



IDIOMS/PHRASES

Directions (1-10) : 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 given in bold.

(SSC Section Officer (Audit)
Exam. 1997)

1. For his alleged involvement in espionage, he is under a cloud these days.
(1) experiencing cloudy weather
(2) enjoying favourable luck
(3) under suspicion
(4) under observation
2. We have appealed to him again and again; there is no use flogging a dead horse now.
(1) repeating our request
(2) making him see reason
(3) beating about the bush
(4) wasting time in useless effort
3. We shouldn't look down upon the wretched of the earth.
(1) sympathise with
(2) hate intensely
(3) be indifferent to
(4) regard with contempt
4. Because of his misbehaviour, he is bound to face the music.
(1) get finished
(2) get reprimanded
(3) feel sorry
(4) listen to the music
5. The working of the factory was disrupted on account of a token strike by the workers.
(1) total strike
(2) carefully planned strike
(3) short strike held as a warning
(4) sudden call of strike
6. By opposing his proposal he fell foul of him.
(1) quarrel with
(2) felt annoyed with
(3) agreed with
(4) got into trouble with
7. Those who work by fits and starts seldom show good results.
(1) rarely
(2) disinterestedly
(3) irregularly
(4) regularly

8. The new manager thought that he would give employees enough rope for the first six months after which he would check the work done himself.

- (1) many directives and orders
- (2) sufficient advice
- (3) all the material they needed
- (4) enough freedom for action

9. He was all at sea when he began his new Job.

- (1) happy (2) sad
- (3) puzzled (4) triumphant

10. The sweeping statement by the boss left the conscientious workers disgusted.

- (1) rash statement
- (2) unpremeditated statement
- (3) thoughtless statement
- (4) generalised statement

Directions (11-20) : In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase given in bold. Choose the alternatives which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase given in bold.

(SSC Section Officer (Audit)
Exam. 09.09.2001)

11. The failure of crops in successive years put the farmer in a tight corner.

- (1) in a closed room
- (2) in a small field
- (3) in a difficult situation
- (4) in a meadow

12. The effort to trace the culprit was a wild goose chase.

- (1) fruitful hunting
- (2) futile search
- (3) ideal seeking
- (4) genuine effort

13. The story does not hold water.

- (1) does not deserve appreciation
- (2) does not fulfil the requirements
- (3) cannot be believed
- (4) cannot be valued

14. Raj couldn't pay the bill, so he asked the owner to put it on the cuff.

- (1) on credit
- (2) against his credit card
- (3) in his bank account
- (4) in his friend's account

15. His statement is out and out a lie.

- (1) totally (2) simply
- (3) merely (4) slightly

16. The luxury car that they bought turned out to be a white elephant.

- (1) a rare article
- (2) useful mode of transport
- (3) costly or troublesome possession
- (4) a proud possession

17. If you are fair and square in your work you will definitely prosper.

- (1) active
- (2) honest
- (3) business like
- (4) authoritative

18. There is no love lost between any two neighbouring countries in the world.

- (1) stop loving
- (2) not on good terms
- (3) forming a group
- (4) have good understanding

19. The heavy downpour played havoc in the coastal area.

- (1) caused destruction
- (2) caused diseases
- (3) caused floods
- (4) caused hardship

20. To have a green thumb means

- (1) one's nails are painted green
- (2) one is artistic
- (3) to have a natural interest in gardening
- (4) one has a green tattoo on the thumb

Directions (21-25) : In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase in bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

(SSC Section Officer (Audit)
Exam. 16.11.2003)

21. When he saw the snake he took to his heels.

- (1) ran away in fear
- (2) went slowly
- (3) walked in fear
- (4) jumped fast

22. He has to abide by the hard and fast rule of the company.
 (1) flexible (2) strict
 (3) difficult (4) honest
23. She goes to her mother's house off and on.
 (1) frequently (2) rarely
 (3) occasionally (4) sometimes
24. The robber murdered, the woman in cold blood for the sake of the jewels.
 (1) a murder done without feeling
 (2) a murder done in revenge
 (3) a murder done in great anger
 (4) a murder done in enmity
25. Indians are going places in the field of software technology.
 (1) going abroad
 (2) going to spaces
 (3) talented and successful
 (4) friendly and amicable

Directions (26-35) : In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase in bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase given in bold.

(SSC Section Officer (Audit)

Exam. 14.12.2003)

26. The poet drew on his fancy, not his knowledge of Nature, when he wrote his poem on birds.
 (1) used his understanding
 (2) used his knowledge
 (3) used his imagination
 (4) used his skill
27. My neighbour had to pay through his nose for a brand new car.
 (1) pay huge loans
 (2) pay a reasonable price
 (3) pay an extremely high price
 (4) make a quick buck
28. Very ambitious people do not like to rest on their laurels.
 (1) to be unhappy
 (2) to be motivated
 (3) to be impatient
 (4) to be complacent
29. If he phones again, I am going to give him a piece of my mind.
 (1) to be nice to him
 (2) to take revenge on him
 (3) to reprimand him
 (4) to support him

30. The party high command wanted to stave off an open battle.
 (1) postpone
 (2) wait and see
 (3) allow it to take its own course
 (4) prevent
31. Ramesh takes after his father.
 (1) follows (2) imitates
 (3) obeys (4) resembles
32. They made no bones about acknowledging their debt to his genius.
 (1) did not have any hesitation in
 (2) did not have any faith in
 (3) demanded compensation for
 (4) had problems in
33. It is evident from the minister's statement that heads will roll in the Secretariat.
 (1) transfers will take place
 (2) heads will be cut off
 (3) people will die
 (4) dismissals will occur
34. During the last moments of his life, the criminal made a clean breast of everything he had done.
 (1) showed his breast
 (2) fought like a hero
 (3) confessed without reserve
 (4) faced bravely
35. She tries very hard to keep up with her rich neighbours.
 (1) to imitate
 (2) to keep in touch
 (3) to avoid
 (4) to be on par

Directions (36-46) : In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase in bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

(SSC Tax Assistant (Income Tax & Central Excise) Exam. 05.12.2004)

36. He went on sowing wild oats; he reaped suffering in his later life.
 (1) inviting troubles as a boy
 (2) warning others as a youngman
 (3) irresponsible pleasure seeking in young age
 (4) sowing grains called oats when young

37. I don't know why she has become stand-offish recently.
 (1) angry
 (2) hilarious
 (3) indifferent
 (4) unmanageable
38. Why don't you put an end to blowing your own trumpet ?
 (1) playing your own trumpet to produce music
 (2) making too much noise
 (3) praising your own abilities and achievements
 (4) None of these
39. I knew he had an axe to grind and turned down his offer of help.
 (1) a blunt axe
 (2) a sharp tongue
 (3) a private interest to serve
 (4) a tendency to fight
40. The saint's life was an open book.
 (1) an uncomplicated one
 (2) one that held no secrets
 (3) an example to all
 (4) an interesting biography
41. Reading between the lines I realised that my friend wanted to keep something from me.
 (1) looking for meanings that are not actually expressed
 (2) reading carelessly
 (3) reading with anxiety
 (4) glancing over the lines
42. Sometimes, it happens that we have to give the devil his due.
 (1) to give credit to even a notorious person
 (2) to give encouragement even to the enemy
 (3) to invite the devil
 (4) to stand in the way of the devil
43. The king had been made to eat humble pie.
 (1) to eat slowly
 (2) to have an excellent dish
 (3) to eat a good pie
 (4) to apologise
44. He was given Hobson's choice by the employer.
 (1) excellent choice
 (2) no real choice at all
 (3) choice to live or die
 (4) first choice

45. He has a very nice manner, but you would better take what he says with a grain of salt.
 (1) to listen to something with considerable doubt
 (2) to talk sensibly
 (3) to criticise
 (4) to complement

Directions (46-55) : In the following questions four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase in bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

(SSC Section Officer (Audit)
Exam. 05.06.2005)

46. He didn't tell me directly, but reading between the lines. I think he is not happy with them.
 (1) reading slowly and haltingly
 (2) understanding the sense rather than the actual words
 (3) understanding the meaning of words and not the sense
 (4) reading superficially
47. Gopi works by fits and starts.
 (1) consistently
 (2) irregularly
 (3) in high spirits
 (4) enthusiastically
48. I cannot put up with your misconduct any longer.
 (1) excuse (2) refuse
 (3) accept (4) tolerate
49. I did not mind what he was saying, he was only talking through his hat.
 (1) talking nonsense
 (2) talking ignorantly
 (3) talking irresponsibly
 (4) talking insultingly
50. He is so furious that he would go through fire and water to revenge himself on his foe.
 (1) approach everybody for help
 (2) avail himself of any opportunity
 (3) use any conceivable method
 (4) undergo any risk
51. The watchdogs were asleep when the bulls ran riot.
 (1) behaved cleverly
 (2) acted without restraint
 (3) wandered aimlessly
 (4) had the best of time
52. In spite of the immense pressure exerted by the militants, the Government, has decided not to give in.

- (1) accede (2) yield
 (3) oblige (4) conform
53. The young and the old sat cheek by jowl in the large audience.
 (1) very near (2) very far
 (3) tongue tied (4) irritated
54. We wanted to keep the gift as a surprise for mother but my sister gave the game away.
 (1) lost the game
 (2) gave out the secret
 (3) played badly
 (4) withdrew from the game
55. I don't think the law will interfere with us as we are just trying to turn an honest penny.
 (1) make a legitimate living
 (2) make a good living
 (3) have dealings in white money
 (4) become more honest

Directions (56-65) : In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase in bold. Choose the one which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

(SSC Statistical Investigators
Grade-IV Exam. 31.7.2005)

56. a dark horse
 (1) an unforeseen competitor
 (2) a black horse
 (3) a nightmare
 (4) an unknown person
57. to run across
 (1) to have an appointed meeting
 (2) to meet by chance
 (3) to run in the playground
 (4) to run very fast
58. to get one's own back
 (1) to get one's revenge
 (2) to get control over someone
 (3) to get one's position back
 (4) to get hold of someone
59. to steer clear of
 (1) drive carefully
 (2) avoid
 (3) explain clearly
 (4) escape
60. to beat a retreat
 (1) to withdraw in defeat or humiliation
 (2) to withdraw after scoring a victory
 (3) to march back after a ceremonious parade
 (4) to run away in fear

61. to blaze a trail
 (1) to lead the way as a pioneer
 (2) to light a track
 (3) to set up a fire
 (4) to wear a blazer while running
62. red-letter day
 (1) a colourful day
 (2) fatal day
 (3) happy and significant day
 (4) hapless day
63. have the last laugh
 (1) be of a cheerful nature
 (2) laugh only after understanding something
 (3) to be victorious at the end of an argument
 (4) to crack the final joke
64. turn a deaf ear
 (1) disregard (2) defy
 (3) disobey (4) dismiss
65. to smell a rat
 (1) to experience bad smell
 (2) to misunderstand
 (3) to see a hidden meaning
 (4) to suspect a trick

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

(SSC Section Officer (Commercial
Audit) Exam. 25.09.2005)

66. A few days before his death, he made a clean breast of everything.
 (1) confessed
 (2) took off his shirt
 (3) suffered
 (4) spoke ill
67. I am done for.
 (1) ruined (2) rewarded
 (3) answered (4) questioned
68. For a healthy and lasting friendship one must be on the level.
 (1) equally rich
 (2) mentally compatible
 (3) honest and sincere
 (4) ready for sacrifices
69. The foolish young man soon made ducks and drakes of the vast property his father left him.
 (1) squandered
 (2) distributed
 (3) spent
 (4) gave in charity

70. All his ventures went to the winds.

- (1) dissipated
- (2) spread all over
- (3) got speed of the winds
- (4) became well-known

Directions (71-80) : In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the given Idiom/Phrase. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the given Idiom/Phrase.

(SSC Section Officer (Commercial Audit)
Exam. 25.09.2005)

71. at one's wit's/wits' end

- (1) to work hard
- (2) to be intelligent
- (3) to get puzzled
- (4) to be stupid

72. to take someone to task

- (1) to scold someone
- (2) to assign work to someone
- (3) to take someone to his place of work
- (4) to praise someone for the work done

73. to face the music

- (1) to be greeted rudely
- (2) to be offered warm hospitality
- (3) to enjoy a music programme
- (4) to bear the consequences

74. to blow one's own trumpet

- (1) to play on one's own trumpet
- (2) to praise one's own self
- (3) to create noisy disturbances
- (4) to have a high-pitched voice

75. to run one down

- (1) to be in a hurry
- (2) to be weak and tired
- (3) to disparage someone
- (4) to run down a lane

76. at snail's pace

- (1) very slowly
- (2) to walk like a snail
- (3) to lack interest in work
- (4) in methodical manner

77. to turn a deaf ear

- (1) to be hard of hearing
- (2) to be indifferent
- (3) to be attentive
- (4) to be obstinate

78. to take to one's heels

- (1) to run off
- (2) to show one's heels
- (3) to turn around
- (4) to walk leisurely

79. to have something up one's sleeves

- (1) having a practical plan
- (2) having an important project
- (3) having an ambitious plan
- (4) having a secret plan

80. to end in smoke

- (1) to have a smoking session
- (2) to be on fire
- (3) to come to nothing
- (4) to burn slowly

Directions (81-85) : 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 given in bold.

(SSC Statistical Investigators
Grade-IV Exam.13.08.2006)

81. As the bomb exploded people ran helter-skelter.

- (1) in great fear
- (2) in disorderly haste
- (3) in haste
- (4) in great sorrow

82. He was progressing by leaps and bounds because of his hard work.

- (1) rapidly (2) slowly
- (3) peacefully (4) strongly

83. Our founder had done a Herculean task by constructing this great educational institution.

- (1) a work of no worth
- (2) an effortless job
- (3) a work requiring very great effort
- (4) a work requiring very great intelligence

84. My close friend got the sack from his first job recently.

- (1) resigned
- (2) got rid of
- (3) was demoted from
- (4) was dismissed from

85. I can no longer put up with her insolence.

- (1) endure (2) evade
- (3) suppress (4) assume

Directions (86-95) : In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase in bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

(SSC Tax Assistant (Income Tax & Central Excise) Exam. 12.11.2006)

86. She is a fair-weather friend.

- (1) a good friend
- (2) a friend who meets difficulties calmly
- (3) a friend who deserts you in difficulties
- (4) a favourable friend

87. to die in harness means to die while

- (1) riding a horse
- (2) in a stable
- (3) in a uniform
- (4) still in service

88. to keep under wraps means to keep something

- (1) covered (2) protected
- (3) unpacked (4) secret

89. After independence Indian agriculture rose like a phoenix due to the Green Revolution.

- (1) with a new life
- (2) with a start
- (3) with royal gait
- (4) with vengeance

90. His failure at the election has been a sore point with him for a long time.

- (1) something which hurts
- (2) something that brings fear to
- (3) something memorable for
- (4) something pleasurable to

91. The student is on the verge of breakdown.

- (1) on the brink of
- (2) at the outset of
- (3) in the midst of
- (4) at the risk of

92. My repeated attempts to get refund from the civic authorities were of no avail.

- (1) unsuccessful
- (2) postponed
- (3) useless
- (4) delayed

93. He was progressing by leaps and bounds because of his hardwork.

- (1) rapidly (2) slowly
- (3) peacefully (4) strongly

94. to emerge out of thin air means to

- (1) appear suddenly
- (2) descend gradually
- (3) fall down quickly
- (4) enter from space

95. The news of the accident came as a bolt from the blue.
 (1) something unexpected
 (2) something unpleasant
 (3) something horrible
 (4) something unexpected and unpleasant

(SSC Tax Assistant (Income Tax & Central Excise) Exam. 12.11.2006)

Directions (96—100) : Four alternatives are given for the idiom/phrase in bold. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase printed in bold.

(SSC Section Officer (Commercial Audit) Exam. 26.11.2006 (IInd Sitting))

96. The story of the train accident as narrated by one of the survivors made my flesh creep.
 (1) thrilled me
 (2) horrified me
 (3) excited me
 (4) frightened me

97. He has resigned his job and burnt his boats so far as government service is concerned.

- (1) felt dejected
 (2) blasted his hopes
 (3) ruined himself
 (4) left no means of retreat

98. He cannot hold a candle to his elder brother.

- (1) equal to
 (2) not as clever as
 (3) cannot be compared to
 (4) duller than

99. The question of higher membership fees was brought up at the last meeting.

- (1) discussed at great length
 (2) introduced for discussion
 (3) criticised vehemently
 (4) vaguely referred to

100. His arguments cut no ice with me.

- (1) had no influence on me
 (2) did not hurt me
 (3) did not benefit me
 (4) did not make me proud

Directions (101 – 110) : In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase printed in bold. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase in bold.

(SSC Section Officer (Audit) Exam. 10.12.2006)

101. the green-eyed monster strikes a woman the moment she sees her husband talking to another pretty woman.

- (1) anger (2) hatred
 (3) envy (4) jealousy

102. to fight tooth and nail

- (1) to fight a losing battle
 (2) to oppose resolutely
 (3) to have a physical fight
 (4) to lodge a formal protest

103. at one's wit's end

- (1) to understand thoroughly
 (2) to be puzzled
 (3) to be a stupid person
 (4) to behave irrationally

104. The clerk turned a deaf ear to his officer's advice.

- (1) disputed
 (2) paid attention to
 (3) disregarded
 (4) acknowledged gratefully

105. He expects his subordinates to be always at his beck and call

- (1) at rest
 (2) at work
 (3) at his disposal
 (4) at their desks

106. in the long run

- (1) permanently (2) universally
 (3) occasionally (4) ultimately

107. If you are in the good books of the boss, you are sure to rise quickly.

- (1) work well for the boss
 (2) praise the boss
 (3) in favour with the boss
 (4) co-operate with boss

108. The population of our country is increasing by leaps and bounds.

- (1) very slowly
 (2) very quickly
 (3) irregularly
 (4) very systematically

109. to weigh up the pros and cons is to

- (1) measure the ingredient
 (2) observe etiquette
 (3) consider all facts
 (4) postpone action

110. My close friend got the sack from his first job recently.

- (1) resigned
 (2) got rid of
 (3) was demoted from
 (4) was dismissed from

Directions (111-115) : In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase in bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

(SSC Section Officer (Commercial Audit) Exam. 30.09.2007 (IInd Sitting))

111. There is no love lost between any two neighbouring countries in the world.

- (1) stop loving
 (2) not on good terms
 (3) forming a group
 (4) have good understanding

112. He is accused of sitting on the fence.

- (1) observing the scene
 (2) resting on fence
 (3) hesitating which side to take
 (4) sitting back and enjoying the fun

113. You have to read between the lines to understand most of the symbolic writing.

- (1) read again and again
 (2) understand the hidden meaning
 (3) know the symbols
 (4) look for many meanings

114. The ruling party has been warned not to play to the gallery.

- (1) to give importance to the common man
 (2) to try to be clever
 (3) to seek to win approval
 (4) to side-track the issue

115. In the securities scam, the national credibility was at stake.

- (1) on trial
 (2) under pressure
 (3) in danger
 (4) challenged

Directions (116-125) : In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase in bold. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the bold Idiom/Phrase.

(SSC Tax Assistant (Income Tax & Central Excise) Exam. 25.11.2007)

116. The passing of anti-defection law struck a chill to the heart of every opportunistic legislator.

- (1) caused anger
 (2) caused relief
 (3) aroused fear
 (4) awakened bitterness

117. Our house is within a stone's throw from the Red Building.
(1) far off (2) far away
(3) very near to (4) beside
118. He has a bone to pick with his cousin.
(1) reasonable agreement
(2) cause of quarrel
(3) cause of doubt
(4) difference of opinion
119. The day I graduated was a red-letter day for me.
(1) a dangerous day
(2) an important day
(3) an eventful day
(4) a formidable day
120. Many young artists were dropping names at the party to impress the gathering.
(1) talking proudly about their family members
(2) using pet names
(3) hinting at high connections
(4) talking informally
121. The teacher announced that she had no blue-eyed boys in the class.
(1) royal children
(2) young boys
(3) foreigners
(4) favourites
122. The company has run into a lot of debts.
(1) incurred (2) settled
(3) opened up (4) avoided
123. He was confident that all his present sufferings will soon blow over.
(1) increase
(2) pass off
(3) be looked into
(4) be taken care of
124. The teacher advised the students to take into account the advice given by the elders.
(1) to obey (2) to neglect
(3) to consider
(4) to reject
125. The lawyer asked his assistant to collect the details regarding the pros and cons of the case.
(1) ups and downs
(2) in and out
(3) weak and strong
(4) for and against

Directions (126-135) : In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase in bold.

- Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the given Idiom/Phrase.
(SSC Section Officer (Audit)
Exam. 10.12.2006)
126. The principal has to carry out the orders issued by the higher authorities.
(1) obey (2) communicate
(3) execute (4) modify
127. The young engineer was hauled up for spilling the beans about the new project to the competitor.
(1) suppressing the information
(2) hiding the details
(3) revealing the information indiscreetly
(4) spoiling the plans
128. The Government claims that Indian industry is progressing by leaps and bounds.
(1) intermittently
(2) leisurely
(3) at a rapid pace
(4) at a desired pace
129. Laying off of thousands of workers is inevitable under the new economic policy.
(1) dismissal from jobs of
(2) offering new jobs to
(3) reduction of workers' wages of
(4) sending on leave
130. "I take thee at thy word", said Romeo to Juliet.
(1) listen to you carefully
(2) do not believe you
(3) feel angry with you
(4) truly believe you
131. People who do not lay out their money carefully, soon come to grief.
(1) earn (2) spend
(3) distribute (4) preserve
132. Having bought the house, they decided to go the whole hog and buy all the furniture needed.
(1) to live there
(2) to do it completely
(3) to go all the way
(4) to go in the fog
133. There is a lot of bad blood between them.
(1) jealousy (2) fight
(3) angry feeling (4) distrust
134. The village headman pretends to be a good samaritan.
(1) a religious person
(2) a helpful person
(3) a citizen of Samaria

- (4) a law-abiding citizen
135. The beleaguered politician was anxious to set the record straight.
(1) give a speech
(2) win party support
(3) give a correct account
(4) make a confession
- Directions (136 -145) : In the following question four alternatives are given for the given Idiom/Phrase in bold. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the given Idiom/Phrase.
(SSC Section Officer (Audit)
Exam. 30.11.2008)
136. The bus had a close shave as its driver swerved to the right a split second before the on-coming truck could run into it.
(1) serious accident
(2) close collision
(3) narrow escape
(4) deep dent
137. fits and starts
(1) slowly
(2) not regularly
(3) continuously
(4) quickly
138. When the Inspector entered the class some of the students shook in their shoes.
(1) stamped the ground with their shoes
(2) showed signs of anger
(3) trembled with fear
(4) stood up to salute
139. in high spirits
(1) full of hope and enthusiasm
(2) under tremendous stress
(3) under the influence of liquor
(4) mentally deranged
140. He amassed his wealth through sharp practices.
(1) dishonest means
(2) illegal means
(3) intelligent decisions
(4) quick decisions
141. He is not in the good books of his boss.
(1) a lover of good books
(2) in favour with
(3) not of the same opinion as
(4) as good as
142. The officer is fed up with the complaints made against the clerk.
(1) annoyed (2) disgusted
(3) pleased (4) satisfied

143. a white elephant,
 (1) a rare species of elephants
 (2) an expensive gift
 (3) a costly but useless possession
 (4) a worthless thing
144. ins and outs
 (1) entry and exit points
 (2) full details
 (3) tactical moves
 (4) complexity of character
145. All his ventures went to the winds.
 (1) dissipated
 (2) spread all over
 (3) got speed of the winds.
 (4) became well-known
- Directions (146 – 155) : In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase in bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.
- (SSC Tax Assistant (Income Tax & Central Excise) Exam. 14.12.2008)
146. Don't worry about the **silly row**. It was just a storm in a tea cup.
 (1) important matter dealt with ease
 (2) hot tea being served
 (3) commotion over a trivial matter
 (4) confusion and chaos
147. The Rajput warriors set their face against the invader.
 (1) became enemies
 (2) turned away from
 (3) faced difficulty
 (4) opposed strongly
148. Syria is now currying favour with America.
 (1) pleasing
 (2) favouring
 (3) obliging
 (4) ingratiating itself with
149. Our Principal is not a man to mince matters.
 (1) to confuse issues
 (2) to say something mildly
 (3) to mix everything together
 (4) to be very modest
150. We tend to take for granted the conveniences of modern life.
 (1) to consider
 (2) to admit
 (3) to accept readily
 (4) to care for
151. The prodigal son was left high and dry by his friends, when he lost all his money.
 (1) wounded
 (2) alone
 (3) depressed
 (4) neglected
152. The success of his first novel completely turned his head.
 (1) made him vain
 (2) made him look back
 (3) changed him completely
 (4) made him think
153. She turns up her nose at this kind of dress.
 (1) despises
 (2) loves
 (3) sees no harm in
 (4) can just tolerate
154. At last the rioters fell back.
 (1) fell on the ground
 (2) yielded
 (3) ran back
 (4) turned back
155. The Madagascar Coup attempt ended in a fiasco.
 (1) had no effect
 (2) was an utter failure
 (3) resulted in blood-shed
 (4) was a disaster
- Directions (156-165) : In the following questions, four alternatives are given Idiom/Phrase in bold. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the given Idiom/Phrase.
- (SSC Tax Assistant (Income Tax & Central Excise) Exam. 29.03.2009)
156. His **parents cut him off**, without a shilling.
 (1) disinherited him
 (2) snubbed him
 (3) gave him only a shilling
 (4) sent him away with a shilling
157. The carefully worked-out plan fell through because of an unexpected event.
 (1) came out successfully
 (2) had a steep fall
 (3) was shattered
 (4) failed
158. He has too many irons in the fire.
 (1) is engaged in too many enterprises at the same time
 (2) has several problems
 (3) has many ideas in his head
 (4) has a fire burning constantly in his house
159. We wanted to give Rita a surprise party but John let the cat out of the bag.
 (1) spoilt the party with a cat
 (2) gave her a party himself
 (3) told her about it unintentionally
 (4) prevented her from attending it
160. Why should you read between the lines whenever I say this to you?
 (1) read the lines with great speed
 (2) interpret the lines wrongly
 (3) find more meaning than the words appear to express
 (4) read a text line-by-line slowly
161. The Earl of Leicester threw down the glove.
 (1) accepted defeat
 (2) rejected the prize
 (3) resorted to wrong tactics
 (4) gave a challenge
162. Ravi fought to the bitter end.
 (1) fought to the last point of enemy's position
 (2) died fighting
 (3) carried on a contest regardless of the consequences
 (4) fought a losing battle
163. I joined college late and found it difficult to catch up with other students.
 (1) to compete with
 (2) to come to their level
 (3) to overtake them
 (4) to hold them and stop
164. They have made many changes in the policy, but how many of these changes are going to affect the man in the street?
 (1) the homeless man
 (2) the ordinary man
 (3) the man who works on the street
 (4) the man who repairs roads
165. The students wanted a holiday, but the Principal put his foot down and said, 'No'.
 (1) asserted his authority
 (2) kicked them
 (3) stepped out
 (4) came downstairs
- Directions (166-170) : In the following questions four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase in bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.
- (SSC SAS Exam. 26.06.2010
 (Paper-I))

166. It is high time he came out of his shell.
 (1) appeared suddenly
 (2) became more sociable
 (3) became a loser
 (4) removed his clothes

167. Every political party is at present playing to the gallery.
 (1) adopting cheap tactics
 (2) befooling the common man
 (3) fighting for votes
 (4) appeasing the masses

168. His blood ran cold when he heard his uncle was murdered.
 (1) He was frightened
 (2) He was horrified
 (3) He was disgusted
 (4) He was depressed

169. This is so simple that even a man in the street can understand it.
 (1) an ordinary person
 (2) an illiterate person
 (3) an unknown person
 (4) a stranger

170. When he went to claim insurance for his car, the agent said he hadn't a leg to stand on.
 (1) had been injured in an accident
 (2) was lame
 (3) did not have much hope of getting it
 (4) would have to wait for some time

Directions (171–175) : In the following questions four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase in bold the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

(SSC CISF ASI Exam. 29.08.2010
 (Paper-I))

171. The angry hockey players gave vent to their feelings.
 (1) to express
 (2) to emphasise
 (3) to suppress
 (4) to dismiss

172. I trust you will bear with me a few minutes more.
 (1) have patience with
 (2) support
 (3) carry the burden for
 (4) be in control for

173. As usual he is blowing his own trumpet.
 (1) refusing to use anybody else's trumpet
 (2) playing a tune on the trumpet
 (3) praising himself
 (4) praising himself and others

174. When trade was brisk, he worked hard and made his fortune; he believes in making hay while the sun shines.
 (1) taking advantage of a favourable opportunity
 (2) earning money through dishonest means
 (3) earning money at the cost of others
 (4) taking advantage of the inflationary trends

175. When they were surrounded from all sides, the dacoits laid down their arms.
 (1) put their arms on the ground
 (2) fought bravely
 (3) surrendered
 (4) became nervous

Directions (176 – 180) : In the following questions four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase in bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

(SSC CPO Sub-Inspector
 Exam.12.12.2010 (Paper-I))

176. Helena was over head and ears in love with Demetrius.
 (1) carefully (2) completely
 (3) brilliantly (4) cautiously

177. Gopi works by fits and starts.
 (1) consistently
 (2) irregularly
 (3) in high spirits
 (4) enthusiastically

178. Naresh Goyal had to stand on his feet very early in his life.
 (1) to be physically strong
 (2) to be independent
 (3) to stand erect
 (4) to be successful

179. The possession of Jerusalem is a bone of contention between Israel and Palestine.
 (1) a subject of peace
 (2) a subject of trade
 (3) a subject of dispute
 (4) a subject of exports

180. My friend turned a deaf ear to my tale of loss and refused to help me.
 (1) paid no heed
 (2) went far away
 (3) listened carefully
 (4) turned his ear away

Directions (181–185) : In the following 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 Combined Graduate Level Tier-I
 Exam.19.06.2011 (1st Sitting))

181. to take to heart
 (1) to be encouraged
 (2) to grieve over
 (3) to like
 (4) to hate

182. yeoman's service
 (1) medical help
 (2) excellent work
 (3) social work
 (4) hard work

183. to face the music
 (1) to enjoy a musical recital
 (2) to bear the consequences
 (3) to live in a pleasant atmosphere
 (4) to have a difficult time

184. to put up with
 (1) to accommodate
 (2) to adjust
 (3) to understand
 (4) to tolerate

185. to call it a day
 (1) to conclude proceedings
 (2) to initiate proceedings
 (3) to work through the day
 (4) None of the above

Directions (186–190) : In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the given Idiom/Phrase in bold. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the given Idiom/Phrase.

(SSC Combined Graduate Level Tier-I
 Exam.19.06.2011 (IInd Sitting))

186. a damp squib
 (1) rainy weather
 (2) a disappointing result
 (3) a skirt in a laundry
 (4) None of the above

187. in cold blood
 (1) angrily
 (2) deliberately
 (3) excitedly
 (4) slowly

188. to take someone for a ride
 (1) to give a ride to someone
 (2) to deceive someone
 (3) to be indifferent
 (4) to disclose a secret

189. to move heaven and earth
 (1) to cause an earthquake
 (2) to try everything possible
 (3) to pray to all Gods
 (4) to travel in a rocket

190. to smell a rat
 (1) to smell foul
 (2) to see a rat
 (3) to chase a rat
 (4) to be suspicious

Directions (191-195) : 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 Combined Graduate Level Tier-I Exam.26.06.2011 (1st Sitting))

191. a bolt from the blue
 (1) a delayed event
 (2) an inexplicable event
 (3) an unexpected event
 (4) an unpleasant event

192. cold comfort
 (1) absurdity
 (2) deception
 (3) slight satisfaction
 (4) foolish proposal

193. to be all at sea.
 (1) a family voyage
 (2) lost and confused
 (3) in the middle of the ocean
 (4) a string of islands

194. to take to one's heels
 (1) to walk slowly
 (2) to run away
 (3) to march forward
 (4) to hop and jump

195. to bite the dust
 (1) eat voraciously
 (2) have nothing to eat
 (3) eat roots
 (4) None of the above

Directions (196 - 200) : 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 Combined Graduate Level Tier-I Exam. 26.06.2011 (1st Sitting))

196. to strain every nerve
 (1) to make utmost efforts
 (2) to feel weak and tired
 (3) to be a diligent worker
 (4) to be methodical in work

197. to flog a dead horse
 (1) to whip a dead horse
 (2) to attempt to do the impossible
 (3) waste one's efforts
 (4) to take advantage of a weakness

198. to show a clean pair of heels
 (1) to hide (2) to escape
 (3) to pursue (4) to follow

199. to die in harness
 (1) premeditated murder
 (2) dying young in an accident
 (3) to die while in service
 (4) to be taken by surprise

200. to feather one's nest
 (1) to make a residential house
 (2) something that lasts for a short time
 (3) to profit in a dishonest way
 (4) None of the above

Directions (201- 205) : In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom / Phrase in bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the given Idiom/ Phrase.

(SSC CPO (SI, ASI & Intelligence Officer Exam. 28.08.2011 (Paper-I))

201. The teacher's announcement to conduct a snap test came as a bolt from the blue to many students.

- (1) imaginary (2) unexpected
 (3) forbidden (4) heavenly

202. He and his friend are sailing in the same boat.

- (1) sailing together in the same boat
 (2) sharing the financial and social condition
 (3) being in the same difficult situation
 (4) getting rid of the difficult situation

203. To be successful in today's world, we require the gift of the gab.

- (1) ability to speak well
 (2) good interpersonal skills
 (3) divine help and guidance
 (4) a fierce competitive spirit

204. Winter was so bad that the nomadic tribesmen found it difficult to keep the wolf from the door.

- (1) hunt wild animals
 (2) escape starvation
 (3) get woollen clothes
 (4) walk on ice

205. There is no soft option to the crisis now.

- (1) popular opinion
 (2) popular solution
 (3) easy and agreeable option
 (4) difficult choice

Directions (206-209) : In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

(FCI Assistant Grade-II Exam. 22.01.2012 Paper-I)

206. a little gush of gratitude

- (1) gradual recovery
 (2) friendly feeling
 (3) excessive labour
 (4) excessive enthusiasm

207. to lose ground

- (1) to become less powerful
 (2) to become less popular
 (3) to lose foundation
 (4) to be without a leader

208. to fall back on

- (1) to oppose something important
 (2) to suffer an injury on the back in an accident
 (3) to fail to do something important in time
 (4) to seek support out of necessity

209. to make one's blood boil

- (1) to make somebody furious
 (2) to develop fever
 (3) to get excited
 (4) to make someone nervous

Directions (210-214) : In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

(FCI Assistant Grade-III Exam. 25.02.2012 (Paper-I) North Zone (1st Sitting))

210. to speak one's mind.

