *drew the long bow*.
10. **To clip one's wings (to weaken the power)** : My brother wants to be a car racer but my father will *clip his wings*.
11. **To pull a long face (to look sad)** : Sonu *pulled a long face* when he was scolded by his father, for coming late.
12. **To make the most of (to utilise)** : You should *make the most of* your time if you want to be successful.
13. **To steal a march (to get ahead secretly)** : Renu *stole a march* on her friend in studies and got the first position.
14. **To beat about the bush (to talk in a round about manner)** : Mrs Dixit always *beats about the bush*.
15. **To fall flat (to have no effect)** : The principal's speech *fell flat* on the students.
16. **A snake in the grass (a secret enemy)** : We should always be beware of the *snakes in the grass*.
17. **To end in smoke/fiasco (come to nothing)** : All his efforts to get that job *ended in smoke*.
18. **To bring to book (to punish)** : Dinesh was *brought to book* for his immoral act.
19. **To pay off old scores (to take revenge)** : The way he is treating his colleague, it seems that he is *paying off old scores*.
20. **To be out of sorts (to be unwell)** : I am *out of sorts* today and can't do it properly.
21. **In the blues (depressed)** : After the marriage of his girl friend he is *in the blues* these days.
22. **Palmy days (affluent days)** : I can never forget those *palmy days* of my life.