- (1) to be frank and honest
 (2) to think aloud
 (3) to talk about one's ideas
 (4) to express one's thoughts

211. to make a mountain of a molehill

- (1) to make advantage of a small thing
 (2) to give great importance to little things
 (3) to get into trouble
 (4) to see a thing with prejudiced mind

212. hand in glove
 (1) in close relationship
 (2) non-cooperative
 (3) critical
 (4) on bad terms
213. to add fuel to the fire
 (1) to make matters bright
 (2) to cause additional anger
 (3) to bring matters to a conclusion
 (4) to start a revolt
214. wear and tear
 (1) a brand name
 (2) damage
 (3) lot of sorrow
 (4) a warning

Directions (215–219) : In the following questions, four alternative are given for the Idiom/Phrase in bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

(SSC Data Entry Operator
 Exam. 31.08.2008)

215. He is always praised for his gift of the gab.
 (1) being lucky
 (2) getting something free
 (3) talent for speaking
 (4) great skill
216. The teacher's extra hours of coaching went a long way in improving the student's performance.
 (1) took great effort
 (2) spent a lot of time
 (3) extended widely
 (4) helped considerably
217. The administration found it difficult to cope with the striking employees.
 (1) move (2) compromise
 (3) handle (4) subdue
218. The criminal was pardoned at the eleventh hour just as/he was about to be hanged.
 (1) at eleven o' clock
 (2) suddenly
 (3) at the very last moment
 (4) at midnight
219. He spoke well though it was his maiden speech.
 (1) long speech
 (2) brief speech
 (3) first speech
 (4) emotional speech

Directions (220-224) : In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase in bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

(SSC Data Entry Operator
 Exam. 02.08.2009)

220. Do not run down your friends in public.
 (1) fight with
 (2) follow
 (3) make a mention of
 (4) criticise
221. Most parents find it difficult to make both ends meet because of inflation.
 (1) to lead a lavish life
 (2) to live within one's income
 (3) to live a miserly life
 (4) to lead an active life
222. The students were advised to pore over the lessons thoroughly.
 (1) go through (2) go down
 (3) go off (4) go out
223. The two famous writers crossed swords with each other on every issue.
 (1) fought physically
 (2) crossed the road on meeting
 (3) took different routes
 (4) disagreed
224. The traffic came to a standstill after the heavy downpour of rain.
 (1) complete halt
 (2) accident spot
 (3) diversion
 (4) confused disorder

Directions (225 - 234) : In the following questions four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase in bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

(SSC Stenographer (Grade'C' &'D')
 Exam. 26.09.2010)

225. Even though the new clerk was given a difficult task, he remained cool as a cucumber.
 (1) not nervous or emotional
 (2) caught cold
 (3) was happy
 (4) was scared

226. The car broke down just as it reached the edge of a cliff. It was indeed a close shave.
 (1) to share one's brand
 (2) very risky
 (3) narrow escape from danger
 (4) to be happy
227. When she realised that she had bought a fake product, she knew that her money had gone down the drain.
 (1) was lost forever
 (2) dropped in the drain
 (3) got washed away
 (4) her money was safe
228. George Bernard Shaw was blessed with the gift of the gab.
 (1) enormous wealth
 (2) ability to work hard
 (3) ability to speak impressively
 (4) luck on one's side
229. You have been caught cheating; now you must face the music.
 (1) face the unpleasant consequences
 (2) stand upto unpleasant consequences
 (3) be debarred
 (4) be insulted publicly
230. His position in the company was on the brink of disaster.
 (1) at the top of
 (2) at the point of
 (3) on the side of
 (4) on the back of
231. The parents are in high spirits as their son has got a decent job.
 (1) in good position
 (2) drunk
 (3) cheerful
 (4) shocked
232. The police caught the thief red handed.
 (1) in a red uniform
 (2) with blood in hands
 (3) at the time of committing the crime
 (4) after reading the rules
233. I was so disappointed when my close friend left me in the lurch.
 (1) went away without waiting for me
 (2) helped me in difficult times
 (3) abandoned me when I needed help
 (4) stopped helping me in emergency

234. Some people do not grease anybody's palm on any account.

- (1) bribe (2) flatter
(3) cheat (4) fight

Directions (235 – 239) : In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase in bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

(SSC Higher Secondary Level
Data Entry Operator & LDC
Exam. 27.11.2010)

235. Tagore was a man of letters.

- (1) of wide contacts
(2) an excellent letter dictator
(3) a great writer of letters
(4) proficient in literary art

236- His friends beat the boy to pay off old scores.

- (1) to refund old dues
(2) to take revenge
(3) to force him to be a scorer in a match
(4) because he had not scored well earlier

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

- (1) Wears dress that does not match
(2) Expresses his feelings openly
(3) wears colourful dresses
(4) expresses his feelings with the shape of a heart printed on its sleeve

238- It was a red letter day in the history of the world.

- (1) a day with bloodshed.
(2) a dangerous note about the destruction
(3) a day memorable for some joyful event
(4) a day with love and warmth

239- The poor subordinates are made scapegoats by their superiors.

- (1) punished for others misdeeds
(2) developed poor relations
(3) treated humbly and respectfully
(4) scolded with arrogant reactions

Directions (240-244) : In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase in bold in the sentence. Choose the alternatives which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

(SSC Higher Secondary Level
Data Entry Operator & LDC
Exam. 27.11.2010 (1st Sitting))

240. The Manager doctored the accounts of the company .

- (1) to make changes in account books
(2) to clear the doctors bill
(3) to verify the accounts in detail
(4) to manipulate the accounts

241. She could never measure up to her parent expectation.

- (1) reach the level
(2) work as hard
(3) assess the amount
(4) increase her height

242. The little girl with her flawless performance stole the show.

- (1) stole something from the show
(2) crept into the show
(3) won everybody's praise
(4) disappeared from the show

243. The thief was on good terms with the police.

- (1) kept terms and conditions
(2) was friendly
(3) followed the rules
(4) agreed with them

244. John's offer of help was turned down by the police.

- (1) sent back
(2) twisted around
(3) refused
(4) handed over

Directions (245 – 249) : In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase in bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

(SSC Higher Secondary Level Data Entry
Operator & LDC Exam. Held
on :28.11.2010 (IInd Sitting))

245. Having no arguments to defend his point, the speaker began to beat about the bush.

- (1) wander across the words
(2) speak in a haphazard manner
(3) speak in a round-about manner
(4) make use of irrelevant reference

246. They were offered six months' rent in lieu of notice to vacate the building.

- (1) in spite of (2) in place of
(3) despite of (4) in addition to

247. The reputed company is in the red due to the recession.

- (1) making money
(2) losing money
(3) in danger
(4) spending money

248. When the Principal was entering the class, all my friends quietly disappeared, leaving me alone to face the music.

- (1) to listen to him
(2) to enter into the class
(3) to bear the criticism
(4) to listen to a favourable comment

249. The Kenyan team proved to be the dark horse in the ICC World Cup Cricket.

- (1) a strong intruder
(2) a skilled team
(3) the most powerful
(4) an unexpected winner

Directions (250 – 259) : In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase in bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

(SSC Stenographer (Grade 'C' & 'D'
Exam. 09.01.2011))

250. Yesterday in a collision between a truck and a car he had a close shave.

- (1) maintain cleanliness
(2) remove the entire hair
(3) a narrow escape
(4) close relations

251. The piece of parental property has created bad blood between the two brothers.

- (1) impure relation
(2) ill-matched temper
(3) active enmity
(4) bad parentage

252. Since you couldn't accept a timely warning, it's no use repenting now. Why cry over spilt milk?

- (1) cry over irreparable loss
(2) to regret uselessly
(3) cry needlessly
(4) feel guilty of

253. After fifteen years of marriage she did not expect her husband to leave her in the lurch.
 (1) listen to her (2) provoke her
 (3) ignore her (4) desert her
254. Who are we to sit in judgement over their choices?
 (1) lecture (2) criticize
 (3) speak (4) communicate
255. The teacher took me to task for not completing my homework.
 (1) gave me additional homework
 (2) punished me
 (3) took me to the principal
 (4) reduced my homework
256. Do not lose your head when faced with a difficult situation.
 (1) forget anything
 (2) neglect anything
 (3) panic
 (4) get jealous
257. When I entered the house everything was at sixes and sevens.
 (1) a quarrel among six or seven people
 (2) to have six or seven visitors at a time.
 (3) in disorder or confusion.
 (4) an unpleasant argument.
258. He was pulled up by the Director of the Company.
 (1) assaulted (2) dragged
 (3) reprimanded (4) cleared
259. The storm brought about great destruction in the valley.
 (1) invited (2) caused
 (3) succeeded (4) halted
- Directions (260 – 264) : In the following questions, four alternatives are given Idiom/Phrase in bold. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the given Idiom/Phrase.
 (SSC Multi-Tasking (Non-Technical) Staff Exam. 20.02.2011)
260. The police closed the book on the murder case.
 (1) solved the case of
 (2) stopped working on
 (3) handed the case over to another agency
 (4) refused to take up
261. His arguments cut no ice with me.
 (1) had no influence on me
 (2) did not hurt me
 (3) did not benefit me
 (4) did not make me proud

262. There was a job for me to cut my teeth on.
 (1) to gain experience
 (2) to try
 (3) to sharpen my wits
 (4) to earn a decent salary
263. The carrot and stick policy pays dividends in every organisation.
 (1) fair and foul
 (2) continuous vigilance
 (3) democratic
 (4) reward and punishment
264. Unless you grease his palms he will not do your work.
 (1) talk to him (2) flatter him
 (3) beat him (4) bribe him
- Directions (265-269) : In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the given Idiom/Phrase in bold. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the given Idiom/Phrase.
 (SSC Multi-Tasking (Non-Technical) Staff Exam. 27.02.2011)
265. I had to pull strings to put up a good show.
 (1) play music
 (2) use personal influence
 (3) use the instrument
 (4) play a song
266. You can easily overcome this situation if you keep your head.
 (1) keep faith in
 (2) remain calm
 (3) believe in
 (4) trust the others
267. It is clear that the ideas of both reformers ran in the same groove.
 (1) promoted each other
 (2) clashed with each other
 (3) moved in harmony
 (4) moved in different directions
268. This place affords a bird's eye view of the green valley below.
 (1) a beautiful view
 (2) a narrow view
 (3) an overview
 (4) an ugly view
269. He works in fits and starts.
 (1) consistently
 (2) irregularly
 (3) in high spirits
 (4) enthusiastically

- Directions (270–274) : In the following questions four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the given Idiom/Phrase.
 (SSC Stenographer Grade 'C' & 'D' Exam.16.10.2011)
270. build castles in the air
 (1) waste time
 (2) daydream
 (3) build houses
 (4) work hard
271. sought after
 (1) highly paid
 (2) pursued by
 (3) in great demand
 (4) with great talent
272. all at sea
 (1) very proud (2) overjoyed
 (3) puzzled (4) excited
273. to hit below the belt
 (1) to punish
 (2) to tie with a belt
 (3) to hit with a belt
 (4) to attack unfairly
274. pot-luck dinner
 (1) dinner where everybody brings something to eat
 (2) dinner where everybody pays for his food
 (3) dinner where only soup is served
 (4) dinner where people eat and play games at the same time
- Directions (275–279) : In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.
 (SSC (10+2) Level Data Entry Operator & LDC Exam. 04.12.2011 (1st Sitting) (North Zone))
275. at one's beck and call
 (1) to attend a call
 (2) to be helped by someone
 (3) to be useful to someone
 (4) to be dominated by someone
276. to explore every avenue
 (1) to search all streets
 (2) to scout the wilderness
 (3) to find adventure
 (4) to try every opportunity
277. a red letter day
 (1) a dangerous day in one's life
 (2) a sorrowful day in one's life
 (3) an important or joyful occasion in one's life
 (4) both a dangerous and sorrowful day in one's life

278. to have something up one's sleeve
 (1) to hide something in the sleeve
 (2) to play a magician trick
 (3) to have a secret plan
 (4) to play hide and seek

279. on the spur of the moment

- (1) to act at once
 (2) to ride a horse in a race
 (3) to act deliberately
 (4) to act at the appointed time

Directions (280-284) : In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

(SSC (10+2) Level Data Entry Operator & LDC Exam. 04.12.2011 (IInd Sitting (North Zone)

280. to bring to light

- (1) to reveal
 (2) to conceal
 (3) to provide luminescence
 (4) to appeal

281. to hit the jackpot

- (1) to gamble
 (2) to get an unexpected victory
 (3) to be wealthy
 (4) to make money quickly

282. to burn the candle at both ends

- (1) to spend cautiously
 (2) to be stingy
 (3) work hard
 (4) to survive difficulty

283. status quo

- (1) unchanged position
 (2) excellent place
 (3) unbreakable statue
 (4) long queue

284. by fair means or foul

- (1) without using common sense
 (2) without difficulty
 (3) in any way honest or dishonest
 (4) having been instigated

Directions (285-289) : In the questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

(SSC (10+2) Level Data Entry Operator & LDC Exam. 04.12.2011 (1st Sitting (East Zone)

285. to look down one's nose

- (1) to show anger
 (2) to retaliate
 (3) to insult in the presence of others
 (4) to regard with contempt

286. to shed crocodile tears

- (1) to weep profusely
 (2) to pretend grief
 (3) to grieve seriously
 (4) to mock something

287. by putting two and two together

- (1) to mix several things
 (2) to make an arithmetical calculation
 (3) to keep people in pairs
 (4) to deduce from given facts

288. to go scot-free

- (1) to walk like a native of Scotland
 (2) to get something free
 (3) to escape without punishment
 (4) to save tax

289. at the eleventh hour

- (1) at eleven O'clock
 (2) at the wrong time
 (3) at the last possible moment
 (4) at the initial moment itself

Directions (290-294) : In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase as your answer.

(SSC (10+2) Level Data Entry Operator & LDC Exam. 04.12.2011 (IInd Sitting (East Zone)

290. birds of the same feather

- (1) persons of same caste
 (2) persons of same colour
 (3) birds with same type of feather
 (4) persons of same character

291. to fight tooth and nail

- (1) to fight a losing battle
 (2) to fight heroically
 (3) to fight cowardly
 (4) to make every possible effort

292. to call a spade a spade

- (1) to be frank
 (2) to be sly
 (3) to be rude
 (4) to be diplomatic

293. a white elephant

- (1) an extinct species of elephant found in Burma
 (2) a report by the government to give information
 (3) huge and colossal waste of human energy
 (4) costly and troublesome possession useless to its owner

294. to miss the bus

- (1) to miss the bus that one regularly takes
 (2) to miss an opportunity
 (3) to have something to fall back upon
 (4) to find fault with others

Directions (295-299) : In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase in bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

(SSC (10+2) Level Data Entry Operator & LDC Exam. 11.12.2011 (1st Sitting (Delhi Zone)

295. As a businessman, my father always maintained that his transactions constituted an open book.

- (1) an account book always open
 (2) a book of open confessions
 (3) an opening for new ventures
 (4) straight forward and honest dealings

296. The project advanced by leaps and bounds.

- (1) rapidly (2) slowly
 (3) sharply (4) simply

297. She is too fond of her own voice.

- (1) loves singing
 (2) very selfish
 (3) does not listen properly to anyone else
 (4) very talkative

298. Indian police is, on the whole, high handed in dealing with citizens.

- (1) kind (2) overbearing
 (3) prompt (4) adept

299. I take exception to your statement that I am bad tempered.

- (1) do not agree
 (2) feel unhappy
 (3) object
 (4) feel angry

Directions (300- 304) : In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the idiom/ phrase.

(SSC (10+2) Level Data Entry Operator & LDC Exam. 11.12.2011 (IInd Sitting (Delhi Zone)

300. The officer called for an explanation from the cashier for the shortage of cash.
 (1) asked
 (2) begged
 (3) served a notice
 (4) demanded

301. The actress took cue from her brother and became successful.
 (1) some help
 (2) a hint
 (3) some money
 (4) learnt acting

302. We wanted the gift to be a surprise for my mother, but my sister gave the game away.
 (1) lost the game
 (2) gave out the secret
 (3) gave away the gift
 (4) withdrew from the plan

303. Let us have a heart to heart talk to solve this problem.
 (1) good talk
 (2) emotional talk
 (3) frank talk
 (4) loving talk

304. His speech fell short on the audience.
 (1) had no effect
 (2) moved the audience
 (3) impressed the audience
 (4) was quite short

Directions (305 – 309) : In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase in bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase as your answer.

(SSC (10+2) Level Data Entry Operator & LDC Exam. 11.12.2011 (1st Sitting (East Zone))

305. He put across his ideas to the Minister.
 (1) made available
 (2) effectively conveyed
 (3) strongly expressed
 (4) laid aside

306. George and I are neighbours, but we don't see eye to eye with each other.
 (1) like (2) interact
 (3) agree (4) fight

307. The question of unemployment is a hard nut to crack.
 (1) difficult task
 (2) different matter
 (3) impossible task
 (4) inexplicable problem

308. The rat race among the leaders is revolting.
 (1) corruption
 (2) nepotism
 (3) favouritism
 (4) fierce competition for power

309. People were dropping like flies in the intense heat.
 (1) collapsing in large numbers
 (2) getting infected with many diseases
 (3) taking leave in large numbers
 (4) sitting down in the shade

Directions (310-314) : 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 (10+2) Level Data Entry Operator & LDC Exam. 11.12.2011 (IInd Sitting (East Zone))

310. He knows the ins and outs of the case.
 (1) entry and exit
 (2) separate ways
 (3) route
 (4) full details

311. The news of the President's death spread like wild fire.
 (1) spread rapidly
 (2) caused a major confusion
 (3) was a wild rumour
 (4) set the nation on fire

312. Negative arguments generally end up in smoke when team members sit together to discuss important strategies.
 (1) create hard feelings
 (2) lead to bad habits
 (3) spoil good understanding
 (4) become useless finally

313. When my friend was in Kolkata, he ran into an old friend at the theatre.
 (1) hit
 (2) met accidentally
 (3) planned to meet
 (4) invited

314. Going abroad for a holiday was out of the question.
 (1) undesirable (2) impossible
 (3) unpleasant (4) irresistible

Directions (315–316) : In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

(SSC Constable (GD) & Rifleman (GD) Exam. 24.04.1912 (1st Sitting))

315. to eat a humble pie
 (1) to feel downtrodden
 (2) to accept defeat
 (3) to be humiliated
 (4) to accept abuse

316. to break the ice
 (1) to start doubting
 (2) to start a quarrel
 (3) to start a conversation
 (4) to break a friendship

Directions (317–318) : In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

(SSC Constable (GD) & Rifleman (GD) Exam. 22.04.1912 (IInd Sitting))

317. not my cup of tea
 (1) a refreshing drink
 (2) a routine work
 (3) not what I like
 (4) not liked by me

318. to have second thoughts
 (1) to change decision
 (2) to plan carefully
 (3) to take someone
 (4) to reconsider

Directions (319– 328) : In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase in bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase as your answer.

(SSC Graduate Level Tier-II Exam.16.09.2012)

319. Sarala is always ready to eat anyone's salt.
 (1) to be one's guest
 (2) to cook tasty dishes
 (3) an infectious disease
 (4) to deceive someone

320. He will certainly come to grief if he does not leave his present friends.
 (1) addicted
 (2) go upto the extreme
 (3) suffer
 (4) enjoy

321. If you develop friendship with an individual you must stand by him through thick and thin.
 (1) think about his/her welfare
 (2) under all circumstances
 (3) to accompany through a thick forest
 (4) in day and night

322. Nowadays, one gets good literary books once in a blue moon.
 (1) from renowned publisher
 (2) at very low cost
 (3) when moon gives blue light
 (4) rarely
323. He decided to bury the hatchet.
 (1) to keep a secret
 (2) to make peace
 (3) to fool someone
 (4) to bury the wealth
324. Reena is a kind of person who wears her heart on her sleeve.
 (1) expresses her emotions freely
 (2) expresses her emotions curbingly
 (3) suppresses her emotions openly
 (4) suppresses her excitement sparingly
325. I hope to talk him over to our view.
 (1) oppose (2) analyze
 (3) convince (4) support
326. Fresh out of college, Ram found it difficult to get a job as he was wet behind the ears.
 (1) unsuitable
 (2) inexperienced
 (3) unhealthy
 (4) irresponsible
327. The officer kicked up a row over the issue.
 (1) gave a kick in the air
 (2) made a great fuss
 (3) avoided the issue
 (4) gave strict orders
328. "If he does not perform his duties properly, I will send him packing," said the manager.
 (1) send him to packing department
 (2) give him a warning
 (3) serve him a notice
 (4) terminate his services
- Directions (329-333) : In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.
 (SSC Graduate Level Tier-II Exam. 04.08.2011 Paper-II)
329. to foam at one's mouth
 (1) to brush properly
 (2) to get very angry
 (3) to salivate on seeing food
 (4) None of the above
330. to feel like a fish out of water
 (1) disgusted
 (2) uncomfortable
 (3) disappointed
 (4) homeless
331. at the eleventh hour
 (1) too late
 (2) too early
 (3) immediately
 (4) at the last moment
332. to burn one's fingers
 (1) to get hurt physically.
 (2) to suffer financial losses
 (3) to find work
 (4) to suffer nervous breakdown
333. to add fuel to fire
 (1) to investigate (2) to insulate
 (3) to initiate (4) to incite
- Directions (334- 343) : In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom / Phrase in bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the given Idiom/ Phrase.
 (SSC CPO (SI, ASI & Intelligence Officer Exam. 28.08.2011 Paper-II)
334. She was on the horns of a dilemma as she had either to leave her job or divorce her husband.
 (1) in nervous condition
 (2) in terrible mood
 (3) in difficult situation
 (4) in suspense
335. He died in harness.
 (1) ceased to live
 (2) died of a disease
 (3) died for his country
 (4) died while working
336. All his schemes ended in smoke.
 (1) came to nothing
 (2) got on fire
 (3) burnt up
 (4) attracted everybody
337. The young boy was kicking his heels in spite of his mother's stern warnings.
 (1) playing happily
 (2) kicking someone
 (3) wasting time
 (4) passing a gesture of disrespect
338. Fathima felt that she had been made a scapegoat for her son's incompetence.
 (1) fool (2) witness
 (3) fall guy (4) proxy
339. She denied point-blank her involvement in the crime.
 (1) directly (2) desperately
 (3) stubbornly (4) rudely
340. It is hard to strike a bargain with a woman.
 (1) to finalize a deal
 (2) to negotiate a deal
 (3) to negotiate
 (4) to deal
341. You had better get up now or you will be late for school.
 (1) should (2) may
 (3) might (4) can
342. He took his father's advice to heart.
 (1) casually (2) patiently
 (3) seriously (4) quietly
343. Can you give me a hand with this luggage?
 (1) keep a watch on
 (2) handle
 (3) provide me with
 (4) help me with
- Directions (344-348) : In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase in bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase
 (SSC (10+2) Level Data Entry Operator & LDC Exam. 21.10.2012 (1st Sitting))
344. **at the eleventh hour**
 (1) at a late stage
 (2) at the beginning
 (3) at 11 o'clock
 (4) at an early stage
345. **a shot in the dark**
 (1) to love to go out on adventures
 (2) be able to work very quickly
 (3) be very violent
 (4) an attempt to guess something
346. **in a nutshell**
 (1) angrily (2) casually
 (3) writing (4) brief
347. **from the bottom of my heart**
 (1) sincerely
 (2) lowest position
 (3) totally
 (4) wholly
348. **for better or worse**
 (1) sometimes
 (2) always
 (3) in good times
 (4) in bad times

Directions (349-353) : In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase

(SSC (10+2) Level Data Entry Operator & LDC Exam. 21.10.2012 (2nd Sitting))

349. a hard nut to crack
 (1) a foolish search
 (2) a difficult problem
 (3) an easy question
 (4) expensive thing
350. hand in glove
 (1) very difficult
 (2) open enemy
 (3) very intimate
 (4) very rude
351. a lame excuse
 (1) unsatisfactory explanation
 (2) good explanation
 (3) uselessly talk
 (4) ill feelings
352. at a loss
 (1) expert (2) unable
 (3) able (4) defeat
353. in black and white
 (1) useless (2) in writing
 (3) in short (4) in full swing

Directions (354-358) : In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase as your answer.

(SSC (10+2) Level Data Entry Operator & LDC Exam. 21.10.2012 (2nd Sitting))

354. stand by
 (1) support (2) postpone
 (3) stand up (4) resist
355. to give vent to
 (1) cause trouble
 (2) lose courage
 (3) circulate
 (4) express
356. part and parcel
 (1) partly
 (2) unnecessary part
 (3) essential element
 (4) large part
357. to get wind
 (1) to forget (2) come to know
 (3) to tell (4) to fly
358. under the thumb of
 (1) beyond control of
 (2) under the nose of
 (3) active
 (4) under control of

Directions (359-363) : In each of the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase as your answer.

(SSC (10+2) Level Data Entry Operator & LDC Exam. 28.10.2012 (1st Sitting))

359. fall flat
 (1) to fail to stand
 (2) to fail to realise
 (3) to fail to maintain
 (4) to fail to produce intended effect
360. carry weight
 (1) to carry burden
 (2) carry the day
 (3) be important
 (4) carry through
361. to pass away
 (1) to ignore (2) walk past
 (3) die (4) revise
362. turn down
 (1) to accept (2) reject
 (3) twist (4) weave
363. die hard
 (1) unwilling to change
 (2) ready to change
 (3) egoist
 (4) arrogant

Directions (364-368) : In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase as your answer.

(SSC (10+2) Level Data Entry Operator & LDC Exam. 28.10.2012 (1st Sitting))

364. turn up
 (1) twist (2) appear
 (3) curt (4) wind
365. bad blood
 (1) low blood pressure
 (2) feeling of love
 (3) feeling of hatred
 (4) high blood pressure
366. by fits and starts
 (1) regularly (2) irregularly
 (3) certainly (4) fairly
367. to put an end to
 (1) continue (2) start
 (3) stop (4) enforce
368. to hail from
 (1) call (2) receive
 (3) come from (4) arrive

Directions (369-373) : In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase in bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase as your answer.

(SSC (10+2) Level Data Entry Operator & LDC Exam. 04.11.2012 (2nd Sitting))

369. I took exception to his remarks and left the meeting.
 (1) objected (2) suggested
 (3) heard (4) excused
370. He turned a deaf ear to his parents' advice.
 (1) listen carefully
 (2) refused to obey
 (3) big help
 (4) attentively
371. Most people live from hand to mouth these days because of inflation.
 (1) lavishly (2) happily
 (3) comfortably (4) miserably
372. There are no hard and fast rules for admission to this college.
 (1) easy (2) strict
 (3) fixed (4) slow
373. Please hold your tongue in this matter, otherwise you will repent.
 (1) be silent (2) give advice
 (3) defend (4) argue

Directions (374-378) : In the following question, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase in bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

(SSC Graduate Level Tier-I Exam. 11.11.2012 (1st Sitting))

374. If you want to be happy, cut your coat according to your cloth.
 (1) be honest in your dealings
 (2) work according to your capacity
 (3) live within your means
 (4) don't be too ambitious
375. She broke down in the middle of her speech.
 (1) could not proceed
 (2) fell down
 (3) became angry
 (4) cried
376. He lays out fifty percent of his income on bonds and shares.
 (1) allots (2) distributes
 (3) donates (4) spends

377. I will do the work if I am allowed a free hand in the choice of materials.
 (1) complete liberty
 (2) an expense account
 (3) to employ men to work
 (4) unlimited funds
378. He is as hard as a nail, never moved by anything.
 (1) tough
 (2) emotionless
 (3) physically strong
 (4) hard working
- Directions (379-383) : 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 FCI Assistant Grade-III Exam. 11.11.2012 (2nd Sitting))
379. He left the town under a cloud.
 (1) of his own accord
 (2) in disgrace
 (3) with a heavy heart
 (4) when it was raining
380. The young boy's act put his father in a pickle.
 (1) in a funny position
 (2) in a serious position
 (3) in a sad situation
 (4) in an embarrassing or awkward situation
381. They got on well with each other the moment they met.
 (1) had an agreement
 (2) had a misunderstanding
 (3) had a friendly relationship
 (4) fell in love
382. She tried to slip off, but was caught immediately.
 (1) steal quietly
 (2) go quickly
 (3) leave quietly
 (4) slide quickly
383. I am looking forward to her arrival.
 (1) afraid of
 (2) expecting with pleasure
 (3) expecting
 (4) confident of
- Directions (384-388) : In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase in bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase as your answer.

(SSC Delhi Police Sub-Inspector (SI) Exam. 19.08.2012)

384. **rides the high horse**
 (1) superior
 (2) went on a vacation
 (3) started gambling
 (4) bought a horse
385. **rack and ruin**
 (1) successful (2) debt
 (3) destroyed (4) ransacked
386. **to take to task**
 (1) pass over (2) reward
 (3) punish (4) disappoint
387. **iron will**
 (1) good health
 (2) strong determination
 (3) sticks to the point
 (4) has high haemoglobin
388. **weal and woe**
 (1) ups and downs
 (2) joys and sorrows
 (3) whole heartedly
 (4) under suspicion
- Directions (389-393) : In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase in bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase as your answer.
- (SSC (10+2) Level Data Entry Operator & LDC Exam. 04.11.2012, 1st Sitting)
389. I could have continued my higher studies if I wanted but, that's water under the bridge.
 (1) something I cannot change
 (2) the time I met with an accident near the bridge
 (3) something my family did not want
 (4) the time I went on a cruise
390. My parents want me to study science, but I will stick to my guns and graduate in Economics.
 (1) prefer to disobey them
 (2) hold on to my decision
 (3) refuse to listen to them
 (4) show them that they are wrong
391. The manager dismissed the proposal out of hand and said that it was not at all practical.
 (1) completely (2) directly
 (3) simply (4) quickly
392. The people of this village are the salt of the earth.
 (1) rich (2) educated
 (3) quarrelsome (4) kind

393. He accused her of talking through her hat and refused to accept a word of what she said.
 (1) talking straight
 (2) talking nonsense
 (3) talking tough
 (4) talking sense
- Directions (394-396) : In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase in bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase as your answer.
- (SSC Multi-Tasking Staff Exam. 10.03.2013, 1st Sitting : Patna)
394. Her mother saw through the excuse she gave.
 (1) revealed (2) detected
 (3) viewed (4) hacked
395. She has a bee in her bonnet and can say anything.
 (1) is a crazy person
 (2) is an obsessed person
 (3) is a foolish person
 (4) is a proud person
396. Some people have the habit of working by fits and starts.
 (1) very seriously
 (2) excitedly
 (3) consistently
 (4) irregularly
- Directions (397-399) : In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase in bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.
- (SSC Multi-Tasking Staff Exam. 10.03.2013)
397. I expect my friends to stand by me.
 (1) energise (2) support
 (3) accompany (4) release
398. The music group broke up unceremoniously.
 (1) went bankrupt
 (2) broke each other's instruments
 (3) disturbed the neighbourhood
 (4) disbanded itself
399. She vaguely takes after her grandmother.
 (1) constitutes (2) follows
 (3) resembles (4) accepts

Directions (400-402) : In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase in bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

(SSC Multi-Tasking Staff Exam. 17.03.2013, 1st Sitting)

400. The mother always insists on keeping the house spick and span.

- (1) locked (2) safe
(3) tidy (4) open

401. The man changed colours when I questioned him on the allocation of funds.

- (1) got numbed
(2) turned happy
(3) got motivated
(4) turned pale

402. We cannot depend on him for this assignment as it needs careful handling and he is like a bull in a China shop.

- (1) a clumsy person
(2) a tactful person
(3) a nonsense person
(4) a felicitous person

Directions (403-405) : In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase in bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

(SSC Multi-Tasking Staff Exam. 17.03.2013, IIInd Sitting)

403. He made a few statements, but all were wide off the mark.

- (1) irrelevant
(2) crucial
(3) important
(4) unreasonable

404. The prices are going up by leaps and bounds.

- (1) gradually
(2) irregularly
(3) rapidly
(4) systematically

405. I did not give in to his request.

- (1) approve (2) like
(3) permit (4) yield

Directions (406-408) : In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase in bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

(SSC Multi-Tasking Staff Exam. 17.03.2013, Kolkata Region)

406. In the last few years, India has advanced by leaps and bounds in Industrial sector.

- (1) very pathetically
(2) very slowly
(3) very rapidly
(4) very competently

407. The whole problem has been swept under the carpet, but that is not the solution.

- (1) kept hidden (2) ignored
(3) solved (4) detected

408. The strawberry dessert you made was out of this world.

- (1) extraordinary (2) ordinary
(3) bitter (4) tasteless

Directions (409-411) % In the following questions, alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase in bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase

(SSC Multi-Tasking Staff Exam. 24.03.2013, 1st Sitting)

409. I take my hat off to all those who donate blood regularly.

- (1) congratulate (2) welcome
(3) admire (4) encourage

410. You must admire the way she sticks to her guns.

- (1) maintains her opinion
(2) holds on to the pistol
(3) does not let her weapon go
(4) refuses to shoot

411. You better learn to toe the line to avoid consequences.

- (1) to be indifferent to rules
(2) to disobey rule
(3) to follow the lead
(4) to make your own rules

Directions (412-416) : In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase in bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

(SSC FCI Assistant Grade-III Main Exam. 07.04.2013)

412. He promised to look into the matter.

- (1) to investigate
(2) to question
(3) to peer closely at
(4) to take care of

413. It is bad to try to fish in troubled waters.

- (1) make a profit out of a disturbance
(2) go for fishing and cause trouble
(3) fish in hot weather
(4) catch fish in disturbed waters

414. Thousands put on a daily fight to keep the wolf from the door.

- (1) ward off mosquitoes
(2) keep oneself healthy
(3) avoid starvation
(4) guard from pickpockets

415. How did you break the ice in the party ?

- (1) shatter peace
(2) cause harm
(3) break free
(4) initiate something

416. The policy has been declared to be null and void.

- (1) valid (2) impossible
(3) invalid (4) empty

Directions (417-421) : In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase in bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

(SSC Graduate Level Tier-I Exam. 21.04.2013, 1st Sitting)

417. He is known for blowing his own trumpet.

- (1) clattering (2) shouting
(3) clamouring (4) boasting

418. He cut the Gordian knot by practising what he preached.

- (1) lessened the difficulty
(2) let the difficulty remain as it was
(3) removed the difficulty
(4) add to the difficulty

419. He took a leap in the dark with his latest investment in stocks.

- (1) took a risk
(2) was hesitant
(3) was confused
(4) was cocksure

420. Communicative English is the Achilles' heel for the job aspirants.

- (1) weak spot
(2) source of strength
(3) what they cherish most
(4) top priority

421. He is leaving the USA for good.

- (1) urgently (2) permanently
(3) temporarily (4) immediately

Directions (422-426) : In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase in bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

(SSC Graduate Level Tier-I Exam. 21.04.2013, IIInd Sitting)

422. What egged you on to become a social worker ?

- (1) urged (2) dampened
(3) hindered (4) discouraged
423. Many politicians in India are not fit to hold a candle to Mahatma Gandhi.

- (1) superior (2) equal
(3) inferior (4) indifferent
424. She must be paying through the nose for the face left.