23. **Heart and soul (devotedly)** : Mukul always does his work *heart and soul*.
24. **At sixes and sevens (in disorder)** : When we entered his room everything was *at sixes and sevens*.
25. **To call a spade a spade (to speak plainly)** : I like Ravi because he always *calls a spade a spade*.
26. **Part and parcel (inseparable part)** : Kashmir is *part and parcel* of India.
27. **Green horn (inexperienced)** : Though *a green horn* in this business, he appears to have a bright future.
28. **Ivory tower (imaginary world)** : He who thinks of an honest and unselfish leader in today's politics lives in *ivory tower*.
29. **Oily tongue (flattering words)** : Arun often wins over the enemies by his *oily tongue*.
30. **Pull one's socks up (work hard)** : You must *pull your socks up* to get good marks in the examination.
31. **To and fro (forward and backward)** : The people were strolling in the park *to and fro*.
32. **To have feet of clay (Full of faults)** : There is no one in the party who does not *have feet of clay*.
33. **A flash in the pan (sudden success)** : His selection in the university cricket team was *a flash in the pan*.
34. **Close shave (a narrow escape)** : He had a close shave in an accident yesterday.
35. **Cut and dried (readymade form)** : You can't get everything *cut and dried*.
36. **To bite the dust (to be defeated)** : Pakistan had to *bite the dust* in the Kargil war.
37. **Willy-nilly (whether one wishes or not)** : She was forced *willy-nilly* to accept the proposal.
38. **To have an axe to grind (to have a selfish interest)** : Ravi does not help anyone unless he *has an axe to grind*.
39. **To give a wide berth (to avoid)** : One should always *give a wide berth* to the bad habits.
40. **To take to heels (to run away)** : The girls playing in the garden *took to their heels* on seeing a snake.
41. **To throw cold water (to discourage)** : Instead of encouraging me, my friend *threw cold water* on my scheme.
42. **Hard and fast (strict)** : There is no *hard and fast* rule about being punctual in the college.
43. **A bolt from the blue (sudden or unexpected shock)** : The news of Ankur's accident came to his wife as *a bolt from the blue*.
44. **The ins and outs (secrets)** : He knows the *ins and outs* of our family.
45. **At one's finger tips (complete knowledge)** : All the formulas of mathematics are *at his finger tips*.
46. **To be nipped in the bud (to destroy in the very beginning)** : This problem should be *nipped in the bud*.
47. **The halcyon days (peaceful days)** : The days I spent in my village were the *halcyon days* of my life.
48. **Out of the woods (out of danger)** : The operation is over but he is not *out of the woods* yet.
49. **Queer fish (strange person)** : Raju is such a *queer fish* that one cannot make anything out of his attitude.
50. **Writing on the wall (signal, warning)** : He read the *writing on the wall* and decided not to invest in the property market.
51. **A bad egg (worthless)** : He belongs to a noble family but he himself is *a bad egg*.
52. **To mince matters (hide the truth and pretend)** : She tried to *mince matters* but she failed to do so.
53. **To bury the hatchet (to make peace)** : The teacher asked us to bury the hatchet and be friends.
54. **To grease the palm of (to bribe)** : If you want to get this job, you will have to *grease the palm of the manager*.
55. **Through thick and thin (under favourable and unfavourable conditions; steadfastly)** : They will help her *through thick and thin*.
56. **To give a thick ear to (to give a blow on the ear)** : The mother gave a thick ear to the naughty child.
57. **A bed of roses (an easy, comfortable situation)** : Life is not *a bed of roses*.
58. **To bear the lion in his den (to visit somebody important to challenge him)** : It is not wise for you to *bear the lion in his den*.
59. **To touch the right chord (to appeal cleverly to somebody's feelings)** : She *touched the right chord* and made the disappointed children happy.
60. **Touch and go (risky)** : After the snow began to fall, the mountain climbers had a *touch-and-go* descent.
61. **With bated breath (with restrained breath because of fear, respect or awe)** : Seeing a road accident, he was left *with bated breath*.
62. **To go down the stream (to move down the river)** : The boat *goes down the stream* at a high speed.
63. **The light of one's eyes (very dear)** : Every child is *the light of its parents' eyes*.
64. **To see the light (to be born)** : Mr Rohit saw the light in 1990.
65. **Sadder but wiser (having learnt something important from a mistake or failure)** : His failures have made him *sadder but wiser*.
66. **Safe and sound (secure and unharmed)** : The bus fell into a ditch but all the passengers were *safe and sound*.
67. **With a high hand (in an arrogant manner or dictatorial manner)** : She runs her industry *with a high hand*.
68. **To try one's hand (to test one's skill or aptitude for)** : He *tried his hand* at business.
69. **To wash one's hands of (to disclaim any responsibility for; to renounce interest in or support of)** : She *washed her hands of* the entire affair.
70. **The golden rule (a very important rule of conduct)** : Hospitality is *the golden rule* of life.
71. **A good time girl (a girl whose chief aim is enjoyment)** : Sweta is *a good time girl*.
72. **To give loose rein to (to allow to act without restraint)** : The government should not *give loose rein* to the government employees.
73. **To give (somebody) the cold shoulder (to treat coldly)** : He *gives his guests the cold shoulder*.
74. **One's own flesh and blood (one's near relatives)** : His *own flesh and blood* will cause his destruction.
75. **To play fast and loose with (to act in an irresponsible or inconsiderate manner)** : My Principal *played fast and loose with* the teachers.