- (1) paying less than necessary
(2) paying too much
(3) paying the right amount
(4) paying reluctantly

425. He is putting the cart before the horse by purchasing furniture before buying a house.
(1) doing a thing in the wrong way
(2) doing a thing in the right way
(3) committing a great crime
(4) doing things meticulously

426. casting pearls before swine
(1) speaking nice words and convincing them
(2) offering good things to undeserving people
(3) uplifting the needy for their welfare
(4) doing worthwhile things to unknown people

Directions (427-431) : In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/ Phrase in bold. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

(SSC Graduate Level Tier-I
Exam. 21.04.2013)

427. to play second fiddle.
(1) to reduce the importance of one's senior
(2) take a subordinate role
(3) to do back seat driving
(4) to be happy, cheerful and healthy

428. Mary broke a dining-room window and had to face the music when her father got home.
(1) listen carefully
(2) ask a lot of questions
(3) listen to music
(4) accept the punishment

429. Villagers always call a spade a spade.
(1) to speak in a straight forward manner
(2) to call someone a spade
(3) to speak ill about someone
(4) to speak about spades

430. I am out of my wits and therefore cannot find a way to

- solve the problem immediately.
(1) greatly confused
(2) helpless without power
(3) totally ignorant
(4) not intelligent enough

431. Why are you jumping down my throat ? I wasn't even in the house when it happened.
(1) making a joke
(2) scolding me
(3) forcing me to cat
(4) running away

Directions (432-436) : In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase in bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

(SSC Graduate Level Tier-I
Exam. 21.04.2013)

432. Hard work pays in the long run.
(1) always
(2) over a period of time
(3) indefinitely
(4) never

433. I felt a fish out of water among the lawyers.
(1) special (2) happy
(3) uncomfortable (4) proud

434. The Cauvery water issue led to apple of discord between the two Governments.
(1) cause of anger
(2) cause of hatred
(3) cause of quarrel
(4) cause of animosity

435. The construction remains unfinished and the workers have let the grass grow under their feet.
(1) grown grass all over the lawn
(2) gone on a luxury tour
(3) delay doing the work
(4) demanded more benefits

436. The police smelt the rat behind the death of the girl.
(1) got very much confused
(2) identified the cause of death
(3) suspected that something is fishy
(4) jumped to the conclusion

Directions (437-439) : In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase in bold. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

(SSC Constable (GD)
Exam. 12.05.2013, 1st Sitting)

437. I have told you time and again not to make this mistake.
(1) always (2) often
(3) sometimes (4) rarely

438. He handled the situation with an iron fist
(1) strictly (2) leniently
(3) softly (4) wayward

439. She is leaving the country for good.
(1) for the time being
(2) for good times
(3) temporarily
(4) permanently

Directions (440-442) : In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase in bold. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

(SSC Constable (GD)
Exam. 12.05.2013)

440. It poured cats & dogs
(1) rained heavily
(2) rained lightly
(3) dazzled
(4) hail storm

441. The Manager was above board in all his dealings with his employees.
(1) dishonest (2) rude
(3) honest (4) charitable

442. Whenever I feel blue I like to listen to slow music.
(1) happy (2) gleeful
(3) troubled (4) gloomy

Directions (443-447) : In the following questions, four alternatives are given, for the Idiom/Phrase in bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

(SSC Graduate Level Tier-I
Exam. 19.05.2013)

443. My ten year-old son is an incredible live-wire.
(1) lazy (2) dangerous
(3) naughty (4) energetic

444. He had to cool his heels before he could get an appointment with the doctor.
(1) to be kept waiting
(2) to make publicly known
(3) to exercise influence
(4) to lose one's temper

445. The captains of the rival teams should, try to bury the hatchet.
(1) put up a stiff competition
(2) make peace
(3) win the game
(4) forget the past

446. He stopped at the bar to wet his whistle.
 (1) have a nap
 (2) be happy
 (3) have a problem
 (4) have a drink
447. Over the years, we remained loyal through thick and thin.
 (1) to our principles
 (2) to employers and subordinates
 (3) in married life
 (4) in spite of all the difficulties
Directions (448-452) : In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase in bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.
 (SSC Graduate Level Tier-I Exam. 19.05.2013)
448. The issues were settled in court, but after a few days it was back to square one.
 (1) to return to the starting point
 (2) to run to the first square
 (3) to start and return
 (4) to come to a stop
449. Politicians enjoy blowing their own trumpets.
 (1) to boast about their achievements
 (2) to use one's own trumpet
 (3) to blow their trumpet loudly
 (4) to praise others trumpeting
450. Students must learn to keep their belongings in apple pie order.
 (1) orderly preparation of apple pie
 (2) in perfect order
 (3) ordering for apple pie
 (4) arranging apples neatly
451. Scientific knowledge is no longer a closed book in this 21st century.
 (1) an unopened book
 (2) a covered book
 (3) a mystery
 (4) a mysterious book
452. It takes a month of Sundays to chop all that wood.
 (1) a short period
 (2) no time
 (3) a long time
 (4) a special Sunday
Directions (453-457) : In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase in bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom /Phrase.
 (SSC Graduate Level Tier-I Exam. 19.05.2013)
453. let sleeping dogs lie
 (1) dogs can raise tempers
 (2) do not allow dogs to stand
 (3) prevent dog mobility
 (4) do not bring up an old controversial issue
454. To get admission in present day educational institutions, all children should be born with a silver spoon in the mouth.
 (1) always hold a silver spoon
 (2) be born with silver spoon
 (3) be born in a rich family
 (4) be born to silver spoon manufacturer
455. a man of straw
 (1) an unreasonable person
 (2) a man of no substance
 (3) a very active person
 (4) a worthy fellow
456. Children complain about their parents' gifts. They should learn not to look a gift horse in the mouth
 (1) not to find fault with the gifts received
 (2) not to ask for more gifts
 (3) not to find goodness in the gifts
 (4) not to look at a horse's mouth
457. Acquiring a job is a cakewalk for a student who has good academic performance coupled with good attitude.
 (1) a difficult achievement
 (2) a walkway made with cakes
 (3) an easy achievement
 (4) walk away with a cake
Directions (458-462) : In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase in bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.
 (SSC CAPFs SI & CISF ASI Exam. 23.06.2013)
458. I tried to feel his pulse on the issue, but in vain.
 (1) find his views
 (2) enlighten him
 (3) argue with him
 (4) guide him
459. For this act of indifference he will be taken to task by the authority.
 (1) get an official reprimand
 (2) rewarded
 (3) tender his resignation
 (4) entrusted with an official job.
460. You need to have something up your sleeve if the present plan does not work.
 (1) have some honest means
 (2) have some hidden sources of money
 (3) have a secret pocket in the sleeve
 (4) have an alternative plan
461. The new manager ruled the roost to every one.
 (1) exercised authority
 (2) rushed through work
 (3) got paid very handsomely
 (4) created good impression
462. Despite his initial arrogance he had to eat humble pie.
 (1) he had to yield under pressure
 (2) he maintained composure
 (3) he failed to protest eventually
 (4) he accepted the food offered
Directions (463-472) : In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase in bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.
 (SSC Graduate Level Tier-II Exam. 29.09.2013)
463. He broke down when he heard the news of his son's death.
 (1) resigned his job
 (2) ceased to smile
 (3) stopped working
 (4) wept bitterly
464. "Don't try to throw dust into my eyes. You will not succeed."
 (1) to blind me with dust
 (2) to protect my eyes
 (3) blind me with dust
 (4) to mislead or confuse me
465. a man of straw
 (1) a man of no substance
 (2) a very active person
 (3) a worthy fellow
 (4) an unreasonable person
466. We visit the shopping mall off and on.
 (1) up and about
 (2) often
 (3) really and truly
 (4) once upon a time
467. Life is an event of give and take.
 (1) adjustment
 (2) make believe
 (3) always
 (4) giving
468. Don't mix with the bad hats.
 (1) people with bad hats
 (2) people of bad character
 (3) people selling bad hats
 (4) people of poor status

469. The personality development, class started with an ice breaking session.
 (1) having breakfast
 (2) starting conversation
 (3) introducing chief guest
 (4) making speeches
470. He chickened out when he confronted opposition.
 (1) ate chicken
 (2) released chicken
 (3) hatched eggs
 (4) withdrew
471. Try to make do with what you have.
 (1) create (2) do
 (3) produce (4) manage
472. The scientist worked for donkey's years to arrive at the formula.
 (1) a long time (2) a short time
 (3) for donkeys (4) for few years
Directions (473-475) : In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase in bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase as your answer.
 (SSC (10+2) Level Data Entry Operator & LDC Exam. 20.10.2013)
473. The manager hesitated to assign the job to the newcomer as he was wet behind the ears.
 (1) young and inexperienced
 (2) drenched in the rain
 (3) unpunctual and lethargic
 (4) stupid and slow-witted
474. Mrs. Roy keeps an open house on Saturday evening parties you'll find all kinds of people there.
 (1) keeps the gates open for a few persons
 (2) welcomes all members
 (3) welcomes a select group of people
 (4) keeps the doors of the house open
475. The police cordoned off the area after the explosion.
 (1) did not allow anyone to leave
 (2) filled
 (3) isolated
 (4) checked everyone in
Directions (476-478) : In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase in bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase as your answer.
 (SSC (10+2) Level Data Entry Operator & LDC Exam. 27.10.2013, IIInd Sitting)
476. I saw through the trick and was on guard.
 (1) anticipated (2) detected
 (3) witnessed (4) defeated
477. He is not a good lawyer but he has the gift of the gab.
 (1) talk very fast
 (2) speak very well
 (3) a good voice
 (4) pretend convincingly
478. We have to put up with the sorrows of life.
 (1) bear patiently
 (2) fight against
 (3) welcome cheerfully
 (4) treat with indifference
Directions (479-481) : In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase in bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.
 (SSC (10+2) Level Data Entry Operator & LDC Exam. 10.11.2013, Ist Sitting)
479. The die is cast and nothing can be done now.
 (1) The game has been played
 (2) There has been a failure
 (3) The effect has worn out
 (4) The decision has been taken
480. He is in the habit of picking holes in everything.
 (1) delving deep into
 (2) finding fault with
 (3) causing trouble to
 (4) asking questions about
481. The member took exception to the secretary's remark about the current political situation in the State.
 (1) accepted readily
 (2) laughed at
 (3) objected (4) granted
Directions (482-484) : In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase in bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase as your answer.
 (SSC (10+2) Level Data Entry Operator & LDC Exam. 10.11.2013, IIInd Sitting)
482. The young servant goes about with the old master.
 (1) tries to know more about
 (2) adjusts well
 (3) moves around
 (4) goes around
483. The mother was right in giving a piece of her mind to the daughter.
 (1) speaking sadly
 (2) speaking sharply
 (3) speaking kindly
 (4) speaking cheerfully
484. After getting a severe scolding from his mother, Raghu got down to business.
 (1) began to work seriously
 (2) joined his father's business
 (3) started a business
 (4) became businesslike
Directions (485-487) : In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase in bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.
 (SSC Multi-Tasking (Non-Tech.) Staff Exam. 16.02.2014)
485. He was the bad egg in the family.
 (1) greedy (2) worthless
 (3) valuable (4) unwanted
486. to get into hot water
 (1) to have a hot bath
 (2) to keep warm
 (3) to get into trouble
 (4) to get drowned
487. a wild-goose chase
 (1) run after a bird
 (2) a fruitful search
 (3) long pursuit
 (4) fruitless pursuit
Directions (488 - 490) : In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase in bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.
 (SSC Multi-Tasking Staff (Patna) Exam. 16.02.2014)
488. took to her heels
 (1) bent down
 (2) ran off
 (3) kicked off her shoes
 (4) rubbed her heels
489. was plain sailing
 (1) was very easy
 (2) was complicated
 (3) was competitive
 (4) was uncomfortable
490. a bolt from the blue
 (1) struck by thunder
 (2) a piece of bad luck
 (3) a flash of lighting
 (4) a complete surprise
Directions (491-493) : In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase in bold

in the sentence. Choose the alternative that best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

(SSC Multi-Tasking (Non-Tech.) Staff Exam. 23.02.2014, IInd Sitting)

491. I have recently changed my job and I am going to have teething problems.

- (1) difficulties at the start
- (2) difficulties at the end
- (3) difficulties all the time
- (4) problem with my teeth

492. The soldiers fought tooth and nail to save their country.

- (1) using unfair means
- (2) with strength and fury
- (3) with weapons
- (4) as best as they could

493. Chetan is very upset because the new manager always picks on him.

- (1) advises
- (2) warns severely
- (3) selects
- (4) treats badly

Directions (494-498) : In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/ Phrase in bold. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

(SSC CGL Tier-I Re-Exam-2013, 27.04.2014)

494. After his business failed, he had to work very hard to keep the wolf from the door.

- (1) keep away extreme poverty
- (2) earn an honest living
- (3) regain his lost position
- (4) defend from enemies

495. The mention of her former husband's name still makes Rita foam at the mouth.

- (1) angry
- (2) vomit
- (3) shy
- (4) fall sick

496. We must husband our resources against hard times.

- (1) save
- (2) support
- (3) sing
- (4) concede

497. The newly elected Chief Minister has promised to bring about changes in the state.

- (1) produce
- (2) make
- (3) carry
- (4) cause to happen

498. He gave vent to his pleasure with a smile.

- (1) shared
- (2) allowed
- (3) expressed
- (4) enjoyed

Directions (499-503) : In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase in bold in the sentence, Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

(SSC CGL Tier-I Re-Exam-2013, 27.04.2014)

499. If you read between the lines, you will appreciate what he writes.

- (1) can read leaving lines in between
- (2) can read a lot quicker
- (3) know what the writer thinks
- (4) can read and write in the language

500. to throw dust in one's eyes.

- (1) to harm someone
- (2) to deceive
- (3) to show false things
- (4) to make blind

501. He is a cut above all the other boys in the group.

- (1) quite taller than
- (2) more active than
- (3) a little rougher than
- (4) rather superior to

502. As soon as the police arrived, the bank robbers showed the white flag.

- (1) calmly left the scene
- (2) surrendered
- (3) ran away
- (4) were incensed

503. to cut one short.

- (1) to love one
- (2) to insult one
- (3) to criticise one
- (4) to interrupt one

Directions (504-508) : In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase in bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase as your answer.

(SSC CAPFs SI, CISF ASI & Delhi Police SI Exam. 22.06.2014)

504. We must work with all our might and main, otherwise we cannot succeed.

- (1) full force
- (2) complete trust
- (3) exceptional skill
- (4) full unity

505. The sailors nailed their colours to their mast.

- (1) put up a colourful mast
- (2) refused to climb down
- (3) took over the ship
- (4) decided to abandon the ship

506. We had better batten down the hatches. The weather is unpredictable.

- (1) stay in-door
- (2) prepare for a difficult situation
- (3) go somewhere safe
- (4) face the obstacles

507. It is difficult to have a sensible discussion with her as she flies off at a tangent.

- (1) gets carried away
- (2) starts discussing something irrelevant
- (3) loses her temper easily
- (4) does not really understand anything

508. The students found it hard to go at equal speed with the professor.

- (1) get away from
- (2) put up with
- (3) keep up with
- (4) race against

Directions (509-513) : In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase in bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

(SSC CAPFs SI, CISF ASI & Delhi Police SI Exam. 22.06.2014)

509. Let us bury the hatchet and be friends again.

- (1) hide the axe
- (2) keep the secret
- (3) forget the quarrels
- (4) work together

510. The thief managed to escape by the skin of his teeth.

- (1) by running very fast
- (2) by getting help from his friend
- (3) by the narrowest margin
- (4) by disguising himself

511. William left us with a heart-wrenching swan song.

- (1) last cry
- (2) last gift
- (3) last prayer
- (4) last performance

512. The hunter began to suspect that he had been sent on a wild goose chase as there was no white elephant in the forest.
 (1) to hunt
 (2) a foolish and useless enterprise
 (3) a violent chase
 (4) to speak harshly
513. The Director's ideas for the development of the company are all moonshine.
 (1) nonsense (2) superficial
 (3) outdated (4) exemplary
 Directions (514-518) : In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase in bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.
 (SSC CGL Tier-I Re-Exam. (2013) 20.07.2014, 1st Sitting)
514. To be a successful lawyer, one must know how to dot one's i's and cross one's t's.
 (1) complete one task at a time
 (2) write great letters
 (3) deal with paperwork
 (4) be detailed and exact
515. When Ramu lost the money, he was down in the dumps.
 (1) accusing others of stealing
 (2) searching everywhere
 (3) sad and depressed
 (4) very angry at himself
516. He turned up his nose at my offer.
 (1) was taken aback by my offer
 (2) found it hard to believe my offer
 (3) treated my offer with contempt
 (4) could not accept my offer
517. There are no hard and fast rules that cannot be relaxed on such an occasion.
 (1) that is difficult to solve
 (2) that can be altered
 (3) that is very quick
 (4) that cannot be altered
518. Her father strained every nerve to enable her to get settled in life.
 (1) worked very hard
 (2) spent a huge amount
 (3) tried all tricks
 (4) bribed several persons
- Directions (519-523) : In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase in bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.
 (SSC CGL Tier-I Re-Exam. (2013) 20.07.2014, 1st Sitting)
519. The present manner of delimitation has been done in a gerrymandering way.
 (1) in a legal and constitutional manner
 (2) in a judicial and fair way
 (3) in a manipulative and unfair way
 (4) in a dictative manner like the Germans
520. The performance of the lead actors in the play brought the house down.
 (1) made the audience applaud enthusiastically
 (2) made the audience leave
 (3) made the audience cry
 (4) made the audience request an encore
521. People like her, who are salt of the earth, are very difficult to find.
 (1) dedicated to better the world
 (2) good, honest and ideal
 (3) extraordinary
 (4) one with the common folk
522. The Alpha and Omega
 (1) beginning and end
 (2) a Shakespearean play
 (3) a Greek song
 (4) a Swiss watch
523. Jane earned pin money working part-time as a waitress.
 (1) saved money
 (2) additional money
 (3) a small amount of money
 (4) money to be spent only for luxuries and treats
 Directions (524-528) : In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase in bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.
 (SSC GL Tier-I Exam. 19.10.2014, 1st Sitting)
524. Indians are going places in the field of software technology.
 (1) going abroad
 (2) going to spaces
 (3) talented and successful
 (4) friendly and amicable
525. She is a person who pulls no punches.
 (1) speaks politely
 (2) speaks frankly
 (3) speaks rudely
 (4) speaks sweetly
526. For any group work to be successful, it is important that everyone is on the same page.
 (1) present for the meeting
 (2) registered for the work
 (3) willing to pay the same fees
 (4) thinks in a similar way
527. Our plan to go to London is in the air.
 (1) undecided
 (2) certain
 (3) under consideration
 (4) for approval
528. My efforts at pest control went in vain, I have to go back to the drawing board.
 (1) plan it all over again
 (2) take professional help
 (3) spend some time researching abroad
 (4) work at night
 Directions (529-533) : In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase in bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.
 (SSC GL Tier-I Exam. 19.10.2014)
529. There is no cut and dried method for doing this.
 (1) simple
 (2) honest
 (3) ready made
 (4) understandable
530. Suddenly the man blacked out during the parade and had to be helped to a quiet place.
 (1) lost temper
 (2) lost control over himself
 (3) lost consciousness
 (4) lost balance
531. Hold your horses for a moment while I make a phone call.
 (1) Be patient (2) Stay out
 (3) Be quiet (4) Wait
532. Sachin Tendulkar's batting skills make him a cut above the rest.
 (1) taller than
 (2) superior to
 (3) senior to
 (4) different from

533. I am very interested to know the outcome of the debate, kindly keep me in the loop.

- (1) out of it
- (2) informed about the fees
- (3) informed about the last date of joining
- (4) informed regularly

Directions (534-538) : In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase in bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

(SSC GL Tier-I Exam. 26.10.2014)

534. The secretary's thoughtless remark added fuel to the fire.

- (1) added humour to the situation
- (2) worsened the difficult situation
- (3) helped in improving the situation
- (4) prevented the situation

535. He could not get money from his master because he rubbed him up the wrong way.

- (1) irked or irritated him
- (2) asked him to speed up
- (3) suggested a wrong method
- (4) advised him to be strict

536. Ask Mr. Das. He can give you all the news you need : he is always in the swim.

- (1) giving news to others
- (2) at the swimming pool
- (3) in search of news
- (4) well-informed and up-to-date

537. You have been trying to solve this puzzle for a long time, be careful so that you avoid barking up the wrong tree.

- (1) trying to solve problems
- (2) trying to find something at a wrong place
- (3) keep working constantly
- (4) climbing the wrong tree

538. I'll be able to do my job very well when I know the ropes.

- (1) become bolder
- (2) work in silence
- (3) learn the procedures
- (4) gain confidence

Directions (539 - 543) : In each of the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase in bold in the sentence. Choose the

alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase as your answer.

(SSC CHSL (10+2) DEO & LDC Exam. 02.11.2014, Patna Region : 1st Sitting)

539. Deepak did not care for his family, he wanted to gather roses only.

- (1) to save money miserly
- (2) to paint a rosy picture of the past
- (3) to seek all enjoyments of life
- (4) to obtain fame by hardwork

540. a close-fisted person

- (1) a powerful person
- (2) a miser
- (3) a close friend
- (4) a cowardly person

541. to feather one's nest

- (1) to harbour ill feelings
- (2) to build one's house
- (3) to enrich oneself when opportunity occurs
- (4) to get something in abundance

542. Our school is within a stone's throw of the railway station.

- (1) within a certain radius
- (2) very far off
- (3) at a short distance
- (4) within a definite distance

543. I want to tell you in a nut shell, lust for money and power ruined her life.

- (1) as objectively as possible
- (2) confidentially
- (3) in detail
- (4) in a brief manner

Directions (544-548) : In each of the following questions, Four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase in bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase as your answer.

(SSC CHSL (10+2) DEO & LDC Exam. 02.11.2014, IInd Sitting)

544. a close shave.

- (1) a narrow escape from danger
- (2) stubble
- (3) very short hair
- (4) hairless skin

545. Please be as brief as you can, I have other fish to fry.

- (1) to cook the food

(2) to take rest

(3) some important work to attend to

(4) to attend the friends

546. His argument does not hold water.

- (1) to have effect
- (2) to influence
- (3) to check the flow of water
- (4) sound logical fact

547. It was her maiden speech on the stage and she performed well.

- (1) unprepared speech
- (2) sudden speech
- (3) primary speech
- (4) first speech

548. The detective went abroad in search of a culprit but his journey proved to be a wild goose chase.

- (1) expensive
- (2) full of difficulties
- (3) unprofitable adventure
- (4) ill advised

Directions (549-553) : In each of the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase in bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase as your answer.

(SSC CHSL (10+2) DEO & LDC Exam. 09.11.2014)

549. He spoke well though it was his maiden speech.

- (1) long speech
- (2) first speech
- (3) brief speech
- (4) emotional speech

550. The students were all ears, when the speaker started talking about the changes in the exam.

- (1) smiling
- (2) silent
- (3) restless
- (4) attentive

551. In his salad days he was quite a dandy.

- (1) childhood
- (2) adolescence
- (3) school days
- (4) old age

552. He is cool about working at night.

- (1) ready to work
- (2) not ready to work
- (3) excited about working
- (4) grudgingly working

553. You cannot throw dust into my eyes.

- (1) terrify me
- (2) cheat me
- (3) hurt me
- (4) abuse me

Directions (554–558) : In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase in bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase as your answer.

(SSC CHSL (10+2) DEO & LDC Exam. 16.11.2014, Patna Region : 1st Sitting)

554. The girl took after her father. She is very amiable like him.

- (1) similar to (2) different
(3) behind (4) takes

555. Your behaviour is simply beyond the pale.

- (1) outside commonly accepted standards
(2) beyond sorrow
(3) uninteresting
(4) something acceptable

556. The much hyped event turned out to be a nine days' wonder.

- (1) an event that lasted for nine days
(2) created awe for nine days
(3) a dazzling spectacle of great value
(4) a dazzling short-lived spectacle of no real value

557. Listening to the lecture was watching grass grow.

- (1) very boring
(2) very interesting
(3) very confusing
(4) very informative

558. Suddenly the balloon goes up in the middle of the conversation.

- (1) the situation turns unpleasant or serious
(2) a sudden shift in the topic of conversation
(3) the conversation takes a lighter note
(4) an abrupt silence takes place

Directions (559 – 563) : In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase in bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

(SSC CHSL (10+2) DEO & LDC Exam. 16.11.2014)

559. The departmental store is open around the clock.

- (1) at different timings
(2) early morning

(3) day and night

(4) throughout the afternoon

560. Through the reporter's efforts, many unknown facts have come to light.

- (1) ignited (2) flared up
(3) brightened
(4) been revealed

561. I do not see eye to eye with you in this matter.

- (1) to give a correct decision
(2) to obtain suitable punishment
(3) to have the same eyesight
(4) to have the same opinion

562. The boy was in Dutch with his friends.

- (1) in love
(2) in good terms
(3) in awe
(4) in trouble

563. Their attempt to get back the stolen necklace became a wild goose chase.

- (1) wise decision
(2) useless search
(3) timely action
(4) delayed action

Directions (564-573) : In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase in bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

(SSC GL Tier-II Exam. 21.09.2014)

564. Your remarks during the discussion added fuel to the fire.

- (1) got others angry
(2) ignited the fireplace
(3) worsened matters
(4) created warmth all around

565. Why do you fight shy of me ?

- (1) fight with (2) avoid
(3) embarrass (4) shout at

566. They have latched on to tourism as a way of boosting the local economy.

- (1) promoted (2) discovered
(3) exposed (4) explored

567. When he asked me the way to the cafeteria, I told him to follow his nose.

- (1) to find it by himself
(2) to ask someone else

(3) to follow me

(4) to go straight ahead

568. Winning the competition was quite a feather in my cap.

- (1) rewarding
(2) an exciting moment
(3) an achievement
(4) a joy for my parents

569. My father's dealings are open and above board.

- (1) to everyone's liking
(2) mandatory
(3) without any secret
(4) very clear

570. After the public meeting, the crowd went haywire.

- (1) were in jubilation
(2) protested
(3) became out of control
(4) left the venue

571. He broke off in the middle of the story.

- (1) fainted
(2) suddenly stopped
(3) divided his narrative
(4) took time off

572. Some shots were fired at random.

- (1) without any aim
(2) for a long time
(3) to end quarrel
(4) thoroughly

573. I can finish the work by myself, but she always tries to be a back-seat driver.

- (1) person who misjudge others
(2) person who wants to do things by herself
(3) person who falsely accuses others
(4) person who gives unwanted advice

Directions (574–583) : In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase in bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

(SSC CGL Tier-II Exam. 12.04.2015)

574. Sheila's tall tales have no meaning.

- (1) jealousy (2) greed
(3) boasting (4) pride

575. The bridge gave way under the heavy weight.

- (1) collapsed (2) endured
(3) withstood (4) stooped

576. His plan was so complicated that it floored his listeners.

- (1) encouraged (2) annoyed
(3) entertained (4) puzzled
577. My uncle's business has gone to the dogs.
(1) is ruined (2) is dead
(3) is sick (4) is angry
578. Despite the highs and lows, life tends to average itself out.
(1) balance itself
(2) be unvarying
(3) show equal value
(4) get compatible
579. On second thoughts she refused to accept his invitation.
(1) on reconsidering
(2) reviewing leisurely
(3) moral grounds
(4) seeing his brashness
580. I stirred the hornet's nest by my honest statement.
(1) responded to criticism angrily
(2) caused anger in many people
(3) stopped people criticizing someone
(4) acted with energy and interest
581. He knows how to break in horses.
(1) rear (2) tend
(3) train (4) force
582. The judge declared the agreement null and void.
(1) empty (2) annulled
(3) unavoidable (4) not binding
583. We should bury the hatchet and become friends.
(1) obtain
(2) influence friends
(3) make peace
(4) keep a secret

Directions (584-593) : In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase in bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

(SSC CAPFs SI, CISF ASI & Delhi Police SI Exam. 28.09.2014 (TF No. 482 RN 5))

584. **to get into hot waters.**
(1) to be impatient
(2) to suffer loss
(3) to get into trouble
(4) to be in a confused state of mind
585. My student is one who knows how many beans make five.
(1) knows mathematical calculations
(2) is fiercely loyal

- (3) well informed and intelligent
(4) is accurate and precise
586. I can work for six hours at a stretch.
(1) continuously
(2) occasionally
(3) maximum
(4) minimum
587. It was he who put a spoke in my wheel.
(1) tried to cause an accident
(2) helped in the execution of the plan
(3) thwarted in the execution of the plan
(4) destroyed the plan
588. Our fleet bore down upon the enemy.
(1) moved quickly backwards
(2) moved quickly to the left
(3) moved quickly to the right
(4) moved quickly towards
589. The rock concert proved to be a big draw.
(1) favourite
(2) huge attraction
(3) gain
(4) big bang
590. Look sharp or you will miss the opportunity.
(1) be confident
(2) pay attention
(3) take control
(4) make haste
591. Our old Rolls Royce has become a white elephant.
(1) a costly but useless possession
(2) antique item or possession
(3) any traditional possession
(4) a unique item or possession
592. Since the children were young, their parents have always taught them to cut one's coat according to one's cloth.
(1) be thrifty
(2) live life to the full
(3) live within one's means
(4) be fair
593. The lawyer's closing arguments were full of red herrings.
(1) sound judgement
(2) references and allusions to previous crimes
(3) clues intended to distract or mislead
(4) loopholes

Directions (594-598) : In the following questions, four alternatives are

given for the Idiom/Phrase in bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

(SSC CGL Tier-I Exam. 19.10.2014 (TF No. 022 MH 3))

594. **With great difficulty,** he was able to carve out a niche for himself.
(1) became a sculptor
(2) did the best he could do
(3) destroyed his career
(4) developed a specific position for himself
595. You will succeed if you follow my advice to the letter.
(1) about writing letters
(2) written in the letters
(3) in every detail
(4) very thoughtfully
596. A critic's work is to read between the lines.
(1) to comprehend the meaning
(2) to appreciate the inner beauty
(3) to understand the inner meaning
(4) to read carefully
597. Where discipline is concerned I put my foot down.
(1) take a firm stand
(2) take a light stand
(3) take a heavy stand
(4) take a shaky stand
598. The convict claimed innocence and stood his ground in spite of the repeated accusations.
(1) knelt
(2) surrendered
(3) kept standing
(4) refused to yield

Directions (599-603) : 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 CHSL (10+2) DEO & LDC Exam. 16.11.2014, 1st Sitting (TF No. 333 LO 2))

599. The two friends are now at daggers drawn over a petty issue.
(1) angry (2) frustrated
(3) enemies (4) competitors
600. His work seems to be a Penelope's web.
(1) endless (2) difficult
(3) declining
(4) in his best form

601. Goods will be delivered if you pay on the nail.
 (1) pay within the given time
 (2) pay the full amount
 (3) pay promptly in cash
 (4) pay promptly
602. If people do not mend their ways, they are sure to go to the dogs.
 (1) to fight
 (2) to be ruined
 (3) to be united
 (4) to be rough
603. Despite the doctor's advice he still eats like a horse.
 (1) eats slowly
 (2) eats a lot of food
 (3) does not like to eat
 (4) swallows his food
- Directions (604–608) : In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase in bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.
 (SSC CHSL (10+2) DEO & LDC Exam. 16.11.2014, IInd Sitting TF No. 545 QP 6)
604. The trial made a mockery of justice.
 (1) people mocked at the judgement
 (2) it was a mock trial
 (3) there was no serious outcome
 (4) made the system look ridiculous
605. His recent statement is an about turn.
 (1) a good announcement
 (2) a declaration of war
 (3) complete change of opinion
 (4) a bold statement
606. When he left he was extremely disappointed. I think he's gone for good.
 (1) to seek good fortune
 (2) to a good place
 (3) to a foreign country
 (4) permanently
607. to grease the palm
 (1) to rub oil on the hand
 (2) to lubricate the machine parts
 (3) to bribe
 (4) to cut the tree
608. You find a black sheep in every community.
 (1) one who does not co-operate
 (2) person with bad reputation

- (3) one who lives the life of shame
 (4) one who is always doing wrong
- Directions (609–615) : In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase in bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.
 (SSC CGL Tier-II Exam. 12.04.2015 Kolkata Region, TF No. 315 RI 3)
609. We consider the 14th of February a red letter day.
 (1) a day to write with red pens
 (2) a day marked in red
 (3) a day to write letters
 (4) an important day
610. You need to improve your work because it is not up to the mark.
 (1) up to the potential displayed
 (2) according to the required standard
 (3) as good as the others
 (4) marked properly and accurately
611. Your report of the matter is all moonshine.
 (1) familiar (2) acceptable
 (3) concocted (4) excellent
612. At the police station, he showed a clean pair of heels.
 (1) ran away
 (2) displayed clean heels
 (3) kneeled down
 (4) showed courage
613. I am sure the girls will fight tooth and nail for their rights.
 (1) with all their might
 (2) without any weapon
 (3) in a cowardly manner
 (4) with all their rights
614. The President gave away the prizes to the winners.
 (1) let go (2) released
 (3) gave back (4) distributed
615. The manager gave his assistant a piece of his mind.
 (1) suggestion (2) advice
 (3) gist (4) scolding
616. His observations were beside the mark.
 (1) irrelevant (2) criticized
 (3) valid (4) excellent
617. He wanted this agreement in black and white.
 (1) in writing (2) orally
 (3) in discourse (4) in detail

618. The principal of this school is a hard nut to crack.
 (1) generous (2) difficult
 (3) careless (4) kind
- Directions (619–623) : In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase in bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.
 (SSC CAPFs SI, CISF ASI & Delhi Police SI Exam, 21.06.2015 (1st Sitting) TF No. 8037731)
619. to cut the Gordian knot
 (1) to perform a difficult task
 (2) to cut a piece of cloth
 (3) to perform an easy task
 (4) to do a job perfunctorily
620. The shopping mall is a bee hive of activity.
 (1) a busy place
 (2) a secure place
 (3) a sweet place
 (4) a costly place
621. We must draw the line somewhere.
 (1) put the screw on
 (2) fix a limit
 (3) aim at the sky
 (4) turn the tables
622. The officer was in the soup when there was a raid in his office.
 (1) preparing soup
 (2) drinking soup
 (3) distributing soup
 (4) to be in trouble
623. to win laurels
 (1) to be victorious in a game
 (2) to memorise
 (3) to be disappointed
 (4) to earn great prestige
- Directions (624–628) : In each of the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase in bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase as your answer.
 (SSC CAPFs SI, CISF ASI & Delhi Police SI Exam, 21.06.2015 IInd Sitting)
624. The minister took a bird's eye view of the problem.
 (1) vision of a bird
 (2) visualize
 (3) see without giving attention
 (4) a general view from above
625. He is a fine man, but to call him a saint is laying it on thick.
 (1) an exaggeration
 (2) a compulsion

- (3) a development
(4) a reality
626. I was taken aback when he proposed to marry my daughter.
(1) surprised (2) pleased
(3) hurt (4) shocked
627. She played ducks and drakes with her money.
(1) lent
(2) spent lavishly
(3) did not spend
(4) borrowed
628. He had to eat humble pie for his intense rudeness.
(1) earn praise
(2) suffer humiliation
(3) modest behaviour
(4) determine

Directions (629-633) : In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase in bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

(SSC CGL Tier-I Exam, 09.08.2015
(Ist Sitting) TF No. 1443088)

629. Their attempt to get back the stolen necklace proved to be a wild goose chase.
(1) delayed action
(2) wise decision
(3) useless search
(4) timely action
630. The day the new product was launched, people made a beeline to purchase it.
(1) went online
(2) rushed
(3) were doubtful
(4) refused
631. At his wit's end, he turned to his old trade.
(1) Overjoyed
(2) After careful thinking
(3) Confidently
(4) Not knowing what to do
632. When it comes to dancing, he is all-thumbs.
(1) lazy (2) an expert
(3) a trainer (4) clumsy
633. He usually goes to bed very early and rises with the lark.
(1) at midnight
(2) very late
(3) very early
(4) after sunrise

Directions (634-638) : In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase in bold in the sentence. Choose the alterna-

tive which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

(SSC CGL Tier-I Exam, 09.08.2015
(IInd Sitting) TF No. 4239378)

634. He's as daft as a brush. Don't believe a word of what he says.
(1) a liar (2) very funny
(3) really silly (4) unreliable
635. I hope you will back me at the meeting.
(1) criticise (2) speak after I do
(3) follow (4) support
636. A closefisted man does not know the significance of human life.
(1) a poor man
(2) a rich man
(3) a miser
(4) an ill-mannered man
637. I shall always remember my alma mater with gratitude.
(1) institution where I got education
(2) teacher who inspired me
(3) mother's loving care
(4) kindergarten days
638. I and my friend always go Dutch when we eat out.
(1) drive together
(2) pay for each other's meal
(3) go together
(4) divide the costs

Directions (639-643) : In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase in bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

(SSC CGL Tier-I Exam, 16.08.2015
(Ist Sitting) TF No. 3196279)

639. Instead of keeping his promise of helping me with office work, he just left me high and dry.
(1) left me without a drop of water
(2) left me in a state of anger
(3) left me alone to do the work
(4) left me feeling like a fool
640. Unless you make amends for the loss, nobody is prepared to excuse you.
(1) improve (2) confess
(3) compensate (4) pay debt
641. Before the report reached the authority, the media spilled the beans.
(1) hinted at the consequences.
(2) dropped the charges

- (3) spilled the content of the package
(4) revealed the secret information
642. Amit said to Rekha, "Don't make a mountain out of a mole hill."
(1) exaggerate a minor problem
(2) attempt an impossible task
(3) create problems
(4) start looking for mole hills in mountains.
643. His friend turned out to be snake in the grass.
(1) cowardly and brutal
(2) a hidden enemy
(3) an unreliable and deceitful person
(4) low and mean

Directions (644-648) : In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase in bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

(SSC CGL Tier-I Exam, 16.08.2015
(IInd Sitting) TF No. 2176783)

644. He and his neighbour are always at loggerheads.
(1) agree on everything
(2) disagreeing on everything
(3) aloof from each other
(4) abusing each other
645. I am going to stay at home because I am feeling under the weather today.
(1) unhappy (2) depressed
(3) irritated (4) sick
646. Even in the middle of the fire he kept a level head.
(1) was impulsive
(2) was sensible
(3) was crazy
(4) was self centred
647. The winning team decided to go for the jugular in the last quarter of the match.
(1) forfeit the match
(2) give easy opportunities to the opposite team
(3) give reserve players a chance
(4) attack all out
648. Everybody thought Asha and Ashok were a happy couple, but it was all just make believe.
(1) hatred (2) treachery
(3) reality (4) pretence

Directions (649–658) : In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase in bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

(SSC CAPFs SI, CISF ASI & Delhi Police SI Exam, 30.08.2015 TF No. 4039770)

649. to set the Thames on fire
 (1) do a heroic deed
 (2) do something to suit one's own purpose
 (3) to burn someone alive
 (4) destroy with fire
650. You cannot expect even a single penny from him, he is a close-fisted man.
 (1) miser (2) boxer
 (3) courageous (4) generous
651. 15th August is a red-letter day in the history of India.
 (1) an important day
 (2) blood-donation day
 (3) holiday
 (4) a historical occasion
652. A : Can you help me ?
 B : Sure, I'll be finished with this in a second.
 (1) be thorough
 (2) be satisfied
 (3) be exhausted
 (4) be through
653. I have a feeling in my gut that her husband is cheating her.
 (1) strong instinct
 (2) slight hint
 (3) lot of Proof
 (4) strong fear
654. out of sorts
 (1) not rich (2) out of reach
 (3) out of sight (4) not well
655. to keep the wolf away from the door
 (1) to keep off starvation
 (2) to guard against wild animals
 (3) to guard against enemies
 (4) to keep aloof from disputed matters
656. The future of Kashmir is still a vexed question.
 (1) controversial
 (2) None of the given options.
 (3) important
 (4) confused

657. a golden mean
 (1) comfortable and easy work
 (2) middle course between two extremes
 (3) a sudden sad event
 (4) a subject of contention
658. I have clean hands, so why should I be afraid of any one.
 (1) beautiful (2) faulty
 (3) innocent (4) hygienic

Directions (659-663) : In each of the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase in bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase as your answer.