76. **A fish out of water (a person out of accustomed environment)** : I feel like a *fish out of water* among politicians.
77. **To have the edge on somebody (to be better than others)** : Ramesh *has the edge on his neighbours*.
78. **To tread upon eggs (to walk or behave cautiously)**: The wise *tread upon eggs* to lead a peaceful life.
79. **To fight fire with fire (return like for like)** : The policy of *fighting fire with fire* should be avoided.
80. **To fall on one's feet (to be fortunate; to get out of a difficulty successfully)** : Some people always seem to *fall on their feet*.
81. **Under the wire (just within the limit or deadline)** : The application reached the convenor *under the wire*.
82. **To turn up like a bad penny (to appear when one is unwelcome or unwanted)** : He *turns up like a bad penny* in every meeting.
83. **Over head and ears (deeply immersed)** : She is in love with him *over head and ears*.
84. **To turn a deaf ear (to refuse to help; to refuse to listen and consider)** : He *turned a deaf ear to my request*.
85. **To keep out of the way (to avoid facing somebody)** : She keeps *out of the way* when she sees me.
86. **To come into effect (to reach the stage of being operative)** : The new regulations *came into effect* last month.
87. **Deadlock (a state in which progress is impossible; complete standstill)** : The family dispute proved to be a *deadlock* in his life.
88. **Dead sure (definite)** : His success in this examination is *dead sure*.
89. **Hue and cry (noise; commotion)** : There was much *hue and cry* over her elopement.
90. **To cry over spilt milk (to lament over what cannot be changed)**: Crying over spilt milk is useless.
91. **From the cradle (since childhood)** : He has been lucky *from the cradle*.
92. **Cream of the crop (the best)** : Puja is the *cream of the crop* in this college.
93. **A dog in the manger (a person who prevents others from enjoying something that is useless to him)** : This miser is like a *dog in the manger*.
94. **To sit on one's hands (to do nothing)** : You cannot earn your livelihood *sitting on your hands*.
95. **A sitting duck (a person or thing that is an easy target to attack)** : The poor villagers are the *sitting ducks* for the terrorists.
96. **At the top of the tree (in the highest position or rank in a profession, career, etc)** : He has been promoted *at the top of the tree* in administration.
97. **Bark up the wrong tree (be mistaken about something)** : I *barked up the wrong tree* about you.
98. **To ruffle somebody's feather (to annoy somebody)**: The son *ruffled the father's feathers* by marrying a Muslim girl.
99. **To burn one's finger (to suffer injury by acting rashly)**: He *burnt his finger* by slapping a criminal.
100. **To turn the corner (to pass through a crisis safely)** : When the doctor's report came, I knew he had *turned the corner*.
101. **To catch a tartar (to deal with a very troublesome or powerful person)** : Having quarrelled with his neighbour, he *caught a tartar*.
102. **To raise one's voice against (to speak firmly and boldly against somebody/ something)** : The son *raised his voice against* the wrong decision of his father.
103. **To shout at the top of one's voice (to shout as loudly as one can)**: The drowning boy *shouted at the top of his voice*.
104. **To split hairs (to find fault with)** : He *splits hairs* of my every achievement.
105. **The swing of the pendulum (the movement of public opinion from one extreme to the other)** : Candidates have to face the *swing of the pendulum* in the election.
106. **To eat a humble pie (to be very apologetic)** : When you exposed her wrong doings, she *ate humble pie*.
107. **With open arms (with great affection)** : They welcomed the guests *with open arms*.
108. **To come into the open (to come into public view)** : The leader's statements *came into the open*.
109. **Good for nothing (worthless)** : His old coat is *good for nothing*.
110. **To throw good money after bad (to lose money in trying to gain lost money)** : The gambler *threw good money after bad*.
111. **To grind to one's mill (to turn something to one's own profit or advantage)** : A cunning man always *grinds to his mill*.
112. **To stand one's ground (to be firm)** : Our pleader *stood his ground* in this case.
113. **To have grounds for (to have a cause of/reason for)** : The clerk *had grounds for* absence from the office.
114. **To dig the grave of (to be the cause of destruction)** : He *dug the grave of* his family by loosing everything in gambling.
115. **A name to conjure with (a very influential name)** : Amitabh Bachchan is a *name to conjure with*.
116. **To keep oneself cool (to remain calm)** : She *keeps herself cool* even in a critical situation.
117. **To have a crush on (be in love with)** : Miss Rima *has a crush on* Raman.
118. **To cry halves (to claim an equal share)** : She *cried halves* in her husband's property.
119. **In one's cups (under the influence of liquor)** : A man *in his cups* makes impossible promises.
120. **Under the knife (under a surgical operation)** : He is *under the knife* for the removal of tumour.
121. **Like a knife through butter (very easily)**: She got her work done *like a knife through butter*.
122. **To throw dust in someone's eyes (to deceive)** : A prisoner escaped from jail, *throwing dust in the security guards' eyes*.
123. **To wash one's dirty linen in public (to discuss in public one's personal scandals or domestic difficulties)** : We should not *wash our dirty linen in public*.
124. **To pick holes in another's coat (to seek out faults in other person or in his conduct)**: Good people don't pick holes in another's coat.
125. **To blow hot and cold (to keep changing one's opinions; to beat and fondle)** : Miss Roma *blows hot and cold* about getting married.