(SSC CGL Tier-I Re-Exam, 30.08.2015)

659. Anand is a nice guy, but sometimes he really gets on my nerves.
 (1) makes me nervous
 (2) shakes my self-confidence
 (3) annoys me
 (4) makes me uncomfortable
660. As a student, you should catch time by the forelock.
 (1) speed up
 (2) set up clock back
 (3) slow down
 (4) seize opportunity
661. Receiving his first award was a shot in the arm for him.
 (1) something that gives encouragement
 (2) something that is painful
 (3) something that needs attention
 (4) something done with a purpose
662. It is sometimes wiser to rely on horse sense than on the advice of colleagues.
 (1) advice of parents
 (2) advice of teachers
 (3) advice of colleagues
 (4) basic common sense
663. Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India, was a man of letters.
 (1) a great letter-writer
 (2) a great politician
 (3) a literary person
 (4) a great patriot

Directions (664–666) : In each of the following questions, Four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase in bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase as your answer.

(SSC Constable (GD)

Exam, 04.10.2015, 1st Sitting)

664. I have taken fancy to this car.
 (1) given imaginative touches
 (2) revised
 (3) developed liking for
 (4) improved

665. carry out
 (1) bring
 (2) continue
 (3) complete something
 (4) to take in

666. He beats about the bush.
 (1) talks sensibly
 (2) talks continuously
 (3) speak well
 (4) does not talk specifically

Directions (667–669) : In each of the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase in bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase as your answer.

(SSC Constable (GD)

Exam, 04.10.2015, IInd Sitting)

667. Television has become part and parcel of our lives.
 (1) status symbol
 (2) unavoidable luxury
 (3) important part
 (4) showy part
668. My kith and kin congratulated me on my brilliant success.
 (1) niece and nephew
 (2) father and mother
 (3) relatives
 (4) colleagues

669. His frequent journeys are telling upon his health.
 (1) threatening (2) improving
 (3) informing (4) affecting

Directions (670 –679) : In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase in bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

(SSC CGL Tier-II Exam, 25.10.2015, TF No. 2148789)

670. He advised her to give a wide berth to malicious people.
 (1) pay more attention to
 (2) give a larger bed to
 (3) share her seat with
 (4) to stay away from
671. Russel Peters really brought the house down with his spectacular performance at the Club yesterday.
 (1) passed a bill unanimously
 (2) amused the audience greatly

- (3) pulled down a
(4) defamed a family building
672. Tripti gave her report quoting chapter and verse.
(1) spoke like a preacher
(2) taught like a teacher
(3) referred to religious books
(4) provided minute details
673. Sunil's dog in a manger attitude did not help to settle the matter.
(1) cold (2) selfless
(3) selfish (4) warm
674. If the speaker continues with his boring speech, the audience will probably vote with their feet.
(1) kick him out
(2) show their disapproval
(3) stop him from speaking
(4) choose him as leader
675. I threw up my cards for want of funds.
(1) put my whole income at stake
(2) looked out for help
(3) gave up my plan
(4) gambled all my money
676. He worked hard to feather his nest.
(1) trap birds
(2) decorate his home
(3) be the envy of others
(4) provide for his own needs
677. Shyam Prasad was a chip of the old block.
(1) a being of the old generation
(2) an experienced old man
(3) a common boy of the locality
(4) someone similar in character to one's father
678. My father is undoubtedly an arm-chair critic.
(1) someone who gives advice based on theory not practice
(2) someone who gives advice based on practice not theory
(3) someone who gives advice based on experience
(4) someone who never gives advice
679. He was punished for taking French leave.
(1) being absent without permission
(2) leaving without intimation
(3) giving lame excuse
(4) resigning without giving notice

Directions (680-683) : In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase in bold in

the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

(SSC CHSL (10+2) LDC, DEO & PA/SA Exam, 01.11.2015, IInd Sitting)

680. She paid a flying visit to Mumbai to see her ailing father.
(1) went by aeroplane
(2) a very long visit
(3) a very short visit
(4) a surprise visit
681. to take after
(1) to remove (2) to resemble
(3) to cheat (4) to write down
682. have a finger in every pie
(1) to be greedy
(2) to be meddlesome
(3) to be efficient
(4) to be quarrelsome
683. the jury is out
(1) No decision has been reached.
(2) A jury member is absent.
(3) The entire jury decides to stay out of the proceedings.
(4) The jury has taken a break between hearings.

Directions (684-687) : In each of the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase in bold. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

(SSC CHSL (10+2) LDC, DEO & PA/SA Exam, 15.11.2015 (1st Sitting) TF No. 6636838)

684. Ramah was on cloud nine when she heard that she had won the lottery.
(1) frustrated (2) very happy
(3) shocked (4) confused
685. My brother puts by a little money every month.
(1) saves
(2) loses
(3) gives away
(4) spends carefully
686. I was in two minds whether to buy a new television or a new computer.
(1) to be firm
(2) to be undecided
(3) to take two decisions
(4) to lose one's mind
687. to call it a day
(1) put off work for another day
(2) the day was marvellous
(3) decide to finish working
(4) give the day a name

Directions (688-691) : In each of the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase in bold. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

(SSC CHSL (10+2) LDC, DEO & PA/SA Exam, 15.11.2015 (IInd Sitting) TF No. 7203752)

688. to make up one's mind.
(1) to decide what to do
(2) to remember things clearly
(3) to remind oneself of something
(4) to think creatively
689. International monetary affairs are governed by the gnomes of Zurich.
(1) witchcraft of Zurich
(2) foreign leaders
(3) big international bankers
(4) guardians of treasure
690. to put in a nut-shell.
(1) to be long and exhaustive about something
(2) to state something very concisely
(3) to place something
(4) to be blunt about something
691. Nowadays it has become a fashion to take French Leave.
(1) seeking permission from French Embassy
(2) saying goodbye in French style
(3) absenting oneself without permission
(4) taking leave to go to France

Directions (692-695) : In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase in bold. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

(SSC CHSL (10+2) LDC, DEO & PA/SA Exam, 06.12.2015 (1st Sitting) TF No. 1375232)

692. to be in a quandary
(1) to be in a confusing situation
(2) to be in an unenviable position
(3) to be on the alert
(4) to be in a commanding position
693. A false friend never hesitates to shed crocodile tears.
(1) to move from one place to another
(2) to show false happiness

- (3) to feel disappointed
 (4) to pretend to be sympathetic.
694. take the bull by the horns is
 (1) to be helpful
 (2) to win the battle
 (3) to be sensitive
 (4) to face a difficulty courageously
695. sail in the same boat
 (1) be in the same situation.
 (2) suspect something uncanny.
 (3) suspect something wrong.
 (4) be in a different situation.

Directions (696-699) : In each of the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase in bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

(SSC CHSL (10+2) LDC, DEO & PA/SA Exam, 06.12.2015 (IInd Sitting) TF No. 3441135)

696. He has made a dog's breakfast of these accounts.
 (1) a breakfast for the dogs.
 (2) an accurate summary.
 (3) a total mess.
 (4) a breakfast being served by the dogs.
697. a sacred cow
 (1) a person never to be criticised
 (2) a saintly person
 (3) a helpful person
 (4) a very religious person
698. You will be reminded of the seamy side of life if you visit the slum tenements.
 (1) the unpleasant aspects
 (2) the gentler aspects
 (3) the softer aspects
 (4) the pleasanter aspects
699. to shun evil company.
 (1) to kick out.
 (2) to let loose.
 (3) to give up.
 (4) to put off.

Directions (700-703) : In each of the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase in bold. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

(SSC CHSL (10+2) LDC, DEO & PA/SA Exam, 20.12.2015 (Ist Sitting) TF No. 9692918)

700. Rohini reached the examination hall in the nick of time.
 (1) just after time
 (2) just in time
 (3) very late
 (4) just before time

701. to be down to earth.
 (1) to be unreasonable
 (2) to be pretentious
 (3) to be realistic
 (4) to be impractical
702. This argument does not hold water.
 (1) seem rejectable
 (2) seem logical
 (3) seem approvable
 (4) seem acceptable

703. The truant school boy told cock-and-bull stories to escape punishment.
 (1) drab and boring
 (2) authentic and realistic
 (3) interesting and thrilling
 (4) absurd and unbelievable

Directions (704-708) : In each of the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase in bold. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

(SSC (10+2) Stenographer Grade 'C' & 'D' Exam. 31.01.2016 TF No. 3513283)

704. The manager is not dismissed, but he is definitely under a cloud.
 (1) under suspension
 (2) under suspicion
 (3) under scrutiny
 (4) warned severely
705. Do not pull a long face.
 (1) look ugly (2) look tired
 (3) look dejected (4) look happy
706. Who will believe, your cock and bull story?
 (1) Ambiguous story
 (2) Authentic story
 (3) Absurd story
 (4) Common story

707. For years I could not shake off the trauma of that day.
 (1) forget (2) remember
 (3) imagine (4) None of these
708. sit on the fence.
 (1) to be in a tricky situation
 (2) to be relaxed and comfortable
 (3) halting between two opinions
 (4) to be defeated and dejected

Directions (709-713) : In each of the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase printed in bold. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase as your answer.

(SSC (10+2) Stenographer Grade 'C' & 'D' Exam. 31.01.2016 TF No. 3513283)

709. The manager is not dismissed, but he is definitely under a cloud.
 (1) under suspension
 (2) under suspicion
 (3) under scrutiny
 (4) warned severely
710. Do not pull a long face.
 (1) look ugly (2) look tired
 (3) look dejected
 (4) look happy

711. Who will believe, your cock and bull story?
 (1) ambiguous story
 (2) authentic story
 (3) absurd story
 (4) common story
712. For years I could not shake off the trauma of that day.
 (1) forget
 (2) remember
 (3) imagine
 (4) None of these

713. sit on the fence.
 (1) to be in a tricky situation
 (2) to be relaxed and comfortable
 (3) halting between two opinions
 (4) to be defeated and dejected

Directions (714 - 718) : In each of the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase printed in bold at the question places. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase as your answer.

(SSC CAPFS (CPO) SI, CISF ASI & Delhi Police SI Exam. 20.03.2016 1st sitting TF No. 3148585)

714. to have an axe to grind
 (1) to criticize someone
 (2) to fail to arouse interest
 (3) to work for both sides
 (4) to have a selfish end to serve
715. a hornet's nest
 (1) a comfortable position
 (2) an unpleasant situation
 (3) among thorns
 (4) a dilemma
716. to roll out the red carpet
 (1) to buy a gift
 (2) to give a warning signal
 (3) to decorate the room
 (4) to give a grand welcome
717. to put his foot down
 (1) concede (2) not to yield
 (3) resign (4) withdraw

718. have a foot in the grave
 (1) be afraid to die.
 (2) have no interest in life.
 (3) be close to death.
 (4) have an incurable disease.

Directions (719 – 723) : 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 CAPFs (CPO) SI & ASI, Delhi Police SI Exam. 20.03.2016 IInd sitting)

719. to put one's hand to plough
 (1) to take up a difficult task
 (2) to get entangled into unnecessary things
 (3) to take up agricultural farming
 (4) take interest in technical work

720. to pick holes
 (1) to find some reason to quarrel
 (2) to criticise someone
 (3) to cut some part of an item
 (4) to destroy something

721. He is like a snake in the grass for our family.
 (1) a stupid person
 (2) a close friend
 (3) a distant relative
 (4) a hidden rival

722. God's acre refers to which of the following places ?
 (1) Church (2) Aisle
 (3) A cemetery beside a Church
 (4) Altar

723. She wrangled over an ass's shadow.
 (1) did unnecessary work
 (2) quarrelled like fools
 (3) sat on the shadow of the ass
 (4) quarrelled over trifles

Directions (724) : Four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase printed in bold. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of Idiom/Phrase.

(SSC CPO SI & ASI Online Exam. 05.06.2016 1st sitting)

724. to beat the rap
 (1) to destroy stereotypes
 (2) to be more successful than others
 (3) to be acquitted of a crime
 (4) to involve someone in a crime

Directions (725–726) : Four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase printed in bold. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of Idiom/Phrase.

(SSC CPO SI & ASI Online Exam. 05.06.2016 1st sitting)

725. The team captain was at sixes and sevens regarding his winning strategy.
 (1) careless
 (2) confident
 (3) confused
 (4) courageous

726. Many of us have seen the dog who is full of beans outside the ring but, after stepping across the threshold of the ring, walks as if his feet are made of lead.
 (1) successful
 (2) popular
 (3) lacks energy
 (4) energetic

Directions (727-728) : Four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase printed in bold. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of Idiom/Phrase.

(SSC CPO SI & ASI Online Exam. 05.06.2016 1st sitting)

727. The only good news in this tale is that Hinson, who could be an all hat and no cattle poster boy, ultimately lost his job.
 (1) one who puts others in trouble
 (2) one who is hardworking
 (3) one who doesn't want to spend his own money
 (4) one who is full of big talk but lacks substance and action

728. At twenty, he was already going as bald as a cue ball.
 (1) partially bald
 (2) not bald
 (3) completely bald
 (4) crazy

729. In the following question, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase printed in bold. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

Dog eat dog

- (1) very vigilant
 (2) steady manager
 (3) ruthlessly competitive
 (4) hostile and unhelpful

(SSC CPO SI & ASI Online Exam. 05.06.2016 IInd sitting)

730. In the following question, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase printed in bold. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

Fits and starts

- (1) regular (2) unsteady
 (3) rapid (4) puzzled

(SSC CPO SI & ASI Online Exam. 05.06.2016 IInd sitting)

731. In the following question, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase printed in bold. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

Gift of the gab

- (1) eloquent
 (2) puzzling
 (3) deceptive
 (4) embarrassing

(SSC CPO SI & ASI Online Exam. 05.06.2016 IInd sitting)

732. In the following question, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase printed in bold. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

In harness

- (1) in office (2) to hold on
 (3) gripping (4) in silence

(SSC CPO SI & ASI Online Exam. 05.06.2016 IInd sitting)

733. In the following question, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase printed in bold. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

Whole nine yards

- (1) long clothing
 (2) till last minute
 (3) counting length
 (4) everything

(SSC CPO SI & ASI Online Exam. 05.06.2016 IInd sitting)

734. Four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase printed in bold. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase
 Between the horns of a dilemma.

- (1) a difficult situation / choice
 (2) a challenging situation
 (3) an unknown problem
 (4) a combative situation

(SSC CGL Tier-I (CBE) Exam. 06.06.2016 1st sitting)

735. Four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase printed in bold. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

To eat one's own words

- (1) to offer bribe with sweet words
- (2) to listen carefully
- (3) to remain silent
- (4) forced to retract one's own statement

(SSC CGL Tier-I (CBE)

Exam. 06.06.2016 1st sitting)

736. Four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase printed in bold. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

Square peg in a round hole

- (1) understanding
- (2) misfit
- (3) competent
- (4) most fit

(SSC CGL Tier-I (CBE)

Exam. 06.06.2016 1st sitting)

737. Four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase printed in bold. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

steal someone's thunder

- (1) take credit for something someone else did
- (2) poor cry
- (3) a useless attempt
- (4) everything

(SSC CGL Tier-I (CBE)

Exam. 06.06.2016)

738. Four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase printed in bold. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

Red-tape

- (1) official procedures causing delay
- (2) label red for something dangerous
- (3) to be cleared very fast
- (4) a procedure for close scrutiny

(SSC CGL Tier-I (CBE)

Exam. 06.06.2016)

Directions (739) : Four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase printed in bold. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

(SSC CGL Tier-I (CBE)

Exam. 06.06.2016 (IInd Sitting)

739. turn a blind eye

- (1) to take on a task that is way too big
- (2) to work late into the night
- (3) to present a counter argument
- (4) to ignore a situation, facts or reality

Directions (740-741) : Four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase printed in bold. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of Idiom/Phrase.

(SSC CGL Tier-I (CBE)

Exam. 06.06.2016 (IInd Sitting)

740. whole bag of tricks

- (1) make use of the best resources from the ones that are available
- (2) make use of all the possibilities or techniques to achieve something
- (3) make use of all opportunities that cross your path
- (4) make use of all tricks to win the hearts of people

741. pull a rabbit out of a hat

- (1) to let something happen and you have no control over it
- (2) to do something unexpected
- (3) to be someone worth having
- (4) to make a special effort

Directions (742) : Four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase printed in bold. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

(SSC CGL Tier-I (CBE)

Exam. 06.06.2016 (IInd Sitting)

742. let the chips fall where they may

- (1) let your sacrifices in life be known to everyone
- (2) let the difficult situations in life come to an end regardless of the results
- (3) let the joys of life take precedence over your sorrows
- (4) let something happen without bothering about the consequences

Directions (743) : Four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase printed in bold. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

(SSC CGL Tier-I (CBE)

Exam. 06.06.2016 (IInd Sitting)

743. going against the grain

- (1) doing things differently from what you usually do
- (2) doing things against the wishes of your close relations
- (3) doing things which you never heard of
- (4) doing things which no one else has ever done till now

Directions (744-748) : In each of the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase printed in bold. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

(SSC (10+2) Stenographer Grade 'C' & 'D' Exam. 31.07.2016)

744. Hold your tongue, my lad! I'll deal with you later.

- (1) Be silent
- (2) Cool the tongue
- (3) Gargle
- (4) Stick out the tongue

745. If you read his letter between the lines, you will find that he has no faith in his colleague's honesty.

- (1) read in secret
- (2) find out the inner meaning
- (3) read an untidy letter
- (4) strain your eyes

746. The lawyer insisted on having the contract in black and white.

- (1) orally
- (2) figuratively
- (3) obliquely
- (4) in writing

747. Our parents allowed us to watch films once in a blue moon.

- (1) rarely
- (2) secretly
- (3) forever
- (4) everywhere

748. The teacher was taken aback by the student's remark.

- (1) surprised
- (2) hurt
- (3) pleased
- (4) annoyed

Directions (749-751) : In these questions, four alternatives are given for the idiom/ phrase printed in bold. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase given in bold.

749. caught red-handed

- (1) caught by mistake
- (2) caught with a red-handkerchief
- (3) found wounded
- (4) discovered in the act of doing

750. gate crasher
 (1) invader
 (2) thief
 (3) uninvited guest
 (4) children
751. to angle
 (1) to measure the river breadth
 (2) to fish with a net
 (3) to fish
 (4) to sit and watch the river
 Directions (752-755) : In these questions, four alternatives are given for the idiom/ phrase given in bold. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/ Phrase given in bold.
 (SSC CGL Tier-I (CBE)
 Exam. 27.08.2016 (IInd sitting)
752. fit like a glove
 (1) to fit snugly
 (2) something tight and sticky
 (3) soft and easy to wear
 (4) difficult to hold
753. pull a long face
 (1) to make fun
 (2) to look sad
 (3) to irritate someone
 (4) to pull someone's face
754. cat nap
 (1) take a long sleep
 (2) sleep like a cat
 (3) make a snoring sound while sleeping
 (4) to sleep briefly
755. to flog a dead horse
 (1) to act in a foolish way
 (2) to waste one's efforts
 (3) to revive interest in an old effort
 (4) None of these
 Directions (756 - 758) : 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 Tier-I (CBE)
 Exam. 28.08.2016 (IInd sitting)
756. beat around the bush
 (1) walk around the forest
 (2) clean the bushy areas
 (3) avoiding the main topic
 (4) play around the forest
757. make room
 (1) clean the room
 (2) make space
 (3) attain the room
 (4) make a clean sweep

758. mend your ways
 (1) happy with one's behaviour
 (2) sad with one's behaviour
 (3) destroy one's behaviour
 (4) improve one's behaviour
 Directions (759 - 761) : 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 Tier-I (CBE)
 Exam. 29.08.2016 (IInd sitting)
759. for keeps
 (1) himself (2) away
 (3) forever (4) hid
760. pale into insignificance
 (1) seemed less important
 (2) was less exciting
 (3) was less hectic
 (4) was dull and pale
761. with one voice
 (1) by one man
 (2) by one community
 (3) unanimously
 (4) in disharmony
 Directions (762-764) : 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 Tier-I (CBE)
 Exam. 30.08.2016 (1st sitting)
762. made light of
 (1) did not hear
 (2) treated it lightly
 (3) blew away
 (4) carried with him
763. every inch a gentleman
 (1) somewhat (2) partly
 (3) entirely (4) calculatively
764. gall and wormwood
 (1) a problem
 (2) hateful
 (3) useless
 (4) hard to digest
 Directions (765-767) : 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 Tier-I (CBE)
 Exam. 30.08.2016 (IInd sitting)
765. to add fuel to the fire
 (1) prevent fire from dying out
 (2) make the fire burn brightly
 (3) make things worse
 (4) waste fuel for no reason

766. to take to heart
 (1) to be greatly affected
 (2) to take something heartily
 (3) to strike at the heart, out of enjoyment
 (4) to suffer from heart disease
767. to bring to light
 (1) to put on light
 (2) to reveal
 (3) to bring a light
 (4) to arrange light sufficiently
 Directions (768-770) : 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 Tier-I (CBE)
 Exam. 31.08.2016 (1st sitting)
768. pros and cons
 (1) professionals
 (2) con artists
 (3) professionals and con artists
 (4) advantages and disadvantages
769. once in a blue moon
 (1) very rarely (2) common
 (3) predictable (4) ordinary
770. fish out of water
 (1) dehydrated
 (2) comfortable position
 (3) an uncomfortable position
 (4) fish in an aquarium
 Directions (771-773) : 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 Tier-I (CBE)
 Exam. 31.08.2016 (IInd sitting)
771. be down with
 (1) suffering from
 (2) in grief with
 (3) in pain with
 (4) aching with
772. fair-weather friend
 (1) honest only when easy and convenient
 (2) truthful only when easy and convenient
 (3) supports only when easy and convenient
 (4) temporary only when easy and convenient
773. pull together
 (1) become friends
 (2) work harmoniously
 (3) be successful
 (4) live happily

Directions (774–776) : In each of the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

(SSC CGL Tier-I (CBE)

Exam. 01.09.2016 (1st sitting)

774. to give oneself airs
 (1) space to breathe
 (2) time
 (3) acting strange
 (4) behaving arrogantly
775. at a stone's throw
 (1) at a short distance
 (2) at a place where quarrels take place
 (3) at a great distance
 (4) a quarry
776. bone of contention
 (1) a delicious non-vegetarian item
 (2) an item which made them content
 (3) cause for quarrel
 (4) A link between them

Directions (777–779) : 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 Tier-I (CBE)

Exam. 01.09.2016 (IInd sitting)

777. to eat humble pie
 (1) to eat an unsavoury pie
 (2) to be served food that is rotten
 (3) to yield under humiliating circumstances
 (4) to give in to political pressure
778. to end in smoke
 (1) to fail
 (2) to create smoke
 (3) to end
 (4) to emit smoke
779. to spill the beans
 (1) to reveal partial truth
 (2) to be untidy
 (3) to reveal a secret
 (4) to conceal a fact

Directions (780–782) : In these questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase given in bold. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase given in bold.

(SSC CGL Tier-I (CBE)

Exam. 02.09.2016 (IInd sitting)

780. cut the mustard
 (1) to get under expectations
 (2) to score average
 (3) to perform well
 (4) to underperform
781. a chip off the old block
 (1) reminds them of one's father
 (2) to remind of one's son
 (3) reminds them of one's son
 (4) reminds of previous memories
782. to fish in troubled waters
 (1) to indulge in evil conspiracies
 (2) to make a profit out of disturbance
 (3) to aggravate the situation
 (4) to make the most of bad bargain

Directions (783–785) : 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 Tier-I (CBE)

Exam. 02.09.2016 (IInd sitting)

783. bark is worse than his bite
 (1) threat is worse than the action taken.
 (2) temper cannot be controlled.
 (3) ferocious scolding hurt more than his action.
 (4) anger is always justified.
784. throw caution to the winds
 (1) to be fearful
 (2) to warn others not to travel
 (3) to behave recklessly
 (4) to behave with care and caution
785. ill at ease
 (1) unwell (2) irritated
 (3) uneasy (4) confused

Directions (786–788) : 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 Tier-I (CBE)

Exam. 03.09.2016 (1st sitting)

786. to get cold feet
 (1) drenched (2) fear
 (3) felicitate (4) fever
787. beside the mark
 (1) perfect
 (2) not to the point
 (3) relevant (4) charming
788. on tenterhooks
 (1) happy and excited
 (2) in suspense and anxiety

- (3) angry and irritated
 (4) surprised and shocked

Directions (789–791) : 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 Tier-I (CBE)

Exam. 04.09.2016 (1st sitting)

789. burn your boats
 (1) have a burning desire to win
 (2) become extremely tired after working very hard
 (3) do something that makes it impossible to return to the previous situation
 (4) want to spend money as soon as you get it
790. dressing-down
 (1) apply bandage
 (2) wear an expensive gown
 (3) give a scolding
 (4) pretend
791. null and void
 (1) invalid (2) observant
 (3) uncontrolled (4) homeless

Directions (792 – 794) : In each of the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

(SSC CGL Tier-I (CBE)

Exam. 06.09.2016 (1st Sitting)

792. catch a tartar
 (1) to catch a dangerous person
 (2) to deal with a person who is more than one's match
 (3) to trap a wanted criminal with great difficulty
 (4) to live carefully and cautiously
793. cap in hand
 (1) defiant
 (2) screaming
 (3) well behaved
 (4) in a respectful manner
794. in the blues
 (1) cheerless and depressed
 (2) violent and angry
 (3) wearing blue badges
 (4) singing sad songs

Directions (795–797) : 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 Tier-I (CBE)

Exam. 07.09.2016 (1st sitting)

795. straw in the wind
 (1) a light-weight object
 (2) a lucky charm
 (3) a game that kids play
 (4) an indication of what might happen

796. face the music
 (1) be applauded
 (2) be ridiculed
 (3) be punished
 (4) be dismissed

797. curry favour
 (1) seek impartial judgement
 (2) seek favourable attention
 (3) prepare a dish
 (4) attract attention

Directions (798–800) : 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 CHSL (10+2) Tier-I (CBE)
 Exam. 08.09.2016 (1st sitting))

798. to keep in abeyance
 (1) in a state of permanence
 (2) in a state of emergency
 (3) in a state of suspension
 (4) in a state of revision

799. to be in a fix
 (1) in pain
 (2) in distress
 (3) depressed
 (4) in a difficult situation

800. to break the ice
 (1) made people angry
 (2) made people laugh
 (3) made people excited
 (4) made people relaxed and comfortable

Directions (801–803) : 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 Tier-I (CBE)

Exam. 09.09.2016 (1st sitting))

801. put two and two together
 (1) bad at mathematics
 (2) poor financial condition
 (3) reason logically
 (4) forget something

802. an axe to grind
 (1) attack aggressively
 (2) suffer a lot
 (3) betray somebody
 (4) have a selfish interest

803. pick to pieces
 (1) study something superficially
 (2) complete a work entirely
 (3) analyse critically
 (4) select only what you need.

Directions (804–806) : 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 CHSL (10+2) Tier-I (CBE)
 Exam. 10.09.2016 (1st sitting))

804. wet behind the ears
 (1) skillful
 (2) young and rich with experience
 (3) young and without much experience
 (4) hearing impaired

805. under a cloud
 (1) sheltered from the sun
 (2) under suspicion
 (3) out in the open
 (4) get wet

806. get the sack
 (1) look for a sack
 (2) find a sack
 (3) get a call back
 (4) be dismissed

Directions (807–809) : 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 Tier-I (CBE)

Exam. 11.09.2016 (1st sitting))

807. To nip in the bud
 (1) to stop something at the start
 (2) to trim the flowers
 (3) to pluck the flowers
 (4) to steal from

808. To put a spoke in one's wheel
 (1) to repair one's cycle
 (2) to hinder
 (3) to trip a rider
 (4) to add an extra wheel

809. To clip one's wings
 (1) to stop one from flying
 (2) to trim the leaves
 (3) to deprive one of power
 (4) to hurt a bird

Directions (810–819) : In the following questions, out of the four alternatives, choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

(SSC CGL Tier-II (CBE)

Exam. 30.11.2016)

810. take the bull by the horns
 (1) crush something with a heavy hand
 (2) grapple the situation courageously

- (3) close your eyes and attack the bull
 (4) take defensive measures to deal with a crisis.

811. a gentleman at large
 (1) a man in the crowd
 (2) a man without a job
 (3) a man who runs around
 (4) a man who is generous

812. lose face
 (1) become embarrassed
 (2) feel angry
 (3) get injured
 (4) feel surprised

813. build castles in the air
 (1) work tirelessly
 (2) fly
 (3) dream
 (4) film something

814. fall back on
 (1) retreat
 (2) overtaken
 (3) suffer an accident
 (4) resort to something

815. go to rack and ruin
 (1) a state of utter chaos
 (2) a state of despair
 (3) a condition of exhilaration
 (4) get into a bad condition

816. bite the dust
 (1) eat poorly
 (2) suffer a defeat
 (3) clean something
 (4) attack and defeat somebody

817. have a chip on one's shoulder
 (1) nurse a grudge
 (2) feel physically tall
 (3) suffer an ailment
 (4) carry a burden

818. the seamy side
 (1) on the right side
 (2) unpleasant aspect
 (3) visible aspects
 (4) on the left side of something

819. too many chiefs and not enough Indians.
 (1) a proud gathering
 (2) an inefficient situation

- (3) an anti-national meeting
 (4) a top-level meeting
- Directions (820–829) : In each of the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idioms/Phrases. Choose the one that best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.
- (SSC CGL Tier-II (CBE)
Exam. 01.12.2016)
820. make one's mark
 (1) distinguish oneself
 (2) score high marks
 (3) highlight something in a page
 (4) reveal something
821. throw in the towel
 (1) fight with vigour
 (2) acknowledge defeat
 (3) get success
 (4) concentrate more
822. mare's nest
 (1) phenomenal discovery
 (2) worthless thing
 (3) joyful event
 (4) huge mistake
823. a storm in a teacup
 (1) steam while having tea
 (2) something which encourages
 (3) big fuss over a small matter
 (4) special positions
824. blue- blooded
 (1) inferior
 (2) of noble birth
 (3) of unknown origin
 (4) unhealthy
825. do a roaring trade
 (1) in the animal business
 (2) highly successful
 (3) in the habit of shouting at others
 (4) externally reluctant
826. keep body and soul together
 (1) maintain his health
 (2) continue with his work
 (3) to have just enough to sustain
 (4) be physical and spiritual
827. will-o-the-wisp
 (1) smoky place
 (2) marsh land
 (3) unreal imagining
 (4) rumour whispered by many
828. cloak-and-dagger
 (1) an armoured suit
 (2) a game of martial skill

- (3) an activity that involves mystery and secrecy
 (4) a wide coat without sleeves and a small sword
829. palm off
 (1) clearly visible
 (2) uneasy with something
 (3) to dispose off with the intent to deceive
 (4) conceal
- Directions (830–839) : In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase given in bold in the sentence. Choose the one that best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase in the sentence.
- (SSC CAPFs SI, ASI Online
Exam. 18.12.2016)
830. My friend got the sack from his first job.
 (1) resigned
 (2) got tired of
 (3) was dismissed from
 (4) was demoted from
831. The smell from the kitchen makes my mouth water.
 (1) makes me giddy
 (2) makes me vomit
 (3) stimulates my appetite
 (4) makes me sick
832. His boss was always breathing down his neck.
 (1) shouting loudly at him
 (2) giving him strenuous work
 (3) abusing and ill-treating him
 (4) watching all his actions closely
833. I have a bone to pick with you in this matter.
 (1) am angry
 (2) selfish motive
 (3) selfless motive
 (4) desire
834. To work on this project is like flogging a dead horse.
 (1) harp upon a question that has been settled
 (2) dragging something too far
 (3) over-spending money
 (4) None of these
835. The cashier wiped the nose of his employer by presenting false bills.
 (1) abused (2) cheated
 (3) slapped (4) doomed
836. She is quite at sea and does not know what course of action to take in the matter.