126. **One's pigeon (one's responsibility or business):** It is not *my pigeon* to manage money for her marriage.
127. **A bitter pill to swallow (something unpleasant to accept):** Defeat in the election was just *a bitter pill* for her to swallow.
128. **Not lift a finger (do nothing):** The minister did *not lift a finger* to solve this problem.
129. **In the long run (ultimately):** Honesty wins *in the long run*.
130. **Run-of-the mill (ordinary):** He lives in a *run-of-the mill* house.
131. **To take someone under one's wings (to give shelters or protection):** India *took the refugees under its wings*.
132. **To promise the earth/moon (to make an impracticable promise):** Political leaders *promise the earth* to gain favour of voters.
133. **Once in a blue moon (rarely):** You visit my house *once in a blue moon*.
134. **To meet one's Waterloo (to lose decisive contest):** Our leader *met his Waterloo* in the parliamentary election.
135. **Not hold a candle to (to be not nearly as good as another):** She *does not hold a candle* to her younger sister as far as intelligence is concerned.
136. **Under one's breath (in a low voice; in a whisper):** The thieves were talking *under their breath*.
137. **To catch one's breath (to pause or rest before continuing an activity or starting a new one):** I *caught my breath* many times while going to Patna on foot.
138. **To separate the wheat from the chaff (to distinguish valuable persons or things from worthless ones):** We should *separate the wheat from the chaff* in our society.
139. **A wild goose chase (a useless effort/search):** Preaching moral lessons to criminals is *a wild goose chase*.
140. **To cast pearls before swine (to offer valuable things to persons who cannot appreciate them):** The famous singer sang a classical song in the function of the political leaders but it was like *casting pearls before swine*.
141. **To receive more kicks than half pence (to get more contempt than love):** She *received more kicks than half pence* in her husband's family.
142. **French leave (absence without permission):** The clerk is enjoying *French leave* today.
143. **To be all legs (to be a tall and very thin person):** Mr Rajan is *all legs* because of tuberculosis.
144. **Like an oven (very hot):** The environment is *like an oven* today.
145. **Thick and fast (rapidly and in great numbers):** The volunteers were coming *thick and fast* in the flood affected areas.
146. **Worth one's while (worth one's time, trouble or expense):** The profession that you have adopted is *worth your while*.
147. **To make a clean breast of (to make a full confession of):** The criminal *made a clean breast of* his crime in court.
148. **To cut one's own throat (to bring about one's own ruin):** She *cut her own throat* quarrelling with her husband.
149. **The flesh (physical or bodily desires; sensual appetites):** Very few people can suppress *the flesh*.
150. **To flog a dead horse (to waste one's efforts):** It is foolish to *flog a dead horse*.
151. **With no strings attached (with no special conditions):** They made an agreement *with no strings attached*.
152. **A cat and dog life (a life in which parents are constantly quarrelling):** My neighbour is leading *a cat and dog life*.
153. **To keep an eye on (to watch over closely):** The guard *keeps an eye on* the school children.
154. **To keep the ball rolling (to continue work):** The workers' leader requested the workers *to keep the ball rolling*.
155. **To leave one in the lurch (to leave somebody in difficulty):** He *left his friend in the lurch*.
156. **To leave no stone unturned (to do everything to obtain an object):** The father *left no stone unturned* to save his seriously injured son.
157. **To make great strides (to improve quickly):** The students of this class are *making great strides* in all subjects.
158. **To stand on one's own feet (to be independent):** Everybody should try to stand on his own feet.
159. **A standing joke (a continuous subject for mirth or ridicule):** His son-in-law is *a standing joke* in the village.
160. **To take heart (feel bold):** You must *take heart* and face the failures.
161. **To carry/take something too far (to continue doing something beyond reasonable limits):** One should not *carry anything too far*.
162. **To carry matters with a high hand (to take strong measures; to take stern steps):** The principal *carried matters with a high hand* against the erring students.
163. **To jump down somebody's throat (to speak to somebody in anger):** The prisoners *jumped down the jailor's throat* for the inferior quality of food being served to them.
164. **The man in the street (common man):** *The man in the street* should not be looked down upon.
165. **To keep a person in the dark (to keep something hidden from a person):** Julia *kept her father in the dark* and married her lover.
166. **To hold one's horses (to restrain oneself):** Even in anger a reasonable man *holds his horses*.
167. **From the horse's mouth (from a reliable source):** I have got this information *from the horse's mouth*.
168. **To look a gift horse in the mouth (to be critical of a gift):** Clever man does not look a gift horse in the mouth.
169. **Hobson's choice (no choice at all because there is only one thing to take or do):** The post of peon was his Hobson's choice.
170. **To square the circle (to attempt something impossible):** It is no use *squaring the circle*.
171. **To get on the gravy train (to get a job where easy money is acquired):** Having joined politics, he has *got on the gravy train*.
172. **A wild cat strike (illegal strike):** The union has called *a wild cat strike*.
173. **Pros and cons (arguments for and against something):** The *pros and cons* of the strike were discussed in detail.
174. **To blow one's own trumpet (to boast):** Our MLA *blows his own trumpet* but we know the reality.
175. **To have too many irons in the fire (to pay attention to many pieces of work at the same time; do various things simultaneously):** Our minister *has too many irons in the fire*.