- (1) at ease (2) displeased
 (3) perplexed (4) danger
837. It is time that professors came down from their ivory towers and studied the real needs of present day students.
 (1) expensive fee
 (2) detachment and seclusion
 (3) dreamlands
 (4) a tower made of ivory
838. She was in a brown study and did not notice my entrance.
 (1) sleep (2) dream
 (3) fear (4) reverie
839. The inspector was caught red handed.
 (1) quickly
 (2) caught in the act of committing the crime
 (3) caught with dirty hands
 (4) found with hands tied
- Directions (840–842) : 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 Tier-I (CBE)
Exam. 28.08.2016 (1st sitting))
840. Smooth ruffled feathers
 (1) Comb untidy hair
 (2) Make people feel less offended
 (3) Touse someone's hair
 (4) Stroke a pet animal
841. Assume airs
 (1) Take tight
 (2) Remain calm
 (3) Act innocent
 (4) Pretend superiority
842. Play truant
 (1) Play a tyrant
 (2) Stay away from duty
 (3) Be responsible
 (4) Be alert
- Directions (843-845) : 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 Tier-I (CBE)
Exam. 29.08.2016 (1st sitting))
843. Beggar description
 (1) Cannot be described
 (2) Something described by a beggar
 (3) A poor account of something
 (4) A description of a beggar

844. Drag one's feet
 (1) Make something more complicated
 (2) Expedite
 (3) Be reluctant to act
 (4) Stop working
845. Hope against hope
 (1) Think wishfully from time to time
 (2) Hoped with good reason
 (3) Nurture an impossible hope
 (4) Pretend to hope
- Directions (846-848) : 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 choose the option corresponding to it.
 (SSC CGL Tier-I (CBE)
 Exam. 30.08.2016 (IIIrd sitting)
846. All moonshine
 (1) Glowing
 (2) Far from reality
 (3) Celestial
 (4) About the moon
847. At a snail's pace
 (1) Quietly
 (2) Quickly
 (3) Continuously
 (4) Slowly
848. Call on
 (1) Telephone (2) Seek help
 (3) Pay a visit (4) Order
- Directions (849-851) : 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 choose the option corresponding to it.
 (SSC CGL Tier-I (CBE)
 Exam. 31.08.2016 (IIIrd sitting)
849. To bury the hatchet
 (1) To make peace
 (2) To dig the ground
 (3) To negotiate
 (4) To make war
850. Selling like hot cakes
 (1) To have a good season
 (2) To become as planned
 (3) To have a very slow sale
 (4) To have a very good sale
851. Scot free
 (1) Unlimited (2) Unpunished
 (3) To freedom (4) Unrepentant
- Directions (852-854) : 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 choose the option corresponding to it.
 (SSC CGL Tier-I (CBE)
 Exam. 01.09.2016 (IIIrd sitting)
852. Drive home
 (1) Find one's roots
 (2) Emphasise
 (3) Refer
 (4) Draw
853. To end in smoke
 (1) End without any practical result
 (2) End with positive result
 (3) Die in a burning house
 (4) Risk everything in a single venture
854. A left handed compliment
 (1) A subtle rebuke
 (2) Wholesome praise
 (3) An ambiguous compliment
 (4) A mild compliment
- Directions (855-857) : 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 Tier-I (CBE)
 Exam. 02.09.2016 (IIIrd sitting)
855. Bad blood
 (1) Shooting (2) Anaemia
 (3) Enmity (4) Mourning
856. To beat about the bush
 (1) To try to win favours
 (2) To talk well
 (3) To talk about relevant things
 (4) To talk about irrelevant things
857. Maiden speech
 (1) Bachelor's speech
 (2) First speech
 (3) Last speech
 (4) Extempore speech
- Directions (858-860) : 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 Tier-I (CBE)
 Exam. 03.09.2016 (IIInd sitting)
858. A cuckoo in the nest
 (1) One who likes to stay at home
 (2) A view from a high place
 (3) An unwelcome intruder
 (4) One who is chosen as the leader of the group

859. A house of cards
 (1) An insecure scheme
 (2) A gambling house
 (3) A plan with high stakes
 (4) A place where cards are printed
860. To smell a rat
 (1) To see signs of plague epidemic
 (2) To get the bad smell of a dead rat
 (3) To suspect foul dealings
 (4) To be in a bad mood
- Directions (861-863) : 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 Tier-I (CBE)
 Exam. 03.09.2016 (IIIrd sitting)
861. Old head on young shoulders
 (1) To be intelligent when old
 (2) To be old and yet look young
 (3) To be wise beyond his years
 (4) To be smarter with age
862. A wild-goose chase
 (1) A fruitful search
 (2) A pointless search
 (3) To search for a wild-goose
 (4) A hunting expedition
863. Hard of hearing
 (1) To be disturbed
 (2) To be confused
 (3) To be deaf
 (4) To be dumb
- Directions (864-866) : 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 Tier-I (CBE)
 Exam. 04.09.2016 (IIInd sitting)
864. A dark horse
 (1) A wild animal
 (2) A black horse
 (3) An unknown entry
 (4) A front runner
865. Throw cold water
 (1) Encourage (2) Discourage
 (3) Attack (4) Drench
866. Butt in
 (1) Record (2) Impose
 (3) Improvise (4) Interrupt
- Directions (867-869) : 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 Tier-I (CBE)
 Exam. 04.09.2016 (IIIrd sitting)

867. Couch potato
 (1) An old person who has oldfashioned ideas.
 (2) A person who prefers to watch television.
 (3) A person who does not seem very friendly.
 (4) Someone who stays calm and does not show their emotions.

868. Carry the ball
 (1) Decorate the ball
 (2) Be in charge
 (3) Take the decision
 (4) Be the hostess

869. Turned down
 (1) Subject (2) Object
 (3) Reject (4) Deject

Directions (870–872) : 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 Tier-I (CBE)

Exam. 06.09.2016 (IIInd sitting)

870. Cheek by jowl
 (1) Very close together
 (2) Arguing
 (3) Teasing one another
 (4) Avoiding one another

871. Beyond the pale
 (1) Unreasonable or unacceptable
 (2) Beyond redemption
 (3) Full of rhetoric
 (4) Distasteful

872. Blow one's own trumpet
 (1) Play some music
 (2) Surprise oneself
 (3) Praise oneself
 (4) Condone oneself

Directions (873-875) : 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 Tier-I (CBE)

Exam. 06.09.2016 (IIIrd sitting)

873. Blow one's trumpet
 (1) To praise another
 (2) To praise a leader
 (3) To praise oneself
 (4) To praise a community

874. Stick to his guns
 (1) Stand by his truth
 (2) Maintain his own opinion
 (3) Maintain his weapons
 (4) Maintain his anger

875. At sea
 (1) Journey (2) At a loss
 (3) Surprise (4) Sad

Directions (876–878) : 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 Tier-I (CBE)

Exam. 07.09.2016 (IInd sitting)

876. Weal and woe
 (1) Friends and enemies
 (2) Be in danger
 (3) Adversity
 (4) Good times and bad times

877. Call in question
 (1) Summon as a witness
 (2) Doubtful
 (3) Prove a theory
 (4) Challenge

878. Make both ends meet
 (1) Live within means
 (2) Achieve a solution
 (3) Live among people
 (4) End of the road

Directions (879–881) : 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 Tier-I (CBE)

Exam. 07.09.2016 (IIIrd sitting)

879. Put up the shutters
 (1) Went out of business
 (2) Experienced a downside
 (3) Sold off assets
 (4) Changed ownership

880. A drop in a bucket
 (1) As much as possible
 (2) Nothing at all
 (3) A handsome amount
 (4) A very insignificant amount

881. Draw a blank
 (1) Paint something
 (2) Find no favour
 (3) Oblige someone
 (4) Teach someone

Directions (882-884) : 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 Tier-I (CBE)

Exam. 08.09.2016 (IInd sitting)

882. As daft as a brush
 (1) Extremely silly
 (2) Artistically inclined
 (3) Completely clean
 (4) Utterly selfish

883. In a nutshell
 (1) In translation
 (2) A decorative language
 (3) A well-packed parcel
 (4) Briefly and concisely

884. Strain every nerve
 (1) Try all tricks
 (2) Work very hard
 (3) Beg before others
 (4) Spend a large amount

Directions (885–887) : 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 Tier-I (CBE)

Exam. 08.09.2016 (IIIrd sitting)

885. Evening of life
 (1) Old age (2) A party
 (3) Holiday (4) None of these

886. Button her lip
 (1) Tell us more
 (2) Stop talking
 (3) Invite us too
 (4) Enjoy herself

887. Invent cock and bull stories
 (1) Delightful fables
 (2) Eco-friendly accounts
 (3) Absurd and unlikely stories
 (4) Credible tales

Directions (888–890) : 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 Tier-I (CBE)

Exam. 09.09.2016 (IInd sitting)

888. Wild goose chase
 (1) An admirable enterprise
 (2) An honest effort
 (3) A foolish, unprofitable adventure
 (4) A powerful effort

889. Smell a rat
 (1) Detect bad smell
 (2) Suspect a trick or deceit
 (3) Misunderstand
 (4) See hidden meaning

890. A live wire
 (1) Industrious and brilliant
 (2) Lively and active
 (3) Sincere and intelligent
 (4) Sincere and efficient

Directions (891–893) : 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 Tier-I (CBE)

Exam. 09.09.2016 (IIIrd sitting)

891. Capital Punishment
 (1) Death sentence
 (2) Life imprisonment
 (3) To be jailed
 (4) Imprisoned for a long period

892. Leaps and bounds
 (1) Slowly (2) Rapidly
 (3) Jumping (4) Stationary

893. Smell a rat
 (1) Suspect something wrong
 (2) Smell a burned rat
 (3) Smell a rotten rat
 (4) Smell something right

Directions (894–896) : 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 Tier-I (CBE)

Exam. 10.09.2016 (IIInd sitting)

894. Feather in one's cap
 (1) Discrimination
 (2) A new and additional distinction
 (3) Hunting
 (4) Bird watching

895. Donkey's years
 (1) A decade (2) A long time
 (3) A century
 (4) Since school days

896. Leave no stone unturned
 (1) Try every possible way
 (2) Behave smartly
 (3) Constructing
 (4) Wasting no time

Directions (897–899) : 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 Tier-I (CBE)

Exam. 10.09.2016 (IIIrd sitting)

897. A Man of letters
 (1) Letter-writer
 (2) Proof-reader
 (3) Postman (4) Scholar

898. Under a cloud
 (1) Shocked (2) Sad
 (3) Sick (4) Confused

899. Bear in mind
 (1) Respect (2) Observe
 (3) Remember
 (4) Pretend to listen

Directions (900–902) : 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 Tier-I (CBE)

Exam. 11.09.2016 (IIInd sitting)

900. Held up
 (1) Kidnapped (2) Delayed
 (3) Caught (4) Nabbed

901. To play fast and loose
 (1) To be narrow minded
 (2) To play a good game

- (3) To act in an unreliable way
 (4) To defeat a person
902. Feather one's own nest
 (1) Decorate
 (2) Work hard at home
 (3) build a home
 (4) make money in an improper way

Directions (903-905) : 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 Tier-I (CBE)

Exam. 11.09.2016 (IIIrd sitting)

903. pull a fast one
 (1) as fast as lightning
 (2) play a trick
 (3) carry a heavy burden
 (4) take a deep breath

904. grease the palm
 (1) dirty one's hands
 (2) work in a garage
 (3) slip and fall
 (4) bribe

905. turn turtle
 (1) slow like a turtle
 (2) turn like a turtle
 (3) over-turn
 (4) a game turtles play

Directions (906-908): 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 Tier-I (CBE)

Exam. 27.10.2016 (Ist sitting)

906. To carry the day
 (1) To postpone to the next day
 (2) To bear grudge
 (3) To win a victory
 (4) To do things in a hurry

907. A man of straw
 (1) A weak man, without substance
 (2) An unintelligent man
 (3) A corrupt man
 (4) A tall, lanky person

908. Pass the buck
 (1) Exchange
 (2) Refuse to accept responsibility
 (3) Make some quick money.
 (4) Overtake

Directions (909-911) : 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 Tier-I (CBE)

Exam. 27.10.2016 (IIInd sitting)

909. To lose ground
 (1) Becoming less acceptable

- (2) Being exploited
 (3) Fully rejected
 (4) Finding supporters
910. Every dark cloud has a silver lining
 (1) Every unpleasant situation has to wait
 (2) Every unpleasant situation has a positive side
 (3) Every dark cloud is upsetting
 (4) Cloud with dark and silver lining is good

911. Alive and kicking
 (1) Playing football
 (2) Dying
 (3) Becoming old
 (4) in good health

912. In the following question, out of the four alternatives, select the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

Run out of steam

- (1) To lose impetus or enthusiasm
 (2) To work quickly like a machine
 (3) To give up easily
 (4) no more money to spend

(SSC CHSL (10+2) Tier-I (CBE)

Exam. 15.01.2017 (IIInd Sitting)

913. In the following question, out of the four alternatives, select the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

saved by the bell

- (1) when time is in your favour
 (2) saved at the last moment
 (3) the bell rings at the most opportune time
 (4) prayers are answered when the church bell rings

(SSC CHSL (10+2) Tier-I (CBE)

Exam. 15.01.2017 (IIInd Sitting)

914. In the following question, out of the four alternatives, select the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

Turn a blind eye

- (1) Not able to see the obvious truth
 (2) Hide the ugly truth from someone
 (3) Pretend not to notice
 (4) Stay away from bad habits

(SSC CHSL (10+2) Tier-I (CBE)

Exam. 16.01.2017 (IIInd Sitting)

915. In the following question, out of the four alternatives, select the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

- Up a blind alley
 (1) hiding something intentionally from another person
 (2) not warning a person who is in danger
 (3) one can enjoy thrills only if one takes risk
 (4) following a course of action that is certain to lead to an undesirable outcome
 (SSC CHSL (10+2) Tier-I (CBE) Exam. 16.01.2017 (IInd Sitting))
 Directions (916-925) : In the following questions, out of the four alternatives, choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.
 (SSC CGL Tier-II (CBE) Exam. 12.01.2017)
916. From stem to stern
 (1) all the way from the front of a ship to the back.
 (2) from the beginning to the end.
 (3) top of a plant to its roots.
 (4) loose pleasantness to become strict.
917. Over egg the pudding
 (1) add unnecessary details to make something seem better or worse.
 (2) fill the pudding excessively with egg.
 (3) add details in order to make something more exciting.
 (4) add important details to the content of a story.
918. Turn over a new leaf
 (1) change one's behaviour for the better.
 (2) read between the pages of a book.
 (3) do a somersault
 (4) do a new job.
919. Take up the hatchet
 (1) behave formally
 (2) pursue a chance
 (3) be caught in a trap
 (4) prepare for or go to war
920. At loose ends
 (1) tie two loose ends of a thread
 (2) keep options open
 (3) in an uncertain situation
 (4) repay debts
921. With might and main
 (1) with full risks
 (2) with full force
 (3) having full confidence
 (4) with full blessings
922. Ruffle somebody's feather
 (1) gamble
 (2) escape responsibility

- (3) annoy somebody
 (4) show contempt for
923. Cut short
 (1) delete (2) praise
 (3) interrupt
 (4) slice into small pieces
924. Bad blood
 (1) war (2) ill feeling
 (3) threatening attitude
 (4) in an infected state of being
925. A laughing stock
 (1) an object of laughter
 (2) a storehouse of jokes
 (3) an object of desire
 (4) a stock of high value
 Directions (926-928) : In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase printed in bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative that best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.
 (SSC Multi-Tasking Staff Exam. 30.04.2017 (1st Sitting))
926. Our manager is feared by everyone for he is as hard as nails.
 (1) powerful (2) unrelenting
 (3) fearsome (4) strict
927. He struck several bad patches before he made good.
 (1) eliminated many difficulties
 (2) went through many illnesses
 (3) had many professional difficulties
 (4) came across bad weather
928. He talked over the matter for an hour but without any result.
 (1) assessed
 (2) fought about
 (3) discussed (4) surveyed
 Directions (929-931) : 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.
929. Cut a sorry figure
 (1) Did not stand straight
 (2) Apologised for his remarks
 (3) Created a wrong impression
 (4) Made a poor impression
930. To take to task
 (1) Forgave him
 (2) Slapped him
 (3) Gave him extra work
 (4) Reprimanded him
931. Bring to light
 (1) Introduced (2) Revealed
 (3) Seen
 (4) Brought to life
 (SSC CGL Tier-I (CBE) Exam. 02.09.2016)

ANSWERS

1. (3)	2. (4)	3. (4)	4. (2)
5. (3)	6. (4)	7. (3)	8. (4)
9. (3)	10. (4)	11. (3)	12. (2)
13. (3)	14. (1)	15. (1)	16. (3)
17. (2)	18. (2)	19. (1)	20. (3)
21. (1)	22. (2)	23. (3)	24. (1)
25. (3)	26. (3)	27. (3)	28. (4)
29. (3)	30. (1)	31. (4)	32. (1)
33. (4)	34. (3)	35. (2)	36. (3)
37. (3)	38. (3)	39. (3)	40. (2)
41. (1)	42. (2)	43. (4)	44. (2)
45. (1)	46. (2)	47. (2)	48. (4)
49. (1)	50. (4)	51. (2)	52. (2)
53. (1)	54. (2)	55. (1)	56. (1)
57. (2)	58. (1)	59. (2)	60. (4)
61. (1)	62. (3)	63. (3)	64. (1)
65. (4)	66. (1)	67. (1)	68. (3)
69. (1)	70. (1)	71. (3)	72. (1)
73. (4)	74. (2)	75. (3)	76. (1)
77. (2)	78. (1)	79. (4)	80. (3)
81. (2)	82. (1)	83. (3)	84. (4)
85. (1)	86. (3)	87. (4)	88. (4)
89. (1)	90. (1)	91. (1)	92. (3)
93. (1)	94. (1)	95. (4)	96. (2)
97. (4)	98. (3)	99. (2)	100. (1)
101. (4)	102. (1)	103. (2)	104. (3)
105. (3)	106. (4)	107. (3)	108. (2)
109. (3)	110. (4)	111. (2)	112. (3)
113. (2)	114. (3)	115. (3)	116. (3)
117. (3)	118. (2)	119. (2)	120. (3)
121. (4)	122. (1)	123. (2)	124. (3)
125. (4)	126. (3)	127. (3)	128. (3)
129. (1)	130. (4)	131. (2)	132. (2)
133. (3)	134. (2)	135. (3)	136. (3)
137. (2)	138. (3)	139. (1)	140. (1)
141. (2)	142. (1)	143. (3)	144. (2)
145. (1)	146. (3)	147. (4)	148. (4)
149. (1)	150. (3)	151. (4)	152. (3)
153. (1)	154. (4)	155. (2)	156. (1)
157. (4)	158. (1)	159. (3)	160. (3)
161. (4)	162. (3)	163. (2)	164. (2)
165. (1)	166. (2)	167. (4)	168. (1)
169. (1)	170. (3)	171. (1)	172. (1)
173. (3)	174. (1)	175. (3)	176. (2)
177. (2)	178. (2)	179. (3)	180. (1)
181. (2)	182. (2)	183. (2)	184. (4)
185. (4)	186. (2)	187. (1)	188. (2)
189. (2)	190. (4)	191. (3)	192. (3)

IDioms/Phrases

193. (2)	194. (2)	195. (4)	196. (1)
197. (2)	198. (2)	199. (3)	200. (3)
201. (2)	202. (3)	203. (1)	204. (2)
205. (3)	206. (2)	207. (2)	208. (4)
209. (1)	210. (4)	211. (2)	212. (1)
213. (2)	214. (2)	215. (3)	216. (4)
217. (3)	218. (3)	219. (3)	220. (4)
221. (2)	222. (1)	223. (4)	224. (1)
225. (1)	226. (3)	227. (1)	228. (3)
229. (1)	230. (2)	231. (3)	232. (3)
233. (3)	234. (1)	235. (4)	236. (2)
237. (2)	238. (3)	239. (1)	240. (4)
241. (1)	242. (3)	243. (2)	244. (3)
245. (3)	246. (2)	247. (3)	248. (3)
249. (4)	250. (3)	251. (3)	252. (2)
253. (4)	254. (2)	255. (2)	256. (3)
257. (3)	258. (3)	259. (2)	260. (2)
261. (1)	262. (1)	263. (4)	264. (4)
265. (2)	266. (2)	267. (3)	268. (1)
269. (2)	270. (2)	271. (3)	272. (3)
273. (4)	274. (1)	275. (4)	276. (4)
277. (3)	278. (3)	279. (1)	280. (1)
281. (4)	282. (3)	283. (1)	284. (3)
285. (4)	286. (2)	287. (4)	288. (3)
289. (3)	290. (4)	291. (4)	292. (1)
293. (4)	294. (2)	295. (4)	296. (1)
297. (3)	298. (2)	299. (3)	300. (1)
301. (4)	302. (2)	303. (3)	304. (1)
305. (2)	306. (3)	307. (1)	308. (4)
309. (1)	310. (4)	311. (1)	312. (4)
313. (2)	314. (2)	315. (2)	316. (3)
317. (3)	318. (4)	319. (1)	320. (3)
321. (2)	322. (4)	323. (2)	324. (1)
325. (3)	326. (2)	327. (2)	328. (4)
329. (2)	330. (2)	331. (4)	332. (2)
333. (4)	334. (3)	335. (4)	336. (1)
337. (3)	338. (3)	339. (1)	340. (2)
341. (1)	342. (3)	343. (4)	344. (1)
345. (4)	346. (4)	347. (1)	348. (2)
349. (2)	350. (3)	351. (1)	352. (2)
353. (2)	354. (1)	355. (4)	356. (3)
357. (2)	358. (4)	359. (4)	360. (3)
361. (3)	362. (2)	363. (1)	364. (2)
365. (3)	366. (2)	367. (3)	368. (3)
369. (1)	370. (2)	371. (4)	372. (3)
373. (1)	374. (3)	375. (4)	376. (4)

377. (1)	378. (2)	379. (2)	380. (4)
381. (3)	382. (3)	383. (2)	384. (1)
385. (3)	386. (3)	387. (2)	388. (2)
389. (1)	390. (2)	391. (1)	392. (4)
393. (2)	394. (2)	395. (2)	396. (4)
397. (2)	398. (4)	399. (3)	400. (3)
401. (4)	402. (1)	403. (1)	404. (3)
405. (4)	406. (3)	407. (1)	408. (1)
409. (3)	410. (1)	411. (3)	412. (1)
413. (1)	414. (3)	415. (4)	416. (3)
417. (4)	418. (3)	419. (1)	420. (1)
421. (2)	422. (1)	423. (3)	424. (2)
425. (1)	426. (2)	427. (2)	428. (4)
429. (1)	430. (1)	431. (2)	432. (2)
433. (3)	434. (4)	435. (3)	436. (3)
437. (2)	438. (1)	439. (4)	440. (1)
441. (3)	442. (4)	443. (4)	444. (1)
445. (2)	446. (4)	447. (4)	448. (1)
449. (1)	450. (2)	451. (3)	452. (3)
453. (4)	454. (3)	455. (2)	456. (1)
457. (3)	458. (1)	459. (1)	460. (4)
461. (1)	462. (1)	463. (4)	464. (4)
465. (1)	466. (2)	467. (1)	468. (2)
469. (2)	470. (4)	471. (4)	472. (1)
473. (1)	474. (2)	475. (3)	476. (2)
477. (2)	478. (1)	479. (4)	480. (2)
481. (3)	482. (4)	483. (2)	484. (1)
485. (2)	486. (3)	487. (4)	488. (2)
489. (1)	490. (4)	491. (1)	492. (2)
493. (4)	494. (1)	495. (1)	496. (1)
497. (4)	498. (3)	499. (3)	500. (2)
501. (4)	502. (2)	503. (4)	504. (1)
505. (2)	506. (2)	507. (2)	508. (3)
509. (3)	510. (3)	511. (4)	512. (2)
513. (1)	514. (4)	515. (3)	516. (3)
517. (4)	518. (1)	519. (3)	520. (1)
521. (2)	522. (1)	523. (3)	524. (3)
525. (2)	526. (4)	527. (3)	528. (1)
529. (3)	530. (3)	531. (1)	532. (2)
533. (4)	534. (2)	535. (1)	536. (4)
537. (2)	538. (3)	539. (3)	540. (2)
541. (3)	542. (3)	543. (4)	544. (1)
545. (3)	546. (4)	547. (4)	548. (3)
549. (2)	550. (4)	551. (2)	552. (1)
553. (2)	554. (1)	555. (1)	556. (4)
557. (1)	558. (1)	559. (3)	560. (4)

561. (4)	562. (4)	563. (2)	564. (3)
565. (2)	566. (1)	567. (4)	568. (3)
569. (3)	570. (3)	571. (2)	572. (1)
573. (4)	574. (3)	575. (1)	576. (4)
577. (1)	578. (1)	579. (1)	580. (2)
581. (3)	582. (4)	583. (3)	584. (3)
585. (3)	586. (1)	587. (3)	588. (4)
589. (2)	590. (2)	591. (1)	592. (3)
593. (3)	594. (4)	595. (3)	596. (3)
597. (1)	598. (4)	599. (3)	600. (1)
601. (4)	602. (2)	603. (2)	604. (3)
605. (3)	606. (4)	607. (3)	608. (2)
609. (4)	610. (3)	611. (3)	612. (1)
613. (1)	614. (4)	615. (4)	616. (1)
617. (1)	618. (2)	619. (1)	620. (1)
621. (2)	622. (4)	623. (4)	624. (4)
625. (1)	626. (4)	627. (2)	628. (2)
629. (3)	630. (2)	631. (4)	632. (4)
633. (3)	634. (3)	635. (4)	636. (3)
637. (1)	638. (4)	639. (3)	640. (3)
641. (4)	642. (1)	643. (3)	644. (2)
645. (4)	646. (2)	647. (4)	648. (4)
649. (1)	650. (1)	651. (1)	652. (4)
653. (1)	654. (4)	655. (1)	656. (1)
657. (2)	658. (3)	659. (3)	660. (4)
661. (1)	662. (4)	663. (3)	664. (3)
665. (3)	666. (4)	667. (3)	668. (3)
669. (4)	670. (4)	671. (2)	672. (4)
673. (3)	674. (2)	675. (3)	676. (4)
677. (4)	678. (1)	679. (1)	680. (3)
681. (2)	682. (2)	683. (1)	684. (2)
685. (1)	686. (2)	687. (3)	688. (1)
689. (3)	690. (2)	691. (3)	692. (1)
693. (4)	694. (4)	695. (1)	696. (3)
697. (1)	698. (1)	699. (3)	700. (2)
701. (3)	702. (4)	703. (4)	704. (2)
705. (3)	706. (3)	707. (1)	708. (3)
709. (2)	710. (3)	711. (3)	712. (1)
713. (2)	714. (4)	715. (2)	716. (4)
717. (2)	718. (3)	719. (1)	720. (2)
721. (4)	722. (3)	723. (4)	724. (3)
725. (3)	726. (4)	727. (4)	728. (3)
729. (3)	730. (2)	731. (1)	732. (1)
733. (4)	734. (1)	735. (4)	736. (2)
737. (1)	738. (1)	739. (4)	740. (2)
741. (2)	742. (4)	743. (1)	744. (1)
745. (2)	746. (4)	747. (1)	748. (1)

749. (4)	750. (3)	751. (3)	752. (1)
753. (2)	754. (4)	755. (2)	756. (3)
757. (2)	758. (4)	759. (3)	760. (1)
761. (3)	762. (2)	763. (3)	764. (2)
765. (3)	766. (1)	767. (2)	768. (4)
769. (1)	770. (3)	771. (1)	772. (3)
773. (2)	774. (4)	775. (1)	776. (3)
777. (3)	778. (1)	779. (3)	780. (3)
781. (1)	782. (2)	783. (1)	784. (3)
785. (3)	786. (2)	787. (2)	788. (2)
789. (3)	790. (3)	791. (1)	792. (2)
793. (4)	794. (1)	795. (4)	796. (3)
797. (2)	798. (3)	799. (4)	800. (4)
801. (3)	802. (4)	803. (3)	804. (3)
805. (2)	806. (4)	807. (1)	808. (2)
809. (3)	810. (2)	811. (2)	812. (1)
813. (3)	814. (4)	815. (4)	816. (2)
817. (1)	818. (2)	819. (2)	820. (1)
821. (2)	822. (2)	823. (3)	824. (2)
825. (2)	826. (3)	827. (3)	828. (3)
829. (3)	830. (3)	831. (3)	832. (4)
833. (1)	834. (4)	835. (2)	836. (3)
837. (2)	838. (4)	839. (2)	840. (2)
841. (4)	842. (2)	843. (1)	844. (3)
845. (3)	846. (2)	847. (4)	848. (3)
849. (1)	850. (4)	851. (2)	852. (2)
853. (1)	854. (3)	855. (3)	856. (4)
857. (2)	858. (3)	859. (1)	860. (3)
861. (3)	862. (2)	863. (3)	864. (3)
865. (2)	866. (4)	867. (2)	868. (2)
869. (3)	870. (1)	871. (1)	872. (3)
873. (3)	874. (2)	875. (2)	876. (4)
877. (4)	878. (1)	879. (1)	880. (4)
881. (2)	882. (1)	883. (4)	884. (2)
885. (1)	886. (2)	887. (3)	888. (3)
889. (2)	890. (2)	891. (1)	892. (2)
893. (1)	894. (2)	895. (2)	896. (1)
897. (4)	898. (2)	899. (3)	900. (2)
901. (3)	902. (4)	903. (2)	904. (4)
905. (3)	906. (3)	907. (1)	908. (2)
909. (1)	910. (2)	911. (4)	912. (1)
913. (2)	914. (3)	915. (4)	916. (1)
917. (1)	918. (1)	919. (4)	920. (3)
921. (2)	922. (3)	923. (3)	924. (2)
925. (1)	926. (2)	927. (3)	928. (3)
929. (3)	930. (4)	931. (2)	

EXPLANATIONS

1. (3) under a cloud : under a suspicion
 I As he behaved in an abnormal way, his activities were under a cloud.
 The best option is under suspicion.
2. (4) flogging a dead horse : wasting your effort by trying to do something that is no longer possible
 I He was warned again and again, but now I think there is no use flogging a dead horse.
 The best option is wasting time in useful effort.
3. (4) look down upon : think you are better than somebody/something
 I He always looks down upon his poor brother.
 The best option is regard with contempt.
4. (2) face the music : to accept or deal with criticism or punishment for something you have done
 I He is prepared to face the music for his conduct at the meeting.
 The best option is get reprimanded.
5. (3) token strike : a brief strike intended to convey the strength of feeling on a disputed issue
 I The workers went on a one-day token strike to get their demands fulfilled.
 The best option is short strike held as a warning.
6. (4) fell foul of : to get into trouble with a person/an organisation because of doing something wrong
 I The boy fell foul of his best friend, when he disagreed to his friend's opinion.
 The best option is got into trouble with.
7. (3) by fits and starts : impulsively and irregularly
 I A sincere student works regularly, not by fits and starts.
 The best option is irregularly.
8. (4) enough rope : to allow freedom to do what one wants
 I The question was so irrelevant that it gave the interviewee

- enough rope to frame her own answer.
 The best option is enough freedom for action.
9. (3) all at sea : confused and not knowing what to do
 I I'm all at sea with these new rules and regulations.
 The best option is puzzled.
 10. (4) sweeping statement : too general and failing to think about or understand
 I His sweeping statement left the board speechless.
 The best option is generalised statement.
 11. (3) in a tight corner : in a difficult situation
 I Unexpected excuses put him in a tight corner.
 The best option is in a difficult situation.
 12. (2) a wild goose chase : a search for something that is impossible for you to find or that does not exist, that makes you waste a lot of time
 I I cannot accompany you in this wild goose chase.
 The best option is futile search.
 13. (3) does not hold water : cannot be believed
 I His argument is baseless and does not hold water.
 The best option is cannot be believed.
 14. (1) on the cuff : on credit
 I I helped him clean up the shop, so the mechanic gave me an oil change on the cuff.
 The best option is on credit.
 15. (1) out and out : in every way; complete
 I What she said was an out and out a lie.
 The best option is totally.
 16. (3) a white elephant : a thing that is useless and no longer needed, although it may have cost a lot of money
 I The new office block has become an expensive white elephant.
 The best option is costly or troublesome possession.
 17. (2) fair and square : honest and according to the rules

1. He is fair and square in his dealings.
The best option is honest.
18. (2) no love lost between : do not like each other
1. These is no love lost between them.
The best option is not on good terms.
19. (1) played havoc : caused damage, destruction or confusion
1. The severe earthquake played havoc all around the area.
The best option is caused destruction.
20. (3) green thumb : a person good at making plants grow
1. Her beautiful garden shows that she has a green thumb.
The best option is to have a natural interest in gardening.
21. (1) took to his heels : ran away
1. As soon as the thief saw the police, he took to his heels.
The best option is ran away in fear.
22. (2) hard and fast : that cannot be changed in any circumstances
1. One must abide by the hard and fast rules of this organisation.
The best option is strict.
23. (3) off and on : from time to time; now and again; occasionally
1. She always remains sick. She has to visit the doctor off and on.
The best option is occasionally.
24. (1) murdered in cold blood : murdering in a way that is deliberately cruel/with no pity
1. The whole family was murdered in cold blood.
The best option is a murder done without feeling.
25. (3) going places : to be getting more and more successful in your life or career
1. Maria writes very well. She is definitely going places.
The best option is talented and successful.
26. (3) drew on his fancy : used his imagination
1. Painters draw on their fancy in their sketches and paintings.
The best option is used his imagination.
27. (3) play through his nose : to pay too much money for something
1. We paid through the nose for that vacation.
The best option is pay an extremely high price
28. (4) rest on their laurels : to feel so satisfied with what you have already achieved that you do not try to do any more.
(1) complacent : too satisfied with yourself or with a situation, so that you may not feel that any change is necessary
1. Despite our success, this is not the time to rest on our laurels.
The best option is to be complacent.
29. (3) to give him a piece of my mind : to tell somebody that you disapprove of his behaviour or angry with him
1. I've had enough of Raju. I'm going to give him a piece of my mind.
The best option is to reprimand him.
30. (1) to stave off : to prevent something bad from affecting you for a period of time; to delay something
1. He could stave off an open argument.
The best option is postpone.
31. (4) takes after : to look or behave like an older member of your family, especially your mother or father
1. John takes after his grand father.
The best option is resembles.
32. (1) made no bones about : to be honest and open about something; not to hesitate to do something
1. She made no bones about in accepting her defeat at the Olympics.
The best option is did not have any hesitation in.
33. (4) heads will roll : will be punished because of something that has happened
1. When the company's year-end results are known, heads will roll.
The best option is dismissals will occur.
34. (3) made a clean breast of : to tell the truth about something so that you may no longer feel guilty
1. You'll feel better if you make a clean breast of the incident.
The best option is confessed without reserve.
35. (2) to keep up : to continue to be in contact with somebody
1. He couldn't keep up with his friends who went into business.
The best option is to keep in touch.
36. (3) souring wild oats : (of young men) to go through a period of wild behaviour while young, especially having a lot of romantic or sexual relationships
1. He sowed his wild oats in early life, but has become sober now.
The best option is irresponsible pleasure seeking in young age.
37. (3) stand-offish : not friendly towards other people; aloof
1. He can be quite stand-offish and rude, even to his friends.
The best option is indifferent.
38. (3) blowing your own trumpet : to praise your own abilities and achievements; boast
1. Anyone will tell you she's one of the best journalists we have got, although she never blows her own trumpet.
The best option is prasing your own abilities and achievements.
39. (3) an axe to grind : to have private reasons for being involved in something or for arguing for a particular cause
1. He claimed to be disinterested, but I knew he had an axe to grind.
The best option is a private interest to serve.
40. (2) an open book : can easily understand and know everything about somebody
1. Your health secrets will be an open book to anyone who can do an online search.
The best option is one that held no secrets.
41. (1) reading between the lines : looking for or discovering a meaning

- I Reading between the lines of the letter, she realised that her friend was in great trouble.
The best option is looking for meanings that are not actually expressed.
42. (2) to give the devil his due : said when you admit that someone you don't like or admire does have some good qualities
I I don't like her views, but still I give the devil her due; she has always something important to say.
The best option is to give encouragement even to the enemy.
43. (4) to eat humble pie : to say and show that you are sorry for a mistake that you made
I The producers of the advertisement had to eat humble pie for misrepresenting the facts.
The best option is to apologise.
44. (2) Hobson's choice : a situation in which somebody has no choice because if he does not accept what is offered, he will get nothing
I We didn't really want that particular hotel, but it was a case of Hobson's choice.
The best option is no real choice at all.
45. (1) take with a grain of salt : to hear/ listen/believe with some doubt
I You must take anything she says with a grain of salt. She doesn't always speak the truth.
The best option is to listen to something with considerable doubt.
46. (2) reading between the lines : looking for or discovering a meaning; something that is not openly stated
I Reading between the lines of the letter, she realised that her friend was in great trouble.
The best option is understanding the sense rather than the actual words.
47. (2) by fits and starts : impulsively and irregularly
I A sincere student works regularly, not by fits and starts
The best option is irregularly.
48. (4) put up with : to accept somebody/something that is annoying, unpleasant, etc. without complaining
I I cannot put up with your constant complaining any longer.
The best option is tolerate
49. (1) talking through his hat : to say silly things while you are talking about a subject you do not understand
I He was talking through his hat when he described the shipwreck.
The best option is talking nonsense.
50. (4) go through fire and water : face any difficulty
I They went through fire and water to ensure the child's safety.
The best option is undergo any risk.
51. (2) ran riot : to act without restraint or control
I The children ran riot when there was nobody (elders) at home.
The best option is acted without restraint.
52. (2) give in : to admit that you have been defeated by somebody/something
I The strikers seem determined, and are not likely to give in.
The best option is yield.
53. (1) cheek by jowl : side by side, close together
I The two families lived cheek by jowl in one house.
The best option is very near.
54. (2) gave the game away : betray; to make known something that somebody wants to keep secret
I Though they were the oldest of the employees of the company, they were giving the game away.
The best option is gave out the secret.
55. (1) turn an honest penny : to earn money honestly
I I cannot miss the opportunity of turning an honest penny.
The best option is make a legitimate living.
56. (1) a dark horse : a person who does not tell other people much about his life, and who surprises other people by having interesting qualities; a person taking part in a race, etc., who surprises everyone by winning
I 17 - year - old Karan could also be a dark horse for the medal in the Olympiad.
The best option is an unfore seen competitor.
57. (2) to run across : to meet somebody or find something by chance
I I ran across some old friends at the Mall.
The best option is to meet by chance.
58. (1) to get one's own back : to obtain something again after having lost it; have one's revenge
I She finally saw a chance to get her own back.
The best option is to get one's revenge.
59. (2) to steer clear of : to avoid a person or thing because it may cause problems
I Dad warned us to steer clear of Dr. Gupta and his poor advice.
The best option is avoid.
60. (4) to beat a retreat : to go away or back quickly, especially to avoid something unpleasant
I The dog beat a retreat to its own yard.
The best option is to run away in fear.
61. (1) to blaze a trail : to be the first to do/ to discover something that others follow
I The hospital has blazed a trail in developing new techniques for treating infertility.
The best option is to lead the way as a pioneer.
62. (3) red-letter day : an important day, or a day that you will remember, because of something good that happened then.
I 15th August is a red-letter day in the history of India.
The best option is happy and significant day
63. (3) have the last laugh : to make someone who has criticized or defeated you, look stupid by succeeding at something more important
I They fined her last year but she had the last laugh because she was taken on by her rivals at once.