176. **To force the issue (to compel decision on some matter):** The principal *forced the issue* without knowing the views of the members of the management committee.
177. **A bull in a China shop (a rough and clumsy person where skill and care are needed):** The accountant in the office is *a bull in a China shop*.
178. **A bird's eye-view (general view from a high position looking down):** The Prime Minister had *a bird's-eye-view* of the flood situation in Bihar from a helicopter.
179. **To take the long view (to consider events, affairs, etc. in a long time in the future, rather than the immediate situation):** The Finance Minister *took the long view* of the unemployment problem.
180. **Fair and square (honestly; justly):** He helped the depressed lady *fair and square*.
181. **Have two strings to one's bow (to have two resources as security):** Anil *has two strings to his bow*-business and cultivation.
182. **In cold blood (deliberately; ruthlessly):** The old man killed his daughter *in cold blood*.
183. **A bull's eye (the centre of the target):** To get a government job is *a bull's eye* for an unemployed youth.
184. **To take the bull by the horns (to face a difficulty or danger boldly):** Whenever he finds himself in trouble, he *takes the bull by the horns*.
185. **By a long chalk (by a wide-margin):** She defeated her opponent *by a long chalk*.
186. **On the cards (likely, probably):** The change of the State Government is *on the cards*.
187. **In deep water (in great difficulty):** She does not lose courage and patience even *in deep water*.
188. **To shake the dust from one's feet (to depart in anger):** When the employer refused to concede to their demands, they *shook the dust from their feet*.
189. **To separate the sheep from the goats (to separate good persons from bad ones):** You should be wise enough to *separate the sheep from the goats*.
190. **To have an itching ear (to be desirous of hearing curious news):** She *has an itching ear*.
191. **With half an ear (not very attentively):** I was listening to her speech *with half an ear*.
192. **To move heaven and earth (to make maximum efforts):** He *moved heaven and earth* to win the gold medal.
193. **To come down/back to earth (to stop daydreaming; return to practical realities):** Julie was dreaming of becoming an actress but now she has *come down/back to earth*.
194. **To foam at the mouth (to be extremely angry):** The headmaster *foamed at the mouth* to see Mohan teasing a girl.
195. **To act/play the fool (to behave stupidly):** It is not expected from a professor to *act/play the fool*.
196. **To live in a fool's paradise (to live in a state of carefree happiness that cannot last):** She is *living in a fool's paradise* these days.
197. **To be nobody's fool (to be wise):** Ram's father is sure that he is *nobody's fool*.
198. **Blue blood (alleged superiority by reason of birth):** Jawaharlal Nehru was a man of *blue blood*.
199. **To pipe one's eye (to weep bitterly):** He is *pipng his eye* at his father's death.
200. **Fit as a fiddle (in very good physical condition):** This child is *fit as a fiddle*.