- The best option is to be victorious at the end of an argument.
64. (1) turn a deaf ear : to ignore or refuse to listen to somebody/something
 | Sheela turned a deaf ear to our pleadings.
 The best option is disregard.
65. (4) to smell a rat : to suspect that something is wrong about a situation
 | I don't think this was an accident. I smell a rat.
 The best option is to suspect a trick.
66. (1) make a clean breast of : to speak the truth about something that you longer feel guilty
 | You'll feel better if you make a clean breast of the incident.
 The best option is confessed.
67. (1) done for : to be in a very bad situation; to be certain to fail
 | I'm sorry. This whole scheme is done for.
 The best option is ruined.
68. (3) on the level : honest; legal; above board
 | You can trust Shivam. He is strictly on the level.
 The best option is honest and sincere.
69. (1) made ducks and drakes of : to squander; to waste
 | Ritesh made ducks and drakes of the vast property he had possessed.
 The best option is squandered
70. (1) went to the winds : to be dissipated; to be utterly lost
 | All his hard work and sincerity went to the winds, when he failed to achieve the target.
 The best option is dissipated
71. (3) at one's wits, end : to be so worried by a problem that you do not know what to do next; to be puzzled
 | I've tried every possible source but without success, and now I'm at my wits, end.
 The best option is to get puzzled
72. (1) to take someone to task : to criticize somebody strongly for something he has done
 | The teacher took Shalu to task for her misbehaviour.
 The best option is to scold someone
73. (4) to face the music : to expect or deal with criticism or punishment for something you have done
 | He is prepared to face the music for his conduct at the meeting.
 The best option is to bear the consequences
74. (2) to blow one's own trumpet : to boast
 | Anyone will tell you she's one of the best journalists we have got, although she never blows her own trumpet.
 The best option is to praise one's own self.
75. (3) to run one down : to criticize somebody/something in an unkind manner
 (1) disparage : to suggest that somebody/something is not important/valuable; belittle
 | Shefalli was always run down by her friends.
 The best option is to disparage someone.
76. (1) at a snail's pace : very slowly
 | Things are moving at a snail's pace, but we'll finish on time.
 The best option is very slowly.
77. (2) to turn a deaf ear : to ignore/refuse to listen to somebody/something
 | Sheela turned a deaf ear to our pleadings.
 The best option is to be indifferent.
78. (1) to take to one's heels : to run away from somebody/something
 | As soon as the thief saw the police, he took to his heels.
 The best option is to run off.
79. (4) to have something up one's sleeves : to keep a plan or an idea secret until you need to use it
 | I have something up my sleeve that will solve all your problems.
 The best option is having a secret plan.
80. (3) to end in smoke : efforts that come to nothing or are useless
 | All his schemes ended in smoke.
 The best option is to come to nothing.
81. (2) helter-skelter : done in a hurry and in a way that lacks unity
 | Clothes were scattered helter-skelter.
 The best option is in disorderly haste.
82. (1) leaps and bounds : very quickly; in large amounts
 | India is progressing by leaps and bounds.
 The best option is rapidly.
83. (3) Herculean task : a task needing a lot of strength, determination or effort
 | It was a matter of Herculean task for him to be selected for the Olympic Games.
 The best option is a work requiring very great effort.
84. (4) got the sack : dismissed from a job
 | Ravi got the sack today. He is always late.
 The best option is was dismissed from.
85. (1) put up with : to accept somebody/something that is annoying, unpleasant etc. without complaining
 (1) endure : to bear; to experience and deal with something that is painful or unpleasant, especially without complaining
 (2) evade : to escape from somebody/something or avoid meeting somebody
 (3) suppress : to put an end, often by force
 (4) assume : to think or accept that something is true but without having proof of it
 | I cannot put up with your constant complaining any longer.
 The best option is endure.
86. (3) a fair-weather friend : somebody who stops being a friend when you are in trouble
 | I had a lot of money and I knew a lot of people, but most of them turned out to be fair-weather friends.
 The best option is a friend who deserts you in difficulties.
87. (4) to die in harness : to die at one's work

- | My friend, Rashi, died in harness.
The best option is still in service.
88. (4) to keep under wraps : being kept secret until sometime in the future
| We kept the plan under wraps until after the election.
The best option is secret.
89. (1) like a phoenix : to be powerful or successful again
a magic bird that lives for several hundred years before burning itself and then being born again from its ashes
| The Indian Industry has risen like a phoenix after Independence.
The best option is with a new life.
90. (1) a sore point with : a subject that makes you feel angry or upset when it is mentioned
sore : annoyed ; upset and angry
| I tried not to make any reference to his drinking habits. I know it's a sore point with his wife at the moment.
The best option is something which hurts.
91. (1) on the verge of : very near to the moment when somebody does something or something happens
(1) brink : in a very new, dangerous or existing situation; the extreme edge of land.
(2) outset : at/from the beginning of
| Sara was on the verge of tears when she heard the news.
The best option is on the brink of.
92. (3) of no avail : of little or no use
| Everything I did to help her was of no avail.
The best option is useless.
93. (1) leaps and bounds : very quickly; in large amounts
| India is progressing by leaps and bounds.
The best option is rapidly.
94. (1) out of thin air : from nowhere or nothing, as if by magic
| Suddenly, out of thin air, the messenger appeared.
- The best option is appear suddenly.
95. (4) a bolt from the blue : an event or a piece of news which is sudden and unexpected; a complete surprise
| She seemed to be very involved in her job, so her resignation came as a bolt from the blue.
The best option is something unexpected and unpleasant.
96. (2) made my flesh creep : made me feel afraid or full of disgust
| The story of the killings made my flesh creep.
The best option is horrified me.
97. (4) burnt his boats : to do something that makes it impossible to return to the previous situation later
(1) retreat : to move away/back
| Turning down one job before you have another leads to burning your boats.
The best option is left no means of retreat.
98. (3) cannot hold a candle : is not so good as
| This hotel can't hold a candle to the palace.
The best option is cannot be compared to.
99. (2) brought up : raise; to care for a child, teaching him or her how to behave; to mention a subject or start to talk about it
| We were having a pleasant chat until someone brought up politics.
The best option is introduced for discussion.
100. (1) cut no ice with me : to have no influence or effect
| I don't care who you are, It cuts no ice with me.
The best option is had no influence on me.
101. (4) the green-eyed monster : used as a way of talking about jealousy
| Do you think his criticisms for Ramesh are valid or is it just a case of a green-eyed monster ?
The best option is Jealousy
102. (2) to fight tooth and nail : to fight in a determined way for what you want
| They vowed to fight the new legislation tooth and nail.
The best option is to oppose resolutely.
103. (2) at one's wit's end : to get puzzled
| I've tried every possible source but without success, and now I'm at my wit's end.
The best option is to be puzzled.
104. (3) turned a deaf ear : ignored/refused to listen
| Sheela turned a deaf ear to our pleadings.
The best option is disregarded.
105. (3) to be always at his beck and call : always ready to obey somebody's orders
| There were a dozen of maids and waiters at our beck and call.
The best option is at his disposal.
106. (4) in the long run : concerning a longer period in the future
| He realized that in the long run, their argument wouldn't seem so useless.
The best option is ultimately.
107. (3) in the good books : used for saying that somebody is pleased with you
| I cleaned the bathroom yesterday. So, I'm in mum's good books.
The best option is in favour with the boss.
108. (2) by leaps and bounds : rapidly; very quickly
| India is progressing by leaps and bounds.
The best option is very quickly
109. (3) the pros and cons : arguments or considerations for and against something; advantages and disadvantages
| We will discuss all the pros and cons before we decide to add a new wing to the library.
The best option is consider all facts.
110. (4) got the sack : dismissed from a job
| Ravi got the sack today. He is always late.
The best option is was dismissed from.

111. (2) no love lost between : do not like each other
 | These is no love lost between them.
 The best option is not on good terms.
112. (3) sitting on the fence : to avoid becoming involved in deciding/ influencing something
 | The shrewd man is sitting on the fence in the quarrel.
 The best option is hesitating which side to take.
113. (2) read between the lines : looking for meanings that are not actually expressed
 | Reading between the lines of the letter, she realised that her friend was in great trouble.
 The best option is understand the hidden meaning.
114. (3) to play to the gallery : to behave in an exaggerated way to attract people's attention
 | Akshay is a competent actor, but he has a tendency to play to the gallery.
 The best option is to seek to win approval.
115. (3) at stake : that can be won/ lost, depending on the success of a particular action
 | I have everything at stake on this bet.
 The best option is in danger.
116. (3) struck a chill to the heart : to make somebody be afraid
 | The introduction of Boards in Class VIII struck a chill to the heart of all the students.
 The best option is aroused fear.
117. (3) within a stone's throw : a very short distance away
 | Her house is within a stone's throw from mine.
 The best option is very near to.
118. (2) bone to pick : to be angry with somebody about something and want to discuss it with him; to have grounds for a quarrel.
 | I have a bone to pick with my sister.
 The best option is cause of quarrel.
119. (2) a red-letter day : an important day
 | 15th August is a red-letter day in the history of India.
 The best option is an important day.
120. (3) dropping names : to mention famous people you know or have met in order to impress others
 | Dropping names to impress ones friends is a common practice.
 The best option is hinting at high connections.
121. (4) blue-eyed boy : a person treated with special favour by somebody
 | He was very much the blue-eyed boy in the office.
 The best option is favourites.
122. (1) run into : to experience difficulties
 incurred : to pay some charges/amount
 | We have run into extra expenses with the renovation.
 The best option is incurred.
123. (2) blow over : to go away without having a serious effect
 | The scandal will soon blow over.
 The best option is pass off.
124. (3) to take into account : to consider particular facts, circumstances, etc. while making a decision about something
 | I hope you'll take Mr. Gupta advice into account when you plan the party.
 The best option is to consider.
125. (4) pros and cons : arguments or considerations for and against something; advantages and disadvantages
 | We have been discussing the pros and cons of buying a house.
 The best option is for and against.
126. (3) to carry out : to do and complete a task
 (1) execute : to do a piece of work
 | The clerk was asked to carry out the order as quickly as possible.
 The best option is execute.
127. (3) spilling the beans : to tell somebody something that should be kept secret or private
 (1) revealing : to disclose
 (2) discreetly : tactfully
 | The officer was expelled from his position for spilling the beans about office.
 The best option is revealing the information discreetly.
128. (3) by leaps and bounds : rapidly; very quickly
 | India is progressing by leaps and bounds.
 The best option is at a rapid pace.
129. (1) laying off : an act of making people unemployed because there is no more work left for them to do; to stop employing
 | The automobile factory laid five hundred people off from work.
 The best option is dismissal from jobs of.
130. (4) take thee at thy word : believe someone truly
 | I told my friend, "I take thee at thy word."
 The best option is truly believe you.
131. (2) lay out : to spend money; fork out
 | The rich couple laid out a fortune on jewellery for the wedding.
 The best option is spend.
132. (2) to go the whole hog : to do something thoroughly or completely
 | It was going to cost as much to repair my fridge, So I thought I would go the whole hog and buy a new one.
 The best option is to do it completely.
133. (3) bad blood : feelings of hatred or strong dislike
 | There is no bad blood between us.
 The best option is angry feeling.
134. (2) a good samaritan : a person who gives help and sympathy to people who need it
 | He's such a good samaritan. He goes shopping for his granny when she is ill.
 The best option is a helpful person.
135. (3) set the record straight : to give people the correct information about something in order to make it clear that what they previously believed was in fact wrong
 | The manager told that Rahul was to blame, but he soon set the record straight.
 The best option is give a correct account.

136. (3) close shave : a situation in which you only just manage to avoid an accident, etc.
 | The car passed so close to us; it was really a close shave.
 The best option is narrow escape.
137. (2) fits and starts : irregularly
 | A sincere student works regularly, not by fits and starts.
 The best option is not regularly.
138. (3) shook in their shoes : to be very frightened/nervous
 | She shook in her shoes after the accident.
 The best option is trembled with fear.
139. (1) in high spirits : cheerful and full of hope and enthusiasm
 | When she came to know that she would receive an award that evening, she was in high spirits.
 The best option is full of hope and enthusiasm.
140. (1) sharp practice : clever but possibly dishonest
 | The firm is known for its sharp practices, so I would rather not deal with it.
 The best option is dishonest means.
141. (2) in the good books : in favour with
 | I clean the bathroom yesterday. So, I'm in mum's good books.
 The best option is in favour with.
142. (1) fed up : bored or unhappy, especially with a situation that has continued for too long
 | I'm fed up with her; she always keeps me waiting.
 The best option is annoyed
143. (3) a white elephant : a costly but useless possession
 | The new office block has become an expensive white elephant.
 The best option is a costly but useless possession.
144. (2) ins and outs : all the details, especially the complicated/difficult ones
 | Jatin knows the ins and outs of repairing computers.
 The best option is full details.
145. (1) went to the winds : to be dissipated; to be utterly lost
 | All his hard work and sincerity went to the winds, when he failed to achieve the target.
 The best option is dissipated
146. (3) storm in a tea cup : a lot of anger or worry about something that is not important
 | The argument at the office turned into a storm in a tea cup.
 The best option is commotion over a trivial matter.
147. (4) set their face against : to be determined to oppose somebody/something
 | Mother had set her face against my having music lessons with this teacher in the city.
 The best option is opposed strongly.
148. (4) currying favour with : to try to get somebody to like or support by praising or helping him a lot
 (1) ingratiating : trying too hard to please somebody
 | The government has promised lower taxes in an attempt to curry favour with the voters.
 The best option is ingratiating itself with.
149. (1) to mince matters : to mix facts unduly
 | One must not mince matters; one must say what one means.
 The best option is to confuse issues.
150. (3) take for granted : to pre-suppose as certainly true; to accept readily
 | We take so many things for granted in our houses.
 The best option is to accept readily.
151. (4) high and dry : to leave someone helpless
 | They walked out of the party, leaving me high and dry.
 The best option is neglected.
152. (3) turned his head : to make a person feel too proud in a way that other people find annoying
 | Sudden prosperity has turned his head.
 The best option is changed him completely.
153. (1) turns up her nose at : to reject/dismiss scornfully
 | He turned his nose up at my offer of soup.
 The best option is despises
154. (4) fell back : to move or turn back
 | Finally, the army at the LOC had to fall back.
 The best option is turned back.
155. (2) ended in a fiasco : a total failure
 (1) fiasco : something that does not succeed
 | The party ended in a fiasco.
 The best option is was an utter failure.
156. (1) cut him off, without a shilling : disinherit; to refuse to let somebody receive any of your property after you have died.
 | Mr. James cut their son off without a shilling.
 The best option is disinherited him.
157. (4) fell through : not to be completed, or not to happen
 | Hope our plans don't fall through.
 The best option is failed
158. (1) too many irons in the fire : to be involved in several activities/areas of business at the same time, hoping that at least one will be successful
 | It is better if you don't have too many irons in the fire.
 The best option is is engaged in too many enterprises at the same time.
159. (3) let the cat out of the bag : to tell a secret carelessly or by mistake
 | Mom let cat out of the bag and told us that Akhil was engaged.
 The best option is told her about it unintentionally.
160. (3) read between the lines : find more meanings than the words appear to express
 | Reading between the lines of the letter, she realised that her friend was in great trouble.
 The best option is find more meaning than the words appear to express.
161. (4) threw down the glove : gave a challenge
 | Rajesh threw down the glove to his opponents.
 The best option is gave a challenge.

162. (3) fought to the bitter end : continue fighting till the end and try winning regardless of consequences
 | The climbers fought to the bitter end till they reached the summit.
 The best option is carried on a contest regardless of the consequences.
163. (2) to catch up with : to reach the same level or standard as somebody who was better or more advanced
 | Ramesh finally caught up with his brother in height.
 The best option is to come to their level.
164. (2) the man in the street : an average/ordinary person
 | The man in the street has little interest in literature.
 The best option is the ordinary man.
165. (1) put his foot down : to be very strict in opposing what somebody wishes to do; take a firm stand
 | She put her foot down and said we could not go to the carnival.
 The best option is asserted his authority.
166. (2) came out of his shell : to become less shy and more confident while talking to other people
 | Sanju used to be very withdrawn but he's really coming out of his shell now after joining the army.
 The best option is became more sociable.
167. (4) playing to the gallery : to seek to win approval
 | Akshay is a competent actor, but he has a tendency to play to the gallery.
 The best option is appeasing the masses.
168. (1) His blood ran cold : become very frightened
 | The thought of the damage such a bomb could do made my blood run cold.
 The best option is He was frightened
169. (1) man in the street : an ordinary person; the common man
 | The man in the street has little interest in literature.
 The best option is an ordinary person.
170. (3) hadn't a leg to stand on : unable to prove something or explain why something is reasonable
 | He doesn't have a leg to stand on in this debate.
 The best option is did not have much hope of getting it.
171. (1) gave vent to their feelings : to express a feeling, especially anger, strongly
 | Suman gave vent to her feeling by shouting at Sheela.
 The best option is to express.
172. (1) bear with : to be patient with somebody/something
 | Just bear with me while I finish downloading this file.
 The best option is have patience with.
173. (3) blowing his own trumpet : praising oneself; boasting
 | Anyone will tell you she's one of the best journalists we have got, although she never blows her own trumpet.
 The best option is praising himself.
174. (1) making hay while the sun shines : to make good use of opportunities, conditions, etc. while they last
 | Car sales have finally improved. So we're making hay while the sun shines.
 The best option is taking advantage of a favourable opportunity.
175. (3) laid down their arms : stop fighting
 | The prisoners were instructed to lay down their arms.
 The best option is surrendered.
176. (2) over head and ears : completely; very much
 | He was over head and ears in trouble.
 The best option is completely.
177. (2) by fits and starts : impulsively and irregularly
 | A sincere student works regularly, not by fits and starts
 The best option is irregularly.
178. (2) to stand on his feet : to be independent and be able to take care of yourself
 | You should learn to stand on your own feet.
 The best option is to be independent.
179. (3) a bone of contention : a subject which causes disagreement and arguments between people
 | The question of a fence between the houses has become a bone of contention.
 The best option is a subject of dispute.
180. (1) turned a deaf ear : ignored; paid no attention
 | Sheela turned a deaf ear to our pleadings.
 The best option is paid no heed.
181. (2) to take to heart : to be very upset by something that somebody says or does
 | She took the rejection of college to heart.
 The best option is to grieve over.
182. (2) yeoman's service : very useful work
 | We should all put in yeoman's service to achieve success.
 The best option is excellent work.
183. (2) to face the music : to be punished; to bear the consequences
 | He is prepared to face the music for his conduct at the meeting.
 The best option is to bear the consequences
184. (4) to put up with : to tolerate
 | I cannot put up with your constant complaining any longer.
 The best option is to tolerate.
185. (4) to call it a day : to decide or agree to stop doing something; to retire
 | I'm tired. Let's call it a day.
 None of the above
186. (2) a damp squib : an event that is disappointing because it is not so exciting or impressive as expected
 | The party turned out to be a bit of a damp squib.
 The best option is a disappointing result.
187. (1) in cold blood : acting in a way that is deliberately cruel; with no pity
 | The killer walked up and shot the woman in cold blood.
 The best option is angrily.
188. (2) to take someone for a ride : to cheat or trick somebody

- I Nowadays, the salesmen take us for a ride.
The best option is to deceive someone.
189. (2) to move heaven and earth : to do everything you possibly can in order to achieve something
I I would move heaven and earth to get an apartment here.
The best option is to try everything possible.
190. (4) to smell a rat : to suspect that something is wrong about a situation
I I don't think this was an accident. I smell a rat.
The best option is to be suspicious.
191. (3) a bolt from the blue : an event or a piece of news which is sudden and unexpected; a complete surprise
I She seemed to be very involved in her job, so her resignation came as a bolt from the blue.
The best option is an unexpected event.
192. (3) cold comfort : the fact that something that would normally be good does not make you happy because the whole situation is bad
I It was cold comfort to the student that others had failed as he had done.
The best option is slight satisfaction.
193. (2) to be all at sea : confused and not knowing what to do
I I'm all at sea with these new rules and regulations.
The best option is lost and confused.
194. (2) to take to one's heels : to run away from somebody/something
I As soon as the thief saw the police, he took to his heels.
The best option is to run away.
195. (4) to bite the dust : to fail; to be defeated or destroyed; to die
I The soldier was too young to bite the dust. (to die)
None of the above
196. (1) to strain every nerve : to try as hard as you can to do something
I I was straining every nerve to catch what they were saying.
The best option is to make utmost efforts.
197. (2) to flog a dead horse : to waste your effort by trying to do something that is no longer possible
I He was warned again and again, but now I think there is no use flogging a dead horse.
The best option is to attempt to do the impossible.
198. (2) to show a clean pair of heels : to escape by superior speed; to outrun.
I Sam showed them all a clean pair of heels as he raced for the finishing line.
The best option is to escape.
199. (3) to die in harness : to die while in service (job/work)
I My friend, Rashi, died in harness.
The best option is to die while in service.
200. (3) to feather one's nest : to make oneself rich, especially in a way that is wrong and dishonest
I Ravish feathered his nest through his connection with big business houses.
The best option is to profit in a dishonest way.
201. (2) a bolt from the blue : a complete surprise
I She seemed to be very involved in her job, so her resignation came as a bolt from the blue.
The best option is unexpected.
202. (3) sailing in the same boat : to be in the same difficult situation
I Everyone's got too much work; we're all sailing in the same boat.
The best option is being in the same difficult situation.
203. (1) gift of the gab : the ability to speak easily and to persuade other people with your words
I My brother really has the gift of gab. He can convince anyone of anything.
The best option is ability to speak well.
204. (2) to keep the wolf from the door : to have enough money to avoid going hungry; to stop somebody feeling hungry
I I don't make a lot of money; it is just enough to keep the wolf from the door.
The best option is escape starvation.
205. (3) soft option : a choice which is thought to be easier because it involves less effort, difficulty, etc.
I The instructor took the soft option and gave the boy a passing grade.
The best option is easy and agreeable option.
206. (2) a little gush of gratitude : a feeling of thankfulness
I I felt a little gush of gratitude when I met her at the airport.
The best option is friendly feeling.
207. (2) to lose ground : to lose an advantage for yourself; to become less popular
I Good restaurants are losing ground to less expensive, more informal places that have opened all around the city.
The best option is to become less popular
208. (4) to fall back on : to go to somebody for support ; to have something to use when you are in difficulty
I I fall back on old friends in time of need.
The best option is to seek support out of necessity.
209. (1) to make one's blood boil : to make somebody extremely angry
I Whenever my son criticizes his father, it makes my blood boil.
The best option is to make somebody furious.
210. (4) to speak one's mind : to say exactly what one thinks, in a very direct way
I One should speak out one's mind rather than agree with everything that is said.
The best option is to express one's thoughts.
211. (2) to make a mountain of a molehill : to make an unimportant matter seem important
I You are making a mountain of a molehill. You wrote one bad essay; it doesn't mean you're going to fail.

- The best option is to give importance to little things.
212. (1) hand in glove : working closely with somebody, especially in a secret and/or illegal way
 | The teacher and the Principal work hand in glove.
 The best option is in close relationship.
213. (2) to add fuel to the fire : a thing that is said or done that makes something, especially an argument, continue or get worse
 | Shouting at a crying child just adds fuel to the fire.
 The best option is to cause additional anger.
214. (2) wear and tear : the damage to objects, furniture, property, etc. that is the result of normal use
 | This sofa shows a lot of wear and tear, we should replace it.
 The best option is damage.
215. (3) gift of the gab : the ability to speak easily
 | My brother really has the gift of gab. He can convince anyone of anything.
 The best option is talent for speaking.
216. (4) went a long way : to last a long time; covers a large area
 | Your plan went a long way in helping us with our problem.
 The best option is helped considerably.
217. (3) cope with : to deal successfully with something difficult; manage
 | I don't think I can cope with any more trouble.
 The best option is handle
218. (3) at the eleventh hour : at the last possible moment; just in time
 | She always revises for her exams at the eleventh hour.
 The best option is at the very last moment.
219. (3) maiden speech : first speech
 | Margret Thatcher's maiden speech was one of the most successful ones.
 The best option is first speech.
220. (4) run down : to criticize somebody/something in an unkind way
 | Please stop running me down all the time.
 The best option is criticise.
221. (2) to make both ends meet : to earn just enough money to be able to buy the things you need
 | I have to work at two jobs to make both ends meet.
 The best option is to live within one's income.
222. (1) pore over : to examine; to look at or read something very carefully
 | She pored over the reports, looking for errors.
 The best option is go through.
223. (4) crossed swords : to fight or argue with somebody
 | Reena and Meena always cross swords with each other.
 The best option is disagreed.
224. (1) standstill : a situation in which all activity or movement has stopped
 | The accident brought the work to a standstill.
 The best option is complete halt.
225. (1) cool as a cucumber : very calm and controlled, especially in a difficult situation
 | The politician kept cool as a cucumber throughout the interview with the aggressive journalist.
 The best option is not nervous or emotional.
226. (3) a close shave : a narrow escape
 | The car passed so close to us; it was really a close shave.
 The best option is narrow escape from danger.
227. (1) had gone down the drain : to be wasted; to get very much worse; go down the plug hole
 | All his savings are going down the drain ever since he has taken to gambling.
 The best option is was lost forever.
228. (3) gift of the gab : the ability to speak easily
 | My brother really has the gift of gab. He can convince anyone of anything.
 The best option is ability to speak impressively.
229. (1) face the music : to bear the consequences for something you have done
 | He is prepared to face the music for his conduct at the meeting.
 The best option is face the unpleasant consequences.
230. (2) on the brink of : at the point of
 | The economy, today, is on the brink of collapse.
 The best option is at the point of.
231. (3) in high spirits : cheerful; full of hope and enthusiasm
 | When she came to know that she would receive a award that evening, she was in high spirits.
 The best option is cheerful.
232. (3) catch red-handed : at the time of doing something wrong or committing a crime
 | Many car thieves are caught red-handed.
 The best option is at the time of committing the crime.
233. (3) left me in the lurch : to fail to help somebody when he is relying on you to do so
 | I hope they can find someone to replace me at work. I don't want to leave them in the lurch.
 The best option is abandoned me when I needed help.
234. (1) grease anybody's palm : bribe; to give somebody money in order to persuade him to do something dishonest
 | If you want to get something done around here, you have to grease anybody's palm.
 The best option is bribe.
235. (4) a man of letters : a scholar and a writer
 | He was a distinguished statesman and a man of letters.
 The best option is proficient in literary art.
236. (2) to pay off old scores : get revenge on someone for some grievance
 | Rishabh was satisfied as he had paid off old scores by beating Rohan's little sister.
 The best option is to take revenge.
237. (2) wears his heart on his sleeve : to allow your feelings to be seen by other people
 | As she wears her heart on her sleeve, it is easy to hurt her feelings.

- The best option is expresses his feelings openly.
238. (3) red – letter day : an important day
 | 15th August is a red-letter day in the history of India.
 The best option is a day memorable for some joyful event.
239. (1) scapegoats : a person blamed for something bad that somebody else has done or for some failure; fall guy
 | Her supporters see her as a scapegoat for a policy that failed.
 The best option is punished for others misdeeds.
240. (4) doctored the accounts : to change the accounts in order to trick somebody; falsify
 | The officer doctored the accounts of the office, which got him some illegal funds.
 The best option is to manipulate the accounts.
241. (1) measure up : to be as good, successful, etc. as expected or needed; match up
 | This meal doesn't measure up to my expectations.
 The best option is reach the level.
242. (3) stole the show : to attract more attention and praise than other people in a particular situation
 | The speeches were interesting but Richa's singing stole the show.
 The best option is won everybody's praise.
243. (2) on good terms : to have a good, friendly, etc. relationship with somebody
 | Binay is on good terms with the people he works with.
 The best option is was friendly.
244. (3) turned down : to reject/refuse to consider an offer, a proposal, etc.
 | I turned down the invitation for dinner today as I am feeling unwell.
 The best option is refused.
245. (3) to beat about the bush : to talk about something for a long time without coming to the main point
 | Let us stop beating about the bush and discuss this matter.
- The best option is speak in a round-about manner.
246. (2) in lieu of : instead of
 | We gave money to charity in lieu of sending flowers to the funeral.
 The best option is in place of.
247. (3) in the red : to owe money to your bank because you have spent more than you have in your account
 | State government has been operating in the red for five straight years.
 The best option is in danger.
248. (3) to face the music : to bear the consequences/criticism
 | He is prepared to face the music for his conduct at the meeting.
 The best option is to bear the criticism.
249. (4) a dark horse : a person who does not tell other people much about his life, and who surprises other people by having interesting qualities
 | 17-year-old Karan could also be a dark horse for the medal in the Olympiad.
 The best option is an unexpected winner.
250. (3) a close shave : a narrow escape
 | The car passed so close to us; it was really a close shave.
 The best option is a narrow escape.
251. (3) bad blood : feelings of hatred/strong dislike
 | There is no bad blood between us.
 The best option is active enmity.
252. (2) cry over spilt milk : to waste time worrying about something that has happened or that you cannot do anything about
 | You have wasted all your time playing games. Now, what is the use of crying over spilt milk.
 The best option is to regret uselessly.
253. (4) leave her in the lurch : to fail to help somebody when he needs it
 | I hope they can find someone to replace me at work. I don't want to leave them in the lurch.
 The best option is desert her.
254. (2) sit in judgement : to decide whether somebody's behaviour is right/wrong, especially when you have no right to do this
 | I should probably not be allowed to sit in judgement of movies made for teenagers.
 The best option is criticize.
255. (2) took me to task : to criticize somebody strongly for something he has done
 | The teacher took Shalu to task for her misbehaviour.
 The best option is punished me.
256. (3) lose your head : to become unable to act in a calm or sensible way
 | When the fuel leaked out of the plane, the pilot asked the passengers not to lose their head.
 The best option is panic.
257. (3) at sixes and sevens : in confusion; not well organised
 | Roger is always at sixes and sevens when at home by himself.
 The best option is in disorder or confusion.
258. (3) pulled up : to criticize somebody for something that he has done wrong
 | They were pulled up for wasting money.
 The best option is reprimanded.
259. (2) brought about : to make something happen; cause
 | His speech brought about a great change in my life.
 The best option is caused.
260. (2) closed the book on : to stop doing something because you no longer believe you will be successful or will find a solution
 | She closed the book on her career with a fine performance.
 The best option is stopped working on.
261. (1) cut no ice with me : to have no influence or effect
 | I don't care who you are, It cuts no ice with me.
 The best option is had no influence on me.
262. (1) to cut my teeth on : to do something that gives you your first experience of a particular type of work

- I cut my teeth on editing and proof-reading.
The best option is to gain experience.
263. (4) carrot and stick : reward and punishment
I had to take the carrot-and-stick approach to discipline my kids.
The best option is reward and punishment.
264. (4) grease his palms : bribe
I If you want to get something done around here, you have to grease someone's palms.
The best option is bribe him.
265. (2) pull strings : to control events or the actions of other people; to use your influence in order to get an advantage for somebody
I His father pulled some strings to get him out of jail.
The best option is use personal influence.
266. (2) keep your head : to be able to act in a calm or sensible way
I When the boat capsized, the boatsman asked everyone to keep his head.
The best option is remain calm.
267. (3) ran in the same groove : to be in harmony
I The success of any institution lies in the fact that both the management and the staff run in the same groove.
The best option is moved in harmony.
268. (3) a bird's eye view : a view of something from a high position
I We got a bird's eye view of the town as the plane made its descent.
The best option is an over view.
269. (2) by fits and starts : impulsively and irregularly
I A sincere student works regularly, not by fits and starts
The best option is irregularly.
270. (2) build castles in the air : plans or dreams that are not likely to happen or come true
I I really like to sit on the porch in the evening, building castles in the air.
The best option is daydream.
271. (3) sought after : wanted by many people, because it is of very good quality or difficult to get or to find
I He was much sought after as a throat specialist, particularly by singers.
The best option is in great demand.
272. (3) all at sea : confused and not knowing what to do
I I'm all at sea with these new rules and regulations.
The best option is puzzled.
273. (4) to hit below the belt : to be unfair/cruel (attack)
I The boxer hit the contender below the belt and the crowd began to behave furiously.
The best option is to attack unfairly.
274. (1) pot-luck dinner : a meal to which each guest brings something, which is then shared out among the guests
I All the friends want to get together. So, they decided to arrange a pot-luck dinner.
The best option is dinner where everybody brings something to eat.
275. (4) at one's beck and call : always ready to obey somebody's orders
I There were a dozen of maids and waiters at our beck and call.
The best option is to be dominated by someone.
276. (4) to explore every avenue : to investigate every possible means to find a solution to a given problem or to achieve a desired outcome
I We've explored all avenues but I just can't see how we can continue living in this house.
The best option is to try every opportunity.
277. (3) a red-letter day : an important day
I 15th August is a red-letter day in the history of India.
The best option is an important or joyful occasion in one's life.
278. (3) to have something up one's sleeve : to have a secret plan
I I have something up my sleeve that will solve all your problems.
The best option is to have a secret plan.
279. (1) on the spur of the moment : suddenly, without planning in advance
I We decided to go on the spur of the moment.
The best option is to act at once.
280. (1) to bring to light : to make new information known to people
I After careful investigation all the facts of the case were brought to light.
The best option is to reveal.
281. (4) to hit the jackpot : being successful; to win a large amount of money in a game of chance
I He hit the jackpot in a big contest.
The best option is to make money quickly.
282. (3) to burn the candle at both ends : to work very hard and stay up very late at night
I Jenny has been burning the candle at both ends for weeks, working two jobs during the week.
The best option is to work hard.
283. (1) status – quo : the situation as it is now, or as it was before a recent change
I We don't want to admit more students to the school; we like the status quo.
The best option is unchanged position.
284. (3) by fair means or foul : using dishonest methods if honest ones do not work
I He was determined to become the Chief Minister, by fair means or foul.
The best option is in any way honest or dishonest.
285. (4) to look down one's nose : to behave in a way that suggests that you think that you are better than somebody or that something is not good enough for you; to regard with contempt
I My cousin looks down his nose because we're homeless.
The best option is to regard with contempt.
286. (2) to shed crocodile tears : to pretend to be sad about something but is not really sad at all
I The child wasn't really sad, but she shed crocodile tears anyway.
The best option is to pretend grief.

287. (4) by putting two and two together : to guess the truth from what you see, hear, etc.
 I put two and two together and came up with an idea of who did it.
 The best option is to deduce from given facts.
288. (3) to go scot-free : to go without receiving the punishment one deserves
 I Reena cheated in the test and got caught, but she went scot-free.
 The best option is to escape without punishment.
289. (3) at the eleventh hour : at the last possible time
 I She always revises for her exams. at the eleventh hour.
 The best option is at the last possible moment.
290. (4) birds of the same feather : people of the same sort
 I Chayanika and Aadya are birds of the same feather. They get along very well.
 The best option is persons of same character.
291. (4) to fight tooth and nail : to fight in a very determined way for what you want
 I They vowed to fight the new legislation tooth and nail.
 The best option is to make every possible effort.
292. (1) to call a spade a spade : to say exactly what you think without trying to hide your opinion
 I Vinay is a person who calls a spade a spade and is fearless.
 The best option is to be frank.
293. (4) a white elephant : costly and useless possession
 I The new office block has become an expensive white elephant.
 The best option is costly and troublesome possession, useless to its owner.
294. (2) to miss the bus : to unable to take advantage of something because you are too late
 I She missed the bus when she did not apply for the entrance exams, this year.
 The best option is to miss an opportunity.
295. (4) an open – book : to understand somebody easily and know everything about him
 I Your health secrets will be an open – book to anyone who can do an online search.
 The best option is straight forward and honest dealings.
296. (1) by leaps and bounds : rapidly
 I India is progressing by leaps and his bounds.
 The best option is rapidly.
297. (3) too fond of her own voice : to like talking a lot or too much, usually without wanting to listen to other people
 I Akshita is too fond of her own voice.
 The best option is does not listen properly to anyone else.
298. (2) high-handed : overbearing ; using authority in an unreasonable way, without considering the opinions of other people
 I He is an arrogant and high-handed man.
 The best option is overbearing.
299. (3) take exception : to object strongly
 I The manager took exception to the statement about having only three employees.
 The best option is object.
300. (1) called for : to ask
 I The player was called for an explanation for his bad performance in the game.
 The best option is asked.
301. (4) took cue from : to copy what somebody else does as to how to behave or what to do
 I The other children took cue from Tanisha and won the competition.
 The best option is learnt acting.
302. (2) gave the game away : betray; to make known something that somebody wants to keep secret
 I Though they were the oldest of the employees of the company, they were giving the game away.
 The best option is gave out the secret.
303. (3) heart – to – heart talk : candid talk; speaking honestly and frankly
 I We sat down and had a nice heart-to-heart talk for about an hour.
 The best option is frank talk.
304. (1) fell short : to fail to reach the standard that you expected or need; fail to meet expectations or standards
 I The athlete fell short of the expectations of his coach.
 The best option is had no effect.
305. (2) put across : to communicate your ideas, feelings, etc. successfully
 I She put her views across during the hearing.
 The best option is effectively conveyed
306. (3) see eye to eye : to think alike
 I We never seem to see eye to eye in any context.
 The best option is agree.
307. (1) a hard nut to crack : a difficult problem or situation to deal with
 I This assignment is a hard nut to crack.
 The best option is difficult task.
308. (4) rat race : fierce and undignified competition for success in one's career, social status, etc.
 I He got tired of rat race. He is settled now and has gone to live in his home town.
 The best option is fierce competition for power.
309. (1) dropping like flies : to fall down in large numbers
 I The heat was overwhelming and people were dropping like flies.
 The best option is collapsing in large numbers.
310. (4) ins and outs : full detail
 I Jatin knows the ins and outs of repairing computers.
 The best option is full details.
311. (1) spread like wildfire : to become known by more and more people very quickly
 I This disease will spread like wildfire when it gets going.
 The best option is spread rapidly.
312. (4) end up in smoke : efforts that come to nothing or are useless
 I The whole discussion ended up in smoke.
 The best option is become useless finally.

313. (2) ran into : to meet by chance
 I ran into my school friend at the park the other day.
 The best option is met accidentally.
314. (2) out of the question : impossible or not allowed and therefore not worth discussing
 I Starting all over again is just out of the question.
 The best option is impossible.
315. (2) to eat a humble pie : to say and show that you are sorry for a mistake that you made
 I The producers of the advertisement had to eat humble pie for misrepresenting the facts.
 The best option is to accept defeat.
316. (3) to break the ice : to say or do something that makes people feel more relaxed, especially at the beginning of a meeting
 I There should be someone who will break the ice at any social gathering.
 The best option is to start a conversation.
317. (3) not my cup of tea : not what somebody likes or is interested in
 I Baseball is not my cup of tea.
 The best option is not what I like.
318. (4) to have second thoughts : to change your opinion after thinking about something again
 I Some of the biggest companies are having second thoughts about jumping into the Internet access business (online business)
 The best option is to reconsider.
319. (1) eat anyone's salt : to be anyone's guest
 I When you are eating someone's salt, you can help him around the house.
 The best option is to be one's guest.
320. (3) come to grief : suffer
 I In the end, he came to grief because he did not follow instructions.
 The best option is suffer.
321. (2) through thick and thin : even when there are problems/difficulties
 I We've been together through thick and thin and we won't hurt each other in future too.
 The best option is under all circumstances
322. (4) once in a blue moon : very rarely
 I You are seen only once in a blue moon.
 The best option is rarely.
323. (2) bury the hatchet : to stop being unfriendly and become friends again
 I Let's stop arguing and bury the hatchet.
 The best option is to make peace.
324. (1) wears her heart on her sleeve : to allow your feelings to be seen by other people
 I As she wears her heart on her sleeve, it is easy to hurt her feelings.
 The best option is expresses her emotions freely.
325. (3) to talk him over : to discuss something thoroughly, especially in order to reach an agreement or make a decision
 I We talked them over to our point of view.
 The best option is convince.
326. (2) wet behind the ears : young and without experience; naive
 I Chandu is too young to take on a job. He is still wet behind the ears.
 The best option is inexperienced.
327. (2) kicked up a row : to complain loudly about something
 I The food was so cold that dad kicked up a row and refused to pay for it.
 The best option is made a great fuss.
328. (4) send him packing : to tell somebody firmly or rudely to go away
 I The owner caught his servant taking small things from the store. So, he sent him packing.
 The best option is terminate his services.
329. (2) to foam at one's mouth : to be very angry
 I The court's decision left the victim foaming at his mouth.
 The best option is to get very angry.
330. (2) to feel like a fish out of water : to feel uncomfortable or awkward because he/she is in surroundings that are not familiar
 I All the other children in the school were from rich families. So, she was feeling like a fish out of water.
 The best option is uncomfortable.
331. (4) at the eleventh hour : at the last moment
 I She always revises for her exams at the eleventh hour.
 The best option is at the last moment.
332. (2) to burn one's fingers : to suffer as a result of doing something without realizing the possible bad results, especially in business
 I I'm staying away from risky stocks; I've burnt my fingers.
 The best option is to suffer financial losses.
333. (4) to add fuel to fire : to worsen a talk/conversation/argument; to incite
 I Shouting at a crying child just adds fuel to fire.
 The best option is to incite
334. (3) on the horns of a dilemma : in a situation in which you have to make a choice between things that are equally unpleasant
 I I didn't know which dress to choose; I'm on the horns of a dilemma.
 The best option is in difficult situation.
335. (4) died in harness : died while in service
 I My friend, Rashi, died in harness.
 The best option is died while working.
336. (1) ended in smoke : become useless
 I All his schemes ended in smoke.
 The best option is came to nothing.
337. (3) kicking his heels : to be relaxed and enjoy
 I She kicked her heels for hours sitting on a branch in the park.
 The best option is wasting time.

338. (3) scapegoat : fall guy
 | Her supporters see her as a scapegoat for a policy that failed. The best option is fall guy.
339. (1) point-blank : very definite and direct and not very polite; blunt
 | He blocked himself in the bathroom and refused point-blank to come out.
 The best option is directly.
340. (2) strike a bargain : reach an agreement; negotiate a deal
 | They argued for sometime and then struck a bargain.
 The best option is to negotiate a deal.
341. (1) had better : used for telling somebody what you think he 'should' do
 | You had better finish your milk now.
 The best option is should.
342. (3) took to heart : to be very upset by something that somebody says or does; be serious
 | She took the rejection of college to heart.
 The best option is seriously.
343. (4) give me a hand with : to help with
 | Let me know when you are shifting and I'll give you a hand with your luggage.
 The best option is help me with.
344. (1) at the eleventh hour : at a late stage; at the last moment
 | She always revises for her exams at the eleventh hour.
 The best option is at a late stage.
345. (4) a shot in the dark : a guess; something you do without knowing what the result will be
 | When I applied for this job, it was just a shot in the dark.
 The best option is an attempt to guess something.
346. (4) in a nutshell : say/express in a very clean way, using few words
 | He described his visit to Kerala in a nutshell.
 The best option is brief.
347. (1) from the bottom of my heart : in a way that is sincere
 | I thanked the boy from the bottom of my heart for helping me carry the vegetables home.
 The best option is sincerely.
348. (2) for better or worse : used for saying that something cannot be changed, whether the result is good/bad
 | He trusts everyone, for better or worse.
 The best option is always.
349. (2) a hard nut to crack : a difficult problem/situation to deal with
 | This assignment is a hard nut to crack.
 The best option is a difficult problem.
350. (3) hand in glove : working closely with somebody, especially in a secret and/or illegal way
 | The teacher and the Principal work hand in glove.
 The best option is very intimate.
351. (1) a lame excuse : weak and difficult to believe; unconvincing
 | He always gives lame excuses.
 The best option is unsatisfactory explanation.
352. (2) at a loss : not knowing what to say/do
 | I was so surprised that I was at a loss for words.
 The best option is unable
353. (2) in black and white : in writing or in print
 | I want you to put your offer in black and white.
 The best option is in writing.
354. (1) stand by : to help somebody or be friends with him, even in difficult situations
 | I'll stand by you at any cost.
 The best option is support.
355. (4) to give vent to : to express a feeling, especially anger, strongly
 | Suman gave vent to her feeling by shouting at Sheela.
 The best option is express.
356. (3) part and parcel : an essential part of something
 | Touring is a part and parcel of my job.
 The best option is essential element.
357. (2) to get wind : to hear about something secret or private
 | The police got the wind of the illegal drug deal.
 The best option is come to know.
358. (4) under the thumb of : under the control of
 | The committee is firmly under his thumb and will agree to whatever he asks.
 The best option is under control of.
359. (4) fall flat : fail to amuse people or to have effect that was intended
 | Most of his jokes fell flat.
 The best option is to fail to produce intended effect.
360. (3) carry weight : important influence/strength
 | Her opinion carries a lot of weight with the boys.
 The best option is be important.
361. (3) to pass away : to die
 | My aunt passed away last week.
 The best option is die.
362. (2) turn down : to reject/to refuse
 | The board turned down the demand laid down by the union.
 The best option is reject.
363. (1) die hard : strongly opposing change and new ideas
 | These ancient traditions die hard in the isolated communities of rural India.
 The best option is unwilling to change.
364. (2) turn up : to be found; to appear; to happen; to arrive
 | The invitations will be sent out and we'll see who turns up.
 The best option is appear.
365. (3) bad – blood : feeling of hatred
 | There is no bad blood between us.
 The best option is feeling of hatred.
366. (2) by fits and starts : irregularly
 | A sincere student works regularly, not by fits and starts.
 The best option is irregularly.
367. (3) to put an end to : to close; to cease
 | We all wanted the two brothers to put an end to their argument.
 The best option is stop.
368. (3) to hail from : to come from
 | He hails from a small town in Punjab.
 The best option is come from.
369. (1) took exception : to object; objected

- | The manager took exception to the statement about having only three employees.
 The best option is objected.
370. (2) turn a deaf ear : refuse to pay attention
- | Sheela turned a deaf ear to our pleadings.
 The best option is refused to obey.
371. (4) live from hand to mouth : to spend all the money you earn on basic needs such as food without being able to save any money
- | When I had no job, we had to live from hand to mouth.
 The best option is miserably.
372. (3) no hard and fast : fixed
- | We have no hard and fast rules for this procedure.
 The best option is fixed.
373. (1) hold your tongue : to say nothing although you would like to give your opinion
- | You've said enough. Now, hold your tongue.
 The best option is be silent.
374. (3) cut your coat according to your cloth : to do only what you have enough money to do and no more
- | We can't afford a vacation abroad; we have to cut our coat according to our cloth.
 The best option is live within your means.
375. (4) broke down : to lose control of your feelings and start crying
- | When she heard the news of her husband's accident, she broke down and could not be convinced.
 The best option is cried.
376. (4) lays out : to spend money; fork out
- | The rich couple laid out a fortune on jewellery for the wedding.
 The best option is spends.
377. (1) allowed a free hand : to get/have an opportunity to do what you want to do and to make your own decisions
- | He was allowed a free hand in the project and he accomplished it very well.
 The best option is complete liberty.
378. (2) as hard as a nail : to show no sympathy, kindness or fear
- | She'll be a good business woman; she's as hard as a nail.
 The best option is emotionless.
379. (2) under a cloud : being subject to suspicion ; a state of disgrace
- | As he behaved in an abnormal way, his activities were under a cloud.
 The best option is in disgrace.
380. (4) in a pickle : in a difficult or unpleasant situation
- | I was in a pickle, when I missed my flight to Canada.
 The best option is in an embarrassing or awkward situation.
381. (3) got on well : had a friendly relationship
- | She doesn't get on well with her room - mate.
 The best option is had a friendly relationship.
382. (3) slip off : to leave quietly
- | They slipped off and no one saw them leave.
 The best option is leave quietly.
383. (2) looking forward to : to be thinking with pleasure about something that is going to happen
- | I'm really looking forward to your visit next week.
 The best option is expecting with pleasure.
384. (1) rides the high horse : behaves in a way that shows that he feels he is better than other people
- | She is riding the high horse because of her father's recent success in the business.
 The best option is superior.
385. (3) rack and ruin : to get into a bad condition
- | The lovely old house on the corner is going to rack and ruin.
 The best option is destroyed
386. (3) to take to task : punish
- | The teacher took Shalu to task for her misbehaviour.
 The best option is punish.
387. (2) iron will : a feeling of strong determination
- | One must have an iron will.
 The best option is strong determination.
388. (2) weal and woe : happiness and misery
- | Weal and woe come in everybody's life. One should learn to live with them.
 The best option is joys and sorrows.
389. (1) water under the bridge : something that happened in the past and is now forgotten or no longer important
- | In order to have peace of mind we should let water under the bridge pass.
 The best option is something I cannot change.
390. (2) stick to my guns : to refuse to change your mind about something even when other people are trying to persuade you that you are wrong
- | I'll stick to my guns in this matter.
 The best option is hold on to my decision.
391. (1) out of hand : out of control; at once; immediately ; completely
- | The second surgeon rejected the doctor's treatment plan out of hand.
 The best option is completely.
392. (4) the salt of the earth : very good and honest; kind
- | Farmers are described as the salt of the earth, particularly when their products are needed to feed the army.
 The best option is kind.
393. (2) talking through the hat : to talk nonsense
- | He was talking through his hat when he described the shipwreck.
 The best option is talking nonsense.
394. (2) saw through : to realize the truth about somebody/something
- | You can't fool me any more. I can see through you and all your tricks.
 The best option is detected.
395. (2) has a bee in her bonnet : to think or talk about something all the time and to think that it is very important; that is not normal; an obsession

- | Mary has a bee in her bonnet about recycling.
The best option is an obsessed person.
396. (4) by fits and starts : irregularly
| A sincere student works regularly, not by fits and starts.
The best option is irregularly.
397. (2) stand by : support; help
| I'll stand by you at any cost.
The best option is support.
398. (4) broke up : the ending of a relationship or an association; the division of a large group into smaller parts
| Personal tensions broke the rock band up.
The best option is disbanded itself.
399. (3) takes after : to look/behave like on older member of your family
| She takes after her grandfather in her talent for design.
The best option is resembles.
400. (3) spick and span : neat and clean
| When she finished cleaning, the whole house is spick and span.
The best option is tidy.
401. (4) changed colours : to turn pale
| She changed colours when I asked her about her result.
The best option is turned pale.
402. (1) like a bull in a China shop : a person who is careless, or who moves or acts in a rough or awkward way, in a place or situation where skill and care are needed.
| Her living room, with its delicate furniture, made him feel like a bull in a China shop.
The best option is a clumsy person.
403. (1) wide off the mark : not accurate; inadequate; far from the target
| Sheena's efforts were sincere but wide off the mark.
The best option is irrelevant.
404. (3) by leaps and bounds : very rapidly; very quickly
| India is progressing by leaps and bounds.
The best option is rapidly.
405. (4) give in : to agree to do something that you do not want to do; yield
| The strikers seem determined, and are not likely to give in.
The best option is yield.
406. (3) by leaps and bounds : very quickly/rapidly
| India is progressing by leaps and bounds.
The best option is very rapidly.
407. (1) swept under the carpet : to try to stop people from finding out about something wrong, illegal, embarrassing, etc. that has happened or that you have done
| You made a mistake that you can't sweep under the carpet.
The best option is kept hidden.
408. (1) out of this world : emphasises how good/beautiful something is
| The cake is just out of this world.
The best option is extraordinary.
409. (3) take my hat off : to admire somebody very much for something he has done
| I take off my hat to you-you've done very well indeed.
The best option is admire.
410. (1) sticks to her guns : held on to her decision
| I'll stick to my guns in this matter.
The best option is maintains her opinion.
411. (3) to toe the line : to say or do what somebody in authority tells you to say/do, even if you do not share the same opinions, etc.
| Not everyone was happy with the plan, but most of us toed the line.
The best option is to follow the lead.
412. (1) look into : to examine something
| I'll have to look into the matter.
The best option is to investigate.
413. (1) fish in troubled waters : to try to get a personal advantage from a disturbed/troubled situation
| Farhan is fishing in troubled waters by buying more shares of that company.
The best option is make a profit out of a disturbance.
414. (3) keep the wolf from the door : to have enough money to avoid going hungry; to stop somebody feeling hungry
| I don't make a lot of money. It is just enough to keep the wolf from the door.
The best option is avoid starvation.
415. (4) break the ice : start a meeting with an introduction
| There should be someone who will break the ice at any social gathering.
The best option is initiate something.
416. (3) null and void : not valid; having no legal force
| The court declared the law to be null and void.
The best option is invalid.
417. (4) blowing his own trumpet : boasting
| Anyone will tell you she's one of the best journalists we have got, although she never blows her own trumpet.
The best option is boasting.
418. (3) cut the Gordian knot : to solve a problem by taking action
| He cut the Gordian knot by putting in lots of effort.
The best option is removed the difficulty.
419. (1) took a leap in the dark : an action or risk that you take without knowing anything about the activity or what the result will be
| I had very little information about the company, so writing to them was a bit of a leap in the dark.
The best option is took a risk.
420. (1) achilles' heel : a weak point
| His Achilles' heel was that he could not drive.
The best option is weak spot.
421. (2) for good : permanently
| I'm moving to Europe for good.
The best option is permanently.
422. (1) egged you on : to encourage somebody to do something, especially something that he should not do
| Cally wouldn't have done the dangerous experiment if her brother hadn't egged her on.
The best option is urged

423. (3) not fit to hold a candle : is not so good as somebody or something else
 I Dolly is fast, but not fit to hold a candle to her.
 The best option is inferior
424. (2) paying through the nose : to pay too much money for something
 I We paid through the nose for that vacation.
 The best option is paying too much
425. (1) putting the cart before the horse : to do things in the wrong order
 Building a school before knowing the age of the population is putting the cart before the horse.
 The best option is doing a thing in the wrong way.
426. (2) casting pearls before swine : to give or offer valuable things to people who do not understand their value
 I Giving him advice is just casting pearls before swine.
 The best option is offering good things to undeserving people
427. (2) to play second fiddle : to be treated as less important than somebody/something; to have a less important position
 I I'm tired of playing second fiddle to Mehak.
 The best option is take a subordinate role.
428. (4) face the music : bear the consequences
 I He is prepared to face the music for his conduct at the meeting.
 The best option is accept the punishment.
429. (1) call a spade a spade : to call exactly what you think without trying to hide your opinion
 I Vinay is a person who calls a spade a spade and is fearless.
 The best option is to speak in a straight forward manner.
430. (1) out of my wits : to be extremely confused and frightened
 I She was out of her wits and so could not find a solution to the problem.
 The best option is greatly confused.
431. (2) jumping down my throat : to react very angrily to somebody
 I Just because I admitted being there, you needn't jump down my throat.
 The best option is scolding me
432. (2) in the long run : concerning a longer period in the future
 I He realized that in the long run, their argument wouldn't seem so useless.
 The best option is over a period of time.
433. (3) a fish out of water : to feel uncomfortable
 I All the other children in the school were from rich families, So, she was feeling like a fish out of water.
 The best option is uncomfortable
434. (4) apple of discord : cause of envy; a subject of quarrel animosity : a strong feeling of dislike or hatred
 I The property is an apple of discord between the two.
 The best option is cause of animosity.
435. (3) let the grass grow under their feet : delay in getting things done
 I Write your application today; don't let the grass grow under you feet.
 The best option is delay doing the work
436. (3) smell the rat : to suspect that something is wrong about a situation
 I I don't think this was an accident. I smell a rat.
 The best option is suspected that something is fishy.
437. (2) time and again : often; on many or all occasions
 I He was warned time and again not to be late to office.
 The best option is often
438. (1) iron fist : treat people in a severe manner/strictly
 I She rules the office with an iron fist.
 The best option is strictly
439. (4) for good : permanently
 I I'm moving to Europe for good.
 The best option is permanently
440. (1) poured cats and dogs : raining very heavily
 I I'm not going out in that storm. It's pouring cats and dogs.
 The best option is rained heavily.
441. (3) above board : legal and honest
 I His financial dealings were always above board.
 The best option is honest.
442. (4) feel blue : depressed
 I You look like you feel blue. What's wrong ?
 The best option is gloomy.
443. (4) live-wire : a person who is lively and full of energy
 I Seema is a real live-wire; she brightens up any gathering.
 The best option is energetic.
444. (1) cool his heels : to have to wait for somebody/something
 I I've been cooling my heels for at least an hour.
 The best option is to be kept waiting.
445. (2) bury the hatchet : to stop being unfriendly and become friends again
 I Let's stop arguing and bury the hatchet.
 The best option is make peace.
446. (4) wet his whistle : to moisten ones throat; to have a drink
 I I'm just going to wet my whistle before I go out on the tennis court.
 The best option is have a drink.
447. (4) thick and thin : in spite of troubles and/or difficulties
 I They remained friends through thick and thin.
 The best option is in spite of all the difficulties.
448. (1) back to square one : a return to the situation you were in at the beginning of a project, task, etc. because you have made no real progress
 I We've got to get this done without going back to square one.
 The best option is to return to the starting point.
449. (1) blowing their own trumpets : boasting
 I Anyone will tell you she's one of the best journalists we have got, although she never blows her own trumpet.
 The best option is to boast about their achievements.

450. (2) in apple pie order : in complete order; in perfect order
 I always put my table in apple pie order before leaving.
 The best option is in perfect order.
451. (3) a closed book : a person that you know nothing about
 I can't figure her out; she's a closed book to me.
 The best option is a mystery.
452. (3) a month of Sundays : used to emphasize that something will never happen; a long time
 It will take you a month of Sundays to complete the book.
 The best option is a long time.
453. (4) let sleeping dogs lie : to avoid mentioning a subject or something that happened in the past, in order to avoid any problems/arguments
 I know I should report the accident but I rather let the sleeping dogs lie.
 The best option is do not bring up an old controversial issue.
454. (3) be born with a silver spoon in the mouth : having rich parents
 Most of the students in the exclusive Public schools are born with silver spoons in their mouths.
 The best option is be born in a rich family.
455. (2) a man of straw : without substantial means; a person who is weak and easy to defeat ; a person of little substance
 Compared to their predecessors, the country's leaders seem to be men of straw.
 The best option is a man of no substance
456. (1) not to look a gift horse in the mouth : not to refuse or criticize something that is given to you for nothing
 Never look a gift horse in the mouth.
 The best option is not to find fault with the gifts received.
457. (3) a cake walk : something that is extremely easy to do
 She has been running marathons for years now. So this 5 km-run will be a cake walk for her.
- The best option is an easy achievement.
458. (1) feel his pulse : to find what one is thinking on some point
 The exit polls feel the pulse of the voters.
 The best option is find his views.
459. (1) taken to task : punished
 The teacher took Shalu to task for her misbehaviour.
 The best option is get, an official reprimand
460. (4) have something up your sleeve : to keep a plan or an idea secret until you need to use it
 I have something up my sleeve that will solve all your problems.
 The best option is have an alternative plan.
461. (1) ruled the roost : to be the most powerful member of a group; to be the manager
 Our new office manager really rules the roost.
 The best option is exercised authority.
462. (1) eat humble pie : to say and show that you are sorry for a mistake committed by you
 The producers of the advertisement had to eat humble pie for mis representing the facts.
 The best option is he had to yield under pressure
463. (4) broke down : cried
 When she heard the news of her husband's accident, she broke down and could not be convinced.
 The best option is wept bitterly.
464. (4) throw dust into my eyes : to mislead; to deceive
 The governor's secretary threw dust in his eyes by misleading him with wrong information.
 The best option is to mislead or confuse me.
465. (2) a man of straw : without substantial means; a person who is weak and easy to defeat ; a person of little substance
 Compared to their predecessors, the country's leaders seem to be men of straw.
 The best option is a man of no substance
466. (2) off and on : from time to time; now and again
 She always remains sick. She has to visit the doctor off and on.
 The best option is often.
467. (1) give and take : willingness in a relationship to accept what somebody else wants and gives up some of what you want
 Every contract involves some give and take.
 The best option is adjustment.
468. (2) bad hats : someone who deliberately stirs up trouble
 He is a bad hat; he always creates problems for others.
 The best option is people of bad character.
469. (2) ice-breaking :
 same as 'break the ice' start introduction. There should be someone who will break the ice at any social gathering
 The best option is starting conversation.
470. (4) chickened out : to decide not to do something because you are afraid
 Gaurav chickened out of the plan at the last minute.
 The best option is withdrew.
471. (4) to make do : to manage
 You'll have to make do with less money next year.
 The best option is manage.
472. (1) donkey's years : a very long time
 I haven't seen her in donkey's years.
 The best option is a long time.
473. (1) wet behind the ears : young and inexperienced
 Chandu is too young to take on a job. He is still wet behind the ears.
 The best option is young and inexperienced.
474. (2) keeps an open house : to give entertainment to all visitors at any time.
 They keep an open house for artists and writers.
 The best option is welcomes all members.
475. (3) cordoned off : to stop people from getting into an area by surrounding it with police, soldiers, etc.
 The police cordoned off the scene of crime.
 The best option is isolated.

476. (2) saw through : to realize the truth
 I You can't fool me any more. I can see through you and all your tricks.
 The best option is detected.
477. (2) the gift of the gab : ability to speak well
 I My brother really has the gift of gab. He can convince anyone of anything.
 The best option is speak very well.
478. (1) put up with : to bear; to endure
 I I cannot put up with your constant complaining any longer.
 The best option is bear patiently.
479. (4) the die is cast : an event has happened or a decision has been made that cannot be changed
 I The die is cast; there is no turning back on this point.
 The best option is The decision has been taken
480. (2) picking holes in : to find the weak points
 I The lawyer picked holes in the witness's story.
 The best option is finding fault with
481. (3) took exception : objected
 I The manager took exception to the statement about having only three employees.
 The best option is objected
482. (4) goes about : goes around; to continue to do something
 I She is going about with her mistress.
 The best option is goes around.
483. (2) going a piece of her mind : to tell somebody that you disapprove of his behaviour or are angry with him
 I I've had enough of Raju. I'm going to give him a piece of my mind.
 The best option is speaking sharply.
484. (1) got down to business : to give serious attention
 I There has been enough chit chat. Let's get down to business.
 The best option is began to work seriously.
485. (2) a bad egg (Id.) : someone who behaves in a bad/dishonest way; worthless
 a good egg : a person who can be relied on; to behave well
 He's a bad egg ; don't believe anything he says.
 I He's a bad egg ; don't believe anything he says.
 The best option is worthless.
486. (3) to get into hot water : to get into trouble
 I I got into hot water with my wife last night when she found me drunk.
 The best option is to get into trouble.
487. (4) a wild goose chase : a search for something that is impossible for you to find or that does not exist, that makes you waste a lot of time
 I The police had been sent on a wild goose chase.
 The best option is fruitless pursuit.
488. (2) took to his heels : ran away quickly
 I The man took to his heels to try to get to the bus stop before the bus left.
 The best option is ran off.
489. (1) Plain sailing : to be simple and free from trouble.
 I The roads were busy as we drove out of the city, but after that it was plain sailing all the way.
 The best option is was very easy.
490. (4) A bolt from the blue : an event or a piece of news which is sudden and unexpected.
 I Her dismissal came as a bolt from the blue.
 The best option is a complete surprise.
491. (1) Teething troubles/problems : small problems that a company, product, system etc. has at the beginning.
 I New cars often suffer from teething problems.
 The best option is difficulties at the start.
492. (2) Fight tooth and nail : to fight in a very determined way for what you want.
 I The residents are fighting tooth and nail to stop the new development.
- The best option is with strength and fury.
493. (4) Prick on somebody : to treat somebody unfairly by blaming or criticising.
 I My sister always picks on me.
 The best option is treats badly.
494. (1) To keep the wolf from the door : to have enough money to avoid going hungry.
 I We have a small amount of money saved, hardly enough to keep the wolf from the door.
 The best option is keep away from extreme poverty
495. (1) Foam at the mouth : to be very angry.
 I She was foaming at the mouth over the judge's ruling.
 The best option is angry
496. (1) Husband our resources : to use something carefully and make sure that you do not waste it.
 I Times are hard and we have to husband our resources.
 The best option is save
497. (4) Bring about : to make something happen; cause
 I What brought about the change in his attitude ?
 The best option is cause to happen
498. (3) Give vent to something = to express a feeling
 I Children give vent to their anger in various ways.
 The best option is expressed
499. (3) Read between the lines : to look for or discover a meaning in something that is not openly stated.
 I Reading between the lines, I think she needs money.
 The best option is know what the writer thinks
500. (2) To throw dust in one's eyes : to deceive
 I She threw dust in the eyes of the jeweller by pretending to be a well-to-do lady, and then stole the necklace.
 The best option is to deceive
501. (4) A cut above somebody : better than somebody/something.
 I His latest novel is a cut above the rest.
 The best option is rather superior to

502. (2) show white flag : a sign that you accept defeat and wish to stop fighting
 | The soldiers laid down their guns and walked towards the enemy camp, carrying a white flag.
 The best option is surrendered
503. (4) to cut one short : to interrupt one
 | It is bad to cut one short at a meeting.
 The best option is to interrupt one
504. (1) all our might and main : with great strength, energy or power.
 | The huge warrior, with all his might and main, could not break his way through the castle gates.
 The best option is full force
505. (2) Nail your colours to the mast : to say publicly and firmly what you believe or who you support.
 | They nailed their colours to the mask of youth revolt.
 The best option is refused to climb down
506. (2) batten down the hatches : to prepare yourself for a period of difficulty or trouble.
 | A natural tendency in times of recession is to batten down the hatches and think about our own needs.
 The best option is prepare for a difficult situation.
507. (2) Fly/go off at tangent : to suddenly start saying or doing something that does not seem to be connected to what has gone before.
 | He never sticks to the point but keeps going off at a tangent
 The best option is starts discussing something irrelevant.
508. (3) be at equal speed : to advance at the same rate as someone/ something
 | You're running so fast that I cannot be at equal speed with you.
 The best option is keep up with.
509. (3) Bury the hatchet : to stop being unfriendly and become friends again.
 | After not speaking to each other for years, the two brothers decided to bury the hatchet.
 The best option is forget the quarrels.
510. (3) By the skin of your teeth : If you do something by the skin of your teeth, you only just manage to do it.
 | He escaped defeat by the skin of his teeth.
 The best option is by the narrowest margin.
511. (4) Swan song : the last piece of work produced.
 | The building turned out to be the swan song of Victorian architecture
 The best option is last performance
512. (2) a wild goose chase : a search for something that is impossible for you to find or that does not exist, that makes you waste a lot of time.
 | I wasted all afternoon on a wild goose chase.
 The best option is a foolish and useless enterprise
513. (1) All moonshine : silly talk; nonsense.
 | That's just moonshine ! I don't believe a word.
 The best option is nonsense
514. (4) dot your i's and cross your t's : to pay attention to the small details when you are finishing a task
 | The negotiations are nearly finished, but we still have to dot the i's and cross the t's.
 The best option is be detailed and exact
515. (3) down in the dumps : feeling unhappy
 | He'd been down in the dumps since there was a theft at his place.
 The best option is sad and depressed
516. (3) turn up one's nose : to regard something with scorn/ contempt
 | They turned their noses up at the only hotel that was available.
 The best option is treated my offer with contempt
517. (4) hard and fast : that cannot be changed in any circumstances
 | This situation isn't hard and fast.
 The best option is that cannot be altered
518. (1) strain every nerve : to try as hard as you can to do something
 | He strained every nerve to snatch victory from defeat.
 The best option is worked very hard
519. (3) Gerrymander (Verb) : to change the size and borders of an area for voting in order to give an unfair advantage to one party in an election
 | The city had been gerry mandered so that the party might retain the control.
 The best option is in a manipulative and unfair way.
520. (1) Bring the house down : to make everyone laugh or cheer
 | The clown sang a duet with the talking horse, which brought the house down.
 The best option is made the audience applaud enthusiastically.
521. (2) Salt of the earth : a very good and honest person that you can always depend on.
 | Farmers are described as the salt of the earth
 The best option is good, honest and ideal.
522. (1) alpha and omega : the first and the last ; the most important part
 | He was forced to learn the alpha and omega of corporate law in order to talk even to the lawyers.
 The best option is beginning and end.
523. (3) pin money : a small amount of money, especially when this is used for buying things you want rather than things that you need.
 | She earns a little pin money doing ironing for other people.
 The best option is a small amount of money.
524. (3) Be going places : to be getting more and more successful in your life or career.
 | Mary is a talented writer; she's definitely going places.
 The best option is talented and successful.
525. (2) pull no punches : to deal with something honestly without hiding anything
 | The doctor pulled no punches but telling us the truth.
 The best option is speaks frankly

526. (4) On the same page : If two or more people or groups are on the same page, they agree about what they are trying to achieve.
 I It was an effort to get us all on the same page.
 The best option is thinks in a similar way
527. (3) in the air : felt by a number of people to exist or to be happening.
 I Excitement was in the air.
 The best option is under consideration.
528. (1) back to the drawing board : to start thinking about a new way of doing something after a previous plan or idea has failed.
 I They rejected our proposal, so it's back to the drawing board.
 The best option is plan it all over again.
529. (3) cut and dried : decided in a way that cannot be changed or argued about.
 I The inquiry is by no means cut and dried.
 The best option is ready made.
530. (3) black out : to lose consciousness sight or memory temporarily.
 I The driver had probably blacked out at the wheel.
 The best option is lost consciousness
531. (1) hold your horse : used to tell somebody that they should wait a moment and not be excited.
 I Dad asked me to hold my horses on shopping.
 The best option is be patient
532. (2) a cut above somebody/ something : better than somebody/ something.
 I Our new luxury apartment is a cut above the rest.
 The best option is superior to
533. (4) in the loop : provided with information regularly
 I I don't know what's going on because I'm not in the loop.
 The best option is informed regularly
534. (2) add fuel to fire : to make an argument continue or get worse.
 I Shouting at a crying child is adding fuel to the fire.
 The best option is worsened the difficult situation.
535. (1) rub somebody the wrong way : to make somebody annoyed or angry, often without intending to.
 I She tends to rub people up the wrong way.
 The best option is irked or irritated him.
536. (4) in the swim : involved in things that are happening in society or in a particular situation.
 I Since leaving the company, he's no longer in the swim of things.
 The best option is well-informed and up-to-date.
537. (2) barking up the wrong tree : to have the wrong idea about how to get or achieve it.
 I You're barking up the wrong tree if you're expecting us to lend you any money.
 The best option is trying to find something at a wrong place
538. (3) know the ropes : to show somebody/know/learn how a particular job should be done.
 I Don't worry about Suma's taking over that reporter's job; she already knows the ropes.
 The best option is learn the procedures
539. (3) to gather roses only : to seek all the enjoyments of life
 I Gathering roses only, without taking care of parents is not a good quality in any child.
 The best option is to seek all enjoyments of life.
540. (2) A close-fisted (person) : not willing to spend or give much money ; mean; stingy.
 I My uncle is a close-fisted person.
 The best option is a miser
541. (3) to feather one's nest : to make oneself richer, especially by spending money on oneself that should be spent on something else.
 I Bob's many profitable assignments enabled him to feather his nest comfortably.
 The best option is to enrich oneself when opportunity occurs.
542. (3) within a stone's throw : a very short distance away.
 I We live just a stone's throw from here.
 The best option is at a short distance
543. (4) put something in a nutshell : to express something in a very clear way, using few words.
 I To put in a nutshell, we are bankrupt.
 The best option is in a brief manner
544. (1) a close shave/call : a situation in which you only just manage to avoid an accident.
 I The speeding car passed only a few inches from us - a real close shave.
 The best option is a narrow escape from danger.
545. (3) have other fish to fry : to have more important or more interesting things to do.
 I He declined to come along to the movie, saying he had other fish to fry.
 The best option is some important work to attend to
546. (4) not hold water : If an argument, an excuse, a theory etc., does not hold water, you cannot believe it.
 Hold water : to stand up to critical examination
 I Your explanation doesn't hold water.
 The best option is sound logical fact
547. (4) maiden speech : the first speech made by an MP in the parliaments of some countries.
 I She was terrified of making her maiden speech.
 The best option is first speech
548. (3) a wild goose chase : a search for something that is impossible for you to find or that does not exist, that makes you waste a lot of time.
 I After two hours spent wandering in the snow, I realized we were on a wild goose chase.
 The best option is unprofitable adventure
549. (2) maiden speech : the first speech made by an MP in the Parliaments of some countries.
 I Her maiden speech fell flat on the audience.
 The best option is first speech
550. (4) all ears = to be waiting with interest to hear what somebody has to say; attentive.