Practice Exercise 1

Directions (Q.Nos. 1-20) *Select the alternative which is closest to the meaning of the given idiom or phrase.*

1. To keep at an arm's length
 - (1) To keep very near
 - (2) A safe place
 - (3) To keep someone happy
 - (4) To stretch your arm
 - (5) To avoid coming in contact
2. To push somebody to the wall
 - (1) To defeat him
 - (2) To humiliate him
 - (3) To hackle him
 - (4) To knock him down
 - (5) To protect him
3. To be up and doing
 - (1) To recover from illness
 - (2) To be actively engaged
 - (3) To progress satisfactorily
 - (4) To be expressive and explicit
 - (5) To climb up
4. To play second fiddle
 - (1) To be happy, cheerful and healthy
 - (2) To reduce importance of one's senior
 - (3) To support the role and view of another person
 - (4) To do back seat driving
 - (5) To take a second chance
5. To make clean breast of
 - (1) To gain prominence
 - (2) To praise oneself
 - (3) To confess
 - (4) To destroy before it blooms
 - (5) To clean your body
6. To add feather to one's cap
 - (1) To be highly successful
 - (2) To be highly egotistical
 - (3) Praiseworthy uniform
 - (4) To be highly imaginative
 - (5) To increase something
7. A close shave
 - (1) A lucky escape
 - (2) A well guarded secret
 - (3) A clean shave
 - (4) A futile effort
 - (5) A narrow escape

8. To hit below the belt
 - (1) To work confidently
 - (2) To harm unfairly
 - (3) To strike at the exact position
 - (4) To hit the correct mark
 - (5) To miss the shot
9. To leave someone in the lurch
 - (1) To come to compromise with someone
 - (2) Constant source of annoyance to someone
 - (3) To put someone at ease
 - (4) To desert someone in his difficulties
 - (5) To soothe someone's agony
10. To cry wolf
 - (1) To listen eagerly
 - (2) To give false alarm
 - (3) To turn pale
 - (4) To keep off starvation
 - (5) To shout loudly
11. A man of straw
 - (1) A man of no substance
 - (2) A very active person
 - (3) A worthy fellow
 - (4) An unreasonable person
 - (5) A weak person
12. A hard nut to crack
 - (1) Difficult things require extra effort
 - (2) A difficult problem to solve
 - (3) Difficult problem solved effortlessly
 - (4) Costly things need careful handling
 - (5) An arrogant person
13. To beat about the bush
 - (1) Not to come to the point
 - (2) Vigorously search for the culprit
 - (3) Easily achieve success without effort
 - (4) Work hard to achieve
 - (5) To beat mercilessly
14. Black and blue
 - (1) Painting
 - (2) Severely
 - (3) Together
 - (4) Intermix
 - (5) Colourful
15. Smell a rat
 - (1) To act unfairly
 - (2) To talk boastfully
 - (3) To have reason to suspect
 - (4) To discourage
 - (5) To do something useless
16. To set one's face against
 - (1) To oppose with determination
 - (2) To judge by appearance
 - (3) To get out of difficulty
 - (4) To look at one steadily
 - (5) To come close
17. To put one's hand to the plough
 - (1) To take up agricultural farming
 - (2) To take a difficult task
 - (3) To get entangled into unnecessary things
 - (4) Take interest in technical work
 - (5) To help someone
18. To put two and two together
 - (1) To bear the brunt of
 - (2) To conclude from obvious fact
 - (3) To put off
 - (4) To put on a false appearance
 - (5) To unite things
19. To read between the lines
 - (1) To suspect
 - (2) To read carefully
 - (3) To understand the hidden meaning
 - (4) To do useless things
 - (5) To be foolish
20. To face the music
 - (1) To prepare to give a musical performance
 - (2) To suffer evil consequences
 - (3) To enjoy
 - (4) To change the things
 - (5) To perform lively

Answers

- | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. (5) | 2. (1) | 3. (2) | 4. (3) | 5. (3) | 6. (1) | 7. (5) | 8. (2) | 9. (4) | 10. (2) |
| 11. (1) | 12. (2) | 13. (1) | 14. (2) | 15. (3) | 16. (1) | 17. (2) | 18. (2) | 19. (3) | 20. (2) |

Practice Exercise 2

Directions (Q.Nos. 1-20) *In each of the following questions, a part of the sentence is underlined. Select the alternative which is closest to the meaning of the underlined part.*

1. When I refused his request for a loan, he was put out.
 - (1) collapsed
 - (2) started to cry
 - (3) threatened to use force
 - (4) was annoyed
 - (5) fainted
2. I met him after a long time, but he gave me the cold shoulder.
 - (1) scolded me
 - (2) insulted me
 - (3) abused me
 - (4) greeted me
 - (5) ignored me
3. He did me a good turn by recommending for the post of Vice-Principal.
 - (1) returned my kindness
 - (2) did an act of kindness
 - (3) improved my prospects
 - (4) became suddenly good
 - (5) None of the above
4. He resigned the post of his own accord.
 - (1) which he liked
 - (2) according to his convenience
 - (3) voluntarily and willingly
 - (4) according to his judgement
 - (5) due to his own fault
5. The dacoit murdered the man in cold blood.
 - (1) coldly
 - (2) boldly
 - (3) ruthlessly
 - (4) deliberately
 - (5) easily

- (1) good follower (2) close relative
(3) most efficient assistant (4) sycophant
(5) flatterer
7. Whenever I meet him, he pulls a long face.
(1) looks cheerful (2) looks angry
(3) looks indifferent (4) looks gloomy
(5) looks healthy
8. Let's listen to him. He seems to be having something up his sleeve.
(1) a secret plan (2) something important
(3) a grand idea (4) a profitable plan
(5) None of these
9. We should give a wide berth to bad characters.
(1) give publicly to (2) publicly condemn
(3) keep away from (4) not sympathise with
(5) give a blow
10. He is easily deceived by a man with an oily tongue.
(1) sweet words (2) clever words
(3) angling words (4) intelligent speaking
(5) flattering words
11. We shall be formidable if we stand by one another.
(1) support (2) oppose
(3) understand (4) encourage
(5) love
12. The rebels held out for about a month.
(1) waited (2) retreated (3) bargained
(4) resisted (5) stopped
13. I have been betrayed by my own flesh and blood.
(1) friends (2) relatives
(3) children (4) acquaintances
(5) colleagues
14. Panniker is one of the few officers who are above board.
(1) friendly
(2) able to face difficulties
(3) honest
(4) hard-working
(5) intelligent
15. The teacher warned the student once and for all that no mischief shall be tolerated in the class.
(1) authoritatively (2) finally (3) angrily
(4) coldly (5) regularly
16. Their attitude towards each other only tended to create bad blood between the brothers.
(1) distrust (2) angry feeling (3) misunderstanding
(4) jealousy (5) harmony
17. He always cuts both ends.
(1) behaves dishonestly (2) works for both sides
(3) inflicts injuries on others (4) correct himself
(5) argues in support of both sides of the issue
18. Do not trust a man who blows his own trumpet.
(1) flatters (2) admonishes others
(3) praises others (4) praises himself
(5) shouts loudly
19. Looking at them now, who can imagine that they were a couple of babies in the wood in school.
(1) children or babies in the forest
(2) babies made of wood
(3) babies lost in the wood
(4) innocent and inexperienced people
(5) brave people
20. I cannot put up with that nasty fellow.
(1) praise (2) forgive (3) endure
(4) appreciate (5) compete

Answers

1. (4) 2. (5) 3. (2) 4. (3) 5. (3) 6. (3) 7. (4) 8. (1) 9. (3) 10. (5)
11. (1) 12. (4) 13. (2) 14. (3) 15. (2) 16. (2) 17. (5) 18. (4) 19. (4) 20. (3)