- I Tell your story; we're all ears.
 The best option is attentive
 551. (2) salad days = the time when you are young and do not have much experience of life.
 I I met her in my salad days.
 The best option is adolescence
 552. (1) cool (Adj.) : marked by self-control
 cool about working : not tense about working
 I She's cool about working in any shift.
 The best option is ready to work.
 553. (2) throw dust into one's eyes: to confuse/mislead; to deceive
 I He threw dust into our eyes by pretending to be a jeweller and then disappeared with the diamonds.
 The best option is cheat me
 554. (1) took after : to look/ behave like an older member of your family, especially your mother/ father
 I Your daughter doesn't take after you at all.
 The best option is similar to
 555. (1) beyond the pale : considered by most people to be unacceptable or unreasonable.
 I His remarks were clearly beyond the pale.
 The best option is outside commonly accepted standards
 556. (4) nine days' wonder : a person/thing that makes people excited for a short time but does not last very long
 I The elopement of Bob and Anne was a nine days' wonder.
 The best option is a dazzling short-lived spectacle of no real value
 557. (1) watching grass grow : delay in getting things done; boring.
 I To watch somebody fishing is like watching grass grow.
 The best option is very boring
 558. (1) when the balloon goes up : when the trouble that you are expecting begins.
 I We have to get out of here before the balloon goes up.
 The best option is the situation turns unpleasant/ serious
 559. (3) around the clock : all day and all night without stopping.
 I Doctors and nurses worked around the clock to help the people injured in the train crash.
 The best option is day and night
 560. (4) come to light : to become known to people
 I New evidence has recently come to light.
 The best option is been revealed
 561. (4) not see eye to eye with somebody : to not share the same views as somebody about something.
 I The two of them have never seen eye to eye on politics.
 The best option is to have the same opinion
 562. (4) in Dutch : in trouble
 I I'm in Dutch with my parents for my low grades.
 The best option is in trouble
 563. (2) wild goose chase : a futile search/pursuit
 I I think she sent us on a wild goose chase looking for our beach house.
 The best option is useless search
 564. (3) add fuel to the fire : to make an argument continue or get worse.
 I She was upset, and your making fun of her added fuel to the fire.
 The best option is worsened matters
 565. (2) fight shy of something : to be unwilling to accept something or do something and to try to avoid it.
 I I know the danger ; I see it and I tell myself that I must fight shy of it.
 The best option is avoid
 566. (1) latch on to something = to understand an idea or what somebody is saying; to become attached to somebody/ something; to develop a strong interest in something.
 I The stray dog latched onto the children and wouldn't go home.
 The best option is promoted
 567. (4) follow your nose : to act according to what seems right or reasonable, rather than following any particular rules
 I The garage is a mile ahead up the hill; just follow your nose.
 The best option is to go straight ahead
 568. (3) a feather in your cap : an action that you can be proud of
 I A new television series will be another feather in his cap.
 The best option is an achievement
 569. (3) above board : legal and honest; very clear, without any secret.
 I Don't worry ; the deal was completely above-board.
 The best option is without any secret
 570. (3) go haywire : to stop working correctly or become out of control.
 I The clock seems to have gone a haywire.
 The best option is became out of control
 571. (2) break off : to end something suddenly.
 I He broke off in the middle of a sentence.
 The best option is suddenly stopped
 572. (1) at random : without deciding in advance what is going to happen/without any regular pattern
 I She opened the book at random and started reading.
 The best option is without any aim
 573. (4) backseat driver : a person who wants to be in control of something that is not their responsibility.
 I My mom drives us all crazy with her instructions ; she's an incurable back seat driver.
 The best option is person who gives unwanted advice.
 574. (3) tall tales : something that a person talks about in a very proud way ; boasting.
 I My uncle claims that he was raised in a drainage ditch, but it's just another of his tall tales.
 The best option is boasting
 575. (1) give way : to break or fall down ; collapse.
 I The pillars gave way and a section of the roof collapsed.
 The best option is collapsed

576. (4) floor : to surprise or confuse somebody so that he may not sure what to say or do; puzzle
 I His reply completely floored me.
 The best option is puzzled
577. (1) go to the dogs : to go into a very bad state ; ruin.
 I This firm has gone to the dogs since the new management took over.
 The best option is is ruined
578. (1) average out : to balance ; to result in an average amount over a period of time.
 I Sometimes I pay, sometimes he pays; it seems to average out our budget.
 The best option is balance itself
579. (1) on second thoughts : used to say that you have changed your opinion
 I You're not having second thoughts about it, are you ?
 The best option is reconsidering
580. (2) stir the hornets' nest : a difficult situation in which a lot of people get very angry.
 I His letter to the papers stirred up a real hornets' nest.
 The best option is caused anger in many people
581. (3) break in : to train somebody/ something in something new that he must do.
 I The young horse was not yet broken in (trained to carry a rider).
 The best option is train
582. (4) null and Void : having no legal force ; not valid
 I The contract was declared null and void.
 The best option is not binding
583. (3) bury the hatchet : to stop being unfriendly and become friends again
 I After not speaking to each other for years, the two brothers decided to bury the hatchet.
 The best option is make peace
584. (3) be in/get into hot water : to be in or get into trouble.
 I He found himself in hot water over his speech about immigration.
 The best option is to get into trouble.
585. (3) know how many beans make five : well informed and intelligent.
 I She knows how many beans make five.
 The best option is well informed and intelligent.
586. (1) at a stretch : a continuous period of time.
 I The baby doesn't sleep for more than three hours at a stretch.
 The best option is continuously.
587. (3) put a spoke in somebody's wheel : to prevent somebody from putting their plans into operation.
 I His letter really put a spoke in our wheel.
 The best option is thwarted in the execution of the plan.
588. (4) bear down : to move quickly towards somebody/something in a determined or threatening way.
 I The storm bore down and ravaged the island.
 The best option is moved quickly towards.
589. (2) a big draw : to get attraction/ attention; success
 I The cricket match proved to be a big draw.
 The best option is huge attraction.
590. (2) look sharp : be alert
 I The coach told the team they would have to look sharp if they wanted to win.
 The best option is pay attention.
591. (1)
 I The new office block has become an expensive white elephant
 The best option is a costly but useless possession.
592. (3) to cut one's coat according to one's cloth : to only buy what you have enough money to pay for
 I we would like a bigger house, but we must cut our coat according to our cloth.
 The best option is live within one's means.
593. (3) red herring : an unimportant fact, idea, event etc. that takes people's attention from the important ones.
 I He deliberately threw a red herring into the conversation.
 The best option is clues intended to distract/mislead.
594. (4) carve out a niche : to work hard in order to have a successful career, reputation etc.
 I In today's competitive market it's better to carve out a niche and try to become
 The best option is the best in that area.
 developed a specific position for himself.
595. (3) to the letter : doing/following exactly what somebody/ something says, paying attention to every detail.
 I I followed your instructions to the letter.
 The best option is in every detail.
596. (3) to read between the lines : to look for or discover a meaning in something that is not openly stated.
 I Reading between the lines, I think she needs money.
 The best option is to understand the inner meaning.
597. (1) put your foot down : to be very strict in opposing what somebody wishes to do.
 I you've got to put your foot down and make him stop seeing her.
 The best option is take a firm stand
598. (4) stand/hold your ground : to continue with your opinions or intentions when somebody is opposing you.
 I Don't let him persuade you-stand your ground.
 The best option is refused to yield
599. (1) at daggers drawn : if two people are at daggers drawn, they are very angry with each other.
 I They have been at daggers drawn for weeks over tactics.
 The best option is angry.
600. (1) a penelope's web : a job that never ends ; an endless job.
 I Debates are a penelopes web.
 The best option is endless.
601. (4) pay on the nail : payment without delay.

- They are good customers who always pay on the nail.
The best option is pay promptly.
602. (2) go to the dogs : to get into a very bad situation.
- He was a marvellous actor, but his drinking problems caused his career to go to the dogs.
The best option is to be ruined.
603. (2) eat like a horse : to eat a lot.
- John works like a horse and eats like a horse, so he never gets fat.
The best option is eats a lot of food.
604. (3) Make a mockery of something : to make something seem ridiculous or useless.
- The film made a mockery of a serious illness.
The best option is there was no serious outcome
605. (3) an about turn : a complete change of opinion, plan or behaviour etc.
- The government did an about turn over nuclear energy.
The best option is complete change of opinion.
606. (4) for good : permanently
- This time she's leaving for good.
The best option is permanently
607. (3) to grease the palm : to give somebody money in order to persuade them to do something dishonest; bribe.
- Some of those candidates spent money greasing the palms of local political bosses.
The best option is to bribe
608. (2) black sheep : a person who is considered bad or embarrassing.
- He is the black sheep of the family.
The best option is person with bad reputation
609. (4) a red letter day : an important day.
- Independence Day is a red letter day in Indian History.
The best option is an important day
610. (3) up to the mark/up to snuff/up to scratch : as good as it should be.
- Your work isn't really up to the mark.
The best option is according to the required standard.
611. (3) all moonshine : silly talk ; nonsense
- That's just moonshine! I don't believe a word.
concocted (V.) : to make up
The best option is concocted
612. (1) show a clean pair of heels : to run away fast; to flee swiftly.
- Bobby showed them all a clean pair of heels as he raced for the finishing line.
The best option is ran away
613. (1) tooth and nail : with all strength.
- The residents are fighting tooth and nail to stop the new development
The best option is with all their might
614. (4) give away : distribute
- The mayor gave away the prizes at the school sports day.
The best option is distributed
615. (4) give somebody a piece of your mind : to tell somebody that you disapprove of their behaviour or are angry with them.
- There's the car that almost hit us this afternoon- I'm going to give those people a piece of my mind.
The best option is scolding
616. (1) beside the mark : not to be accurate, hence irrelevant.
- That's very interesting, but beside the mark.
The best option is irrelevant
617. (1) in black and white : in writing
- I never thought they'd put it in black and white on the front page.
The best option is in writing
618. (2) a hard nut to crack : a difficult situation or problem to deal with.
- A company whose product has sold well in the states may find the European market a tougher nut to crack.
The best option is difficult
619. (1) to cut the Gordian knot : to solve a problem by taking action.
- I'm trying to devise some kind of way by which we can cut the
- gordian knot without going through the bureaucracy.
The best option is to perform a difficult task.
620. (1) a beehive (N.) : a place where busy people are assembled ; a crowded, busy place.
- Where ever you go an airport a railway station, etc. – all seem to be a beehive.
The best option is a busy place
621. (2) to draw the line : to set a limit.
- We would have liked to invite all our relatives, but you have to draw the line somewhere.
The best option is fix a limit.
622. (4) in the soup : in trouble
- We're all in the soup now.
The best option is to be in trouble
623. (4) laurels : honour and praise given to somebody because of something that they have achieved
- She won laurels for her first novel.
The best option is to earn great prestige.
624. (4) a bird's eye view : a view of something from a high position looking down
- From the top of the church tower you get a splendid bird's eye view of the village.
The best option is a general view from above.
625. (1) lay it on thick : to talk about somebody/something in a way than they really are; exaggerate
- Praise them when necessary, but don't lay it on too thick.
The best option is an exaggeration
626. (4) be taken aback : to be shocked surprised and confused
- She was completely taken aback by his anger.
The best option is shocked
627. (2) play ducks and drakes : to waste/squander
- He lost his job for playing ducks and drakes with the fund of corporation.
The best option is spent lavishly
628. (2) to eat humble pie : to say sorry for mistakes.

- I think I'm right, but, if I'm wrong, I'll eat humble pie.
The best option is suffer humiliation
629. (3) wild goose chase : a search for something that is impossible for you to find, that makes you waste a lot time.
I The police had been sent on a wild goose chase.
The best option useless search
630. (2) make a beeline : to go straight towards something as quickly as you can; rush.
I As soon as she arrived at the party, she made a beeline for the food.
The best option rushed
631. (4) at one's wit's end : to be so worried by a problem that you do not know what to do next.
I She was at her wit's end wondering how she'd manage it all in the time.
The best option is Not knowing what to do.
632. (4) all thumbs : to be awkward with your hands so that you drop things or are unable to do something; clumsy.
I You know when you get nervous, you are all-thumbs.
The best option is clumsy
633. (3) get up/rise with the lark : to get out of bed very early in the morning.
I She always rises up with the lark.
The best option is very early
634. (3) as daft as a brush : very silly;
(1) daft : silly, often in a way that is amusing.
I As a kid, he was as daft as a brush.
The best option is really silly
635. (4) back : to give help or support to somebody/something.
I Doctors have backed plans to raise the tax on cigarettes.
The best option is support
636. (3) close fist : tight fist; not willing to spend much money; stingy.
I My parents are very closefisted with money and expenditure.
The best option is a miser
637. (1) alma mater : the school, college or university that somebody went to.
I He donated 20 Lakh to his alma mater.
The best option is institution where I got education.
638. (4) go Dutch : to share the cost of something with somebody.
I How about dinner tonight ? We'll go Dutch.
The best option is divide the costs
639. (3) high and dry : a boat in a position out of the water ; in a difficult situation without help or money.
I They walked out on the party, leaving me high and dry. (abandoned)
The best option is left me done to do the work
640. (3) make amends for : compensate
I They must make amends for the harm they've caused.
The best option is compensate
641. (4) spill the beans : to tell somebody something that should be kept secret or private.
I There is a surprise party for her. Please don't spill the beans.
The best option is revealed the secret information.
642. (1) make a mountain out of a molehill : to make an unimportant matter seem important.
I Sita is always making mountains out of molehills.
The best option is exaggerate a minor problem.
643. (3) a snake in the grass : a person who pretends to be your friend but who cannot be trusted.
I It's upsetting to learn that someone you once viewed as a good colleague is in fact a snake in the grass.
The best option is an unreliable and deceitful person.
644. (2) at loggerheads : in strong disagreement.
I The two governments are still at loggerheads over the island.
The best option is disagreeing on everything.
645. (4) under the weather : slightly ill/sick and not as well as usual.
I She said she was under the weather and couldn't make it to the meeting.
The best option is sick.
646. (2) keep a level head : to remain calm and sensible in a difficult situation.
I You have to keep a level head during business negotiations.
The best option is was sensible
647. (4) go for the jugular : to attack somebody's weaker point during a discussion , in an aggressive way.
I She went straight for the jugular at the end of the game.
The best option is attack all out
648. (4) make believe that... : to pretend that something is true.
I Let's make believe we're elves. (dwarfs)
The best option is pretence.
649. (1) to set the Thames on fire : to do such a work that needs a strenuous effort.
I To win Mount Everest is like setting the Thames on fire.
The best option is do a heroic deed.
650. (1) a close - fist : not liking to spend money; miser.
I She has always been a close-fisted person with her money.
The best option is miser
651. (1) a red-letter day : an important/auspicious day.
I Republic Day is a red-letter day in our history.
The best option is an important day
652. (4) finish with something : to have something at the end, to stop doing something, be through.
I I'll be finished with this matter by the end of the day.
The best option is be through
653. (1) gut feeling : based on feeling and emotions rather than thought and reason.
I My gut feeling was that she was lying.
The best option is strong instinct
654. (4) out of sorts : ill/sick or upset

- | She was tired and out of sorts by the time she arrived home.
The best option is not well.
655. (1) to keep the wolf away from the door : to have enough money to avoid going hungry; to stop somebody feeling hungry.
- | I don't make a lot of money, just enough to keep the wolf from the door.
The best option is to keep off starvation.
656. (1) a vexed question : a problem that is difficult to deal with ; thorny.
- | The conference spent days discussing the vexed question of border controls.
The best option is controversial
657. (2) a golden mean : a course of action that is not extreme.
- | The importance of the golden mean is that it re-affirms the balance needed in life.
The best option is middle course between two extremes.
658. (3) clean hands : not offensive; not doing anything immoral.
- | I'm clean hands, so I'm not afraid of appearing before the judge.
The best option is innocent
659. (3) get on somebody's nerves : to annoy somebody
- | It really gets on my nerves when people hang up without leaving a message.
The best option is annoys me.
660. (4) catch time by the forelock (id.) : not slip an opportunity ; act quickly and decisively
- | Wise men catch time by the forelock.
The best option is seize opportunity.
661. (1) a shot in the arm : something that gives encouragement
- | The opening of a new research centre will give a much-needed shot in the arm.
The best option is something that gives encouragement
662. (4) horse sense : basic common sense; ordinary practical knowledge of the best way to deal with people and situations.
- | He is not a scholar but has a lot of horse sense.
The best option is basic common sense
663. (3) a man of letters : a man who is devoted to literary/scholarly pursuits.
- | A.P.J. Abdul Kalam was a man of letters.
The best option is a literary person
664. (3) take fancy : to attract or please somebody; to start liking somebody/something often without an obvious reason.
- | She's got enough money to buy whatever takes her fancy.
The best option is developed liking for
665. (3) carry out : to do and complete a task.
- | Extensive tests have been carried out on the patient.
The best option is complete something
666. (4) beat about the bush : to talk about something for a long time without coming to the main point.
- | Stop beating about the bush and tell me what you want.
The best option is does not talk specifically.
667. (3) part and parcel : an essential part; an important part.
- | Keeping the accounts is part and parcel of something.
The best option is important part
668. (3) kith and kin : friends and relatives.
- | I sent cards to my kith and kin, inviting them on my 25th Anniversary.
The best option is relatives.
669. (4) telling : showing effectively; having strong effect.
- | His sleepless nights are telling upon his performance.
The best option is affecting
670. (4) give somebody/something a wide berth : to not go too near somebody/ something; to avoid somebody/something
- | He gave the dog a wide berth.
The best option is to stay away from
671. (2) bring the house down : to make everyone laugh or cheer, especially at a performance in the theatre.
- | She really brought down the house with her comedy.
The best option is amused the audience greatly
672. (4) chapter and verse : the exact details of something, especially by the exact place where particular information may be found.
- | I can't give chapter and verse, but that's the rough outline of our legal position.
The best option is provided minute details
673. (3) a dog in the manger : a person who stops other people from enjoying what he or she cannot use or does not want.
- | Stop being such a dog in the manger and let your sister ride your bike if you're not using it
The best option is selfish
674. (2) vote with your feet : to show what you think about something by going or not going somewhere.
- | Shoppers voted with their feet and avoided the store.
The best option is show their disapproval
675. (3) throw up cards : to give in ; to confess defeat
- | Things looked black for her, but she did not intend to throw up the cards on that account.
The best option is gave up my plans
676. (4) feather your nest : to make yourself richer, especially by spending money on yourself that should be spent on something else.
- | Raju's many profitable consulting assignments enabled him to feather his nest quite comfortably.
The best option is provide for his own needs
677. (4) a chip off the old block : a person who is very similar to their mother or father in the way they look or behave.
- | She enjoys bossing people around just like her mother used to do - she's a real chip off the old block!
The best option is someone similar in character to one's father.
678. (1) an arm-chair critic : knowing about a subject through books and television, rather than by doing it for yourself.

- He is such an armchair critic; he has no experience in the subject but he is ready to give plenty of advice.
The best option is someone who gives advice based on theory not practice
679. (1) take French leave : to leave work without asking permission first.
- He caretaker had taken French leave.
The best option is being absent without permission.
680. (3) a flying visit : a very short visit.
- He paid a flying visit to Paris.
The best option is a very short visit
681. (2) to take after : to look or behave like an older member of your family.
- Your daughter doesn't take after you at all.
The best option is to resemble
682. (2) have a finger in every pie : to be involved in a lot of different activities and have influence over them ; interfering.
- You've to consult him; he has a finger in every pie.
The best option is to be meddling some
683. (1) the jury is (still) out on something : used when you are saying that something is still not certain.
- we asked people to comment on the latest male fashions, but it seems the jury's out.
The best option is No decision has been reached.
684. (2) on cloud nine : extremely happy.
- When I got my promotion, I was on cloud nine.
The best option is very happy
685. (1) put something by : to save money for a particular purpose. Look at the sentence :
- I am putting by part of my wages every week to buy a bike.
The best option saves
686. (2) Be in two minds about something : to be unable to decide what you think about somebody/something.

- I was in two minds whether or not to come this morning.
The best option is to be undecided.
687. (3) To call it a day = to decide or agree to stop doing something.
- After forty years in politics, I think it is time for me to call it a day.
The best option decide to finish working.
688. (1) to make up one's mind : to decide something.
- They are both beautiful, I can't make up my mind.
The best option to decide what to do
689. (3) the gnomes of Zurich : a slang term for Swiss bankers
The best option is big international bankers.
690. (2) To put in a nut-shell : to express something in a clear way using few words.
- To put it in a nutshell, we are bankrupt
The best option is to state something very concisely.
691. (3) To take French Leave : to leave work without asking permission first.
The best option is absenting oneself without permission
692. (1) to be in a quandary = the state of not being able to decide what to do in a difficult situation; in dilemma.
- He was in a quandary- should he go or shouldn't he?
The best option is to be in a confusing situation.
693. (4) shed crocodile tears : If somebody sheds crocodile tears, they pretend to be sad about something, but they are not really sad at all.
- Let's have no more politicians shedding crocodile tears for the unemployed.
The best option is to pretend to be sympathetic
694. (4) take the bull by the horns : to face a difficult or dangerous situation directly and with courage.
- Nora decided to take the bull by the horns and organize things for herself.

- The best option is to face a difficulty courageously.
695. (1) sail in the same boat : to be in the same difficult situation.
- Paul was in the same boat as any other worker who has lost a job
The best option is be in the same situation
696. (3) a dog's breakfast : a thing that has been done badly; mess.
- He's made a real dog's breakfast of these accounts.
The best option is a total mess
697. (1) a sacred cow : a custom, system etc. that has existed for a long time that many people think should not be questioned or criticized.
- A university education is a sacred cow in their family.
The best option is a person never to be criticised
698. (1) seamy side : unpleasant and immoral ; sordid part
- The night club shows you the seamy side of the community.
The best option is the unpleasant aspects
699. (3) to shun : to avoid
- He was advised to shun evil company.
The best option is to give up.
700. (2) in the nick of time = at the very last moment; just in time before something bad happens.
- They escaped from the somke-filled house just in the nick of time.
The best option is just in time.
701. (3) to be down to earth : sensible and practical, in a way that is helpful and practical.
- I like her down to earth approach to problem solving.
The best option is to be realistic
702. (4) hold water : If something does holds water, you can believe it.
- Most of the agruments put forward by our opponents simply do not hold water.
The best option is seem acceptable
703. (4) cock and bull stories : absurd and unbelievable.

- He was asked for an explanation, not a cock and bull story. The best option is asburd and unbelievable
704. (2) under a cloud : If somebody is under a cloud, other people think that they have done something wrong and are suspicious of them.
- Several people left the company under a cloud and are being investigated. The best option is under suspi-cion.
705. (3) pull a long face : an unhap-py or disappointed expression; look dejected.
- He took one look at her long face and said, 'what's wrong ?' The best option is look dejected
706. (3) cock and bull story : a story that is unlikely to be true but is used as an excuse. The best option is absurd story
707. (1) shake off : to get away from somebody who is chasing or fol-lowing you; forget.
- We managed to shake off the photographers. The best option is forget
708. (3) sit on the fence : to avoid becoming involved in deciding or influencing something.
- He tends to sit on the fence at meetings. The best option is halting be-tween two opinions
709. (2) under a cloud : If somebody is under a cloud, other people think that they have done something wrong and are suspicious of them. Here, under suspicion is the right option. Look at the sentence :
- She resigned under a cloud.
710. (3) pull a long face : an unhappy or disappointed expression; look dejected. Here, look dejected is the right option. Look at the sentence :
- He took one look at her long face and said 'what's wrong ?'
711. (3) cock and bull story : a story that is unlikely to be true but is used as an excuse. Here, absurd story is the right option.

- Look at the sentence :
- His reply was some cock and bull story about having to give her a lift home.
712. (1) shake off : to get away from somebody who is chasing or following you; forget. Here, forget is the right option. Look at the sentence :
- Investors failed to shake off worries about the economy.
713. (2) sit on the fence : to avoid becoming involved in deciding or influencing something. Here, halting between two opinions is the right option. Look at the sentence :
- He tends to sit on the fence at meetings.
714. (4) to have an axe to grind : to have private reasons for being involved in something Look at the sentence :
- He had no axe to grind and was only acting out of concern for their safety. Here, to have a selfish end to serve is the right option.
715. (2) a hornet's nest : a difficult situation in which a lot of people get very angry Look at the sentence :
- His letter to the papers stirred up a real hornets' nest. Here, an unpleasant situation is the right usage.
716. (4) to roll out the red carpet : to give a special welcome to someone important Look at the sentence :
- I didn't expect to be given the red carpet treatment ! Here, to give a grand welcome is the right usage.
717. (2) to put his foot down : to be very strict in opposing what somebody wishes to do Look at the sentence :
- You have got to put your foot down and make him stop seeing her. Here, not to yield is the right usage.
718. (3) have one foot in the grave : to be so old or ill/sick that you are not likely to live much longer.

- Look at the sentence :
- I was so sick that I felt as if I had one foot in the grave. Here, be close to death is the right usage.
719. (1) to put one's hand to plough : to embark on/ take up a difficult task Look at the sentence :
- She needed a rest, but she had put her hand to the plough. Here, to take up a difficult task is the right option.
720. (2) to pick holes : to find the weak points. Look at the sentence :
- It was easy to pick holes in his arguments. Here, to criticise someone is the right option.
721. (4) snake in the grass : a person who pretends to be your friend but who cannot be trusted. Look at the sentence :
- It's upsetting to learn that someone you once viewed as a good colleague is in fact a snake in the grass. Here, a hidden rival is the right option
722. (3) God's acre : a church yard burial area Here, A cemetery beside a Church is the right option
723. (4) wrangled over an ass's shadow : to fight/quarrel over trivial and insignificant matters Look at the sentence :
- Only foolish people wrangle over an ass's shadow. Here, quarrelled over trifles is the right option.
724. (3) to beat the rap : to escape without being punished. Look at the sentence :
- He was charged with drunk driving, but he beat the rap. Here, to be acquitted of a crime is the right option.
725. (3) at sixes and sevens : in confusion; not well organised. Look at the sentence :
- I haven't had time to clear up, so I'm all at sixes and sevens. Here, confused is the right option

726. (4) full of beans/life : having a lot of energy.

Look at the sentence :

- I The children were full of beans today, looking forward to their field trip.

Here, energetic is the right option.

727. (4) all hat and no cattle : full of talk that is more impressive than that which one actually possesses or is able to do

Look at the sentence

- I He talks as though he knows more than anyone else, but he's all hat and no cattle.

Here, one who is full of big talk but lacks substance and action is the right option

728. (3) as bald as a cue ball/coot : completely bald.

Look at the sentence

- I His father was as bold as a cue ball.

Here, completely bald is the right option.

729. (3) dog eat dog : a situation in politics, business etc. where there is a lot of competition and people are willing to harm each other in order to succeed.

Here, ruthlessly competitive is the right option.

Look at the sentence :

- I We're operating in a dog eat dog world.

730. (2) fits and starts : frequently starting and stopping again; not continuously.

Here, unsteady is the right option.

Look at the sentence :

- I Because of other commitments I can only write my book in fits and starts.

731. (1) gift of the gab : the ability to speak easily and to persuade other people with your words.

eloquent (Adj.) : expressing yourself readily, clearly, effectively
Here, eloquent is the right option.

Look at the sentence :

- I Joe's got the gift of the gab - he can sell anything.

732. (1) in harness : on duty; at work
Here, in office is the right option.

Look at the sentence :

- I Despite his illness he's determined to continue in harness.

733. (4) whole nine yards : everything or a situation which includes everything.

Here, everything is the right option

Look at the sentence :

- I When Dan cooks dinner he always goes the whole nine yards, with three courses and a choice of dessert.

734. (1) between the horns of a dilemma : in a situation in which you have to make a choice between things that are equally unpleasant

Here, a difficult situation/choice is the right option.

Look at the sentence

- I How can we decide which hospital to close ? we are between the horns of a dilemma.

735. (4) to eat one's own words : to admit that what you said was wrong ; forced to retract one's own statement; misfit

Here, forced to retract one's own statement is the right option.

Look at the sentence :

- I They will eat their words when I win.

736. (2) square peg in a round hole : a person who does not feel happy or comfortable in a particular situation or who is not suitable for it.

Here, misfit is the right option

Look at the sentence :

- I She doesn't have the finesse for this job; she's a square peg in a round hole.

737. (1) steal someone's thunder : to get the attention, success etc. that somebody else was expecting ; take credit for something someone else did.

Here, take credit for something someone else did is the right option.

Look at the sentence :

- I They all worked together on the pocket, but while submitting it, one of them stolen the thunder.

738. (1) red tape : official rules that seem more complicated than necessary and prevent things from being done quickly.

Here, official procedures causing delay is the right option.

Look at the sentence :

- I You have to go through endless red tape to get a residence permit.

739. (4) turn a blind eye : to pretend not to notice something bad that is happening.

Look at the sentence :

- I The authorities were either unaware of the problem or they turned a blind eye to it.

Here, to ignore a situation, facts or reality is the right option.

740. (2) Here insight is the right option.

whole bag of tricks : a set of methods or equipment that somebody can use.

Look at the sentence :

- I Hotel managers are using a whole new bag of tricks to attract their guests.

Here, make use of all the possibilities or techniques to achieve something is the right option.

741. (2) pull a rabbit out of a hat : to suddenly produce something as a solution to a problem.

Look at the sentence :

- I Unless we can pull a rabbit out of the hat, our new venture will not really take off.

Here, to do something unexpected is the right option.

742. (4) let the chips fall where they may : to do something without worrying about the effects of your actions

Look at the sentence :

- I She promised to ask a series of questions in her interview and let the chips fall where they may. Here, let something happen without bothering about the consequences is the right option.

743. (1) going against the grain : to be or do something different from what is normal or natural.
Look at the sentence :
I It really goes against the grain to have to work on a Sunday.
Here, doing things differently from what you usually do is the right option.
744. (1) hold your tongue/ peace : to say nothing although you would like to give your opinion
Look at the sentence
I The party was supposed to be a surprise, but unfortunately the little boy couldn't hold his tongue.
Here, be silent is the right option.
745. (2) read between the lines : to look for or discover a meaning in something that is not openly stated.
Look at the sentence
I Reading between the lines I think she needs money.
Here, find out the inner meaning is the right option.
746. (4) in black and white : in writing or print ; in a way that makes people or things seem completely right or wrong.
Look at the sentence
I I never thought they'd put it in black and white on the front page.
Here, in writing is the right option.
747. (1) once in a blue moon : very rarely
Look at the sentence
I Once in a blue moon, I buy a fashion magazine, just to see what people are wearing.
Here, rarely is the right option.
748. (1) be taken aback : to be shocked or surprised by somebody/something.
Look at the sentence
I She was completely taken aback by his anger.
Here, surprised is the right option.
749. (4) catch somebody red-handed: to catch somebody in the act of doing something wrong or committing a crime.
Look at the sentence :
I Tom was stealing the car and he was caught red-handed.
Here, discovered in the act of doing is the right option.
750. (3) gate crasher : one who goes to a party or social event without being invited.
Look at the sentence :
I I don't mind gate crashers coming to my parties, so long as they behave themselves.
Here, uninvited guest is the right option.
751. (3) To angle (go angling) : to catch fish with a line and a hook.
Here, to fish is the right option.
752. (1) fit like a glove : to be the perfect size or shape for somebody
Look at the sentence :
I The dress fits me like a glove.
Here, to fit snugly is the right option
753. (2) pull a long face : to have an unhappy or disappointed expression.
Look at the sentence :
I He took one look at her long face and said 'what's wrong ?'
Here, to look sad is the right option
754. (4) cat nap : brief sleep
Look at the sentence :
I I am going to try to squeeze in a cat nap before my next shift starts
Here, to sleep briefly is the right option
755. (2) to flog a dead horse : to waste your effort by trying to do something that is no longer possible
Look at the sentence :
I You're flogging a dead horse trying to persuade Simon to come to Spain with us.
Here, to waste one's efforts is the right option.
756. (3) beat around the bush : to talk about something for a long time without coming to the main point.
Look at the sentence :
I Stop beating about/ around the bush and tell me what you want.
Here, avoiding the main topic is the right option.
757. (2) make room : make space
Look at the sentence :
I How can we make room for all the furniture ?
Hence, make space is the right option.
758. (4) mend your ways : to stop behaving badly.
Look at the sentence :
I You should mend your ways to win her trust.
Hence, improve one's behaviour is the right option.
759. (3) for keeps : for ever
Look at the sentence :
I Is it yours for keeps or does he want it back ?
Here, forever is the right option.
760. (1) pale into insignificance : to seem less important when compared with something else.
Look at the sentence :
I Last year's riots pale into insignificance with this latest outburst of violence.
Here, seemed less important is the right option.
761. (3) with one voice : unanimously; with everyone agreeing.
Look at the sentence :
I The various opposition parties speak with one voice on this issue.
Here, unanimously is the right option.
762. (2) make light of something : to treat something as not being important and not serious.
Here, treated it lightly is the right option.
763. (3) every inch a gentleman : completely; entirely.
Here, entirely is the right option.
764. (2) gall and wormwood : hateful; bitter.
Here, hateful is the right option.
765. (3) to add fuel to the fire : to make something especially an argument worse.
Here, make things worse is the right option.
Look at the sentence :
I His remarks simply added fuel to the fire of her rage.
766. (1) to take to heart : to feel keenly, be greatly grieved at; be much affected by something.
Here, to be greatly affected is the right option.

- Look at the sentence :
- I He really took it to heart when I asked him to reconsider.
767. (2) to bring to light : reveal or disclose something previously hidden or secret.
Here, to reveal is the right option.
Look at the sentence :
- I After careful investigation all the facts of the case were brought to light.
768. (4) pros and cons : favourable and unfavourable factors ; advantages and disadvantages
Here, advantages and disadvantages is the right option.
Look at the sentence :
- I One should weigh the pros and cons of any new venture.
769. (1) once in a blue moon : hardly ever ; almost never ; very rarely.
Here, very rarely is the right option.
Look at the sentence :
- I He comes to me once in a blue moon.
770. (3) fish out of water : an uncomfortable situation ; an awkward situation.
Here, an uncomfortable position is the right option.
Look at the sentence :
- I After living in Hong Kong for most of his life, he was a fish out of water in Los Angeles.
771. (1) be down with : to have or catch an illness.
Here, suffering from is the right option.
Look at the sentences :
- I She had to go home early today. I think she's down with flu.
I He is down with fever.
772. (3) fair weather friend: somebody who stops being a friend when you are in trouble.
Here, supports only when easy and convenient is the right option.
Look at the sentence :
- I You can't rely on her, she's just a fair-weather friend.
773. (2) (1) pull together : to act, work etc. together with other people in an organised way and without fighting.
- Here, work harmoniously is the right option.
Look at the sentence :
- I If we pull together as a team, we can get this job done on time.
774. (4) to give oneself airs : to behave arrogantly.
Look at the sentence :
- I Stop giving yourself airs and act like the rest of us.
Hence, behaving arrogantly is the right option.
775. (1) at a stone's throw : a very short distance away.
Look at the sentence :
- We live just a stone's throw from here.
Hence, at a short distance is the right option.
776. (3) a bone of contention : a subject which causes disagreement and arguments between people.
Look at the sentence :
- I Kashmir is a bone of contention between India and Pakistan.
Hence, cause for quarrel is the right option.
777. (3) to eat humble pie : to apologise and face humiliation for a serious error; to admit that you are wrong
Here, to yield under humiliating circumstances is the right option.
Look at the sentence :
- I I think I am right, but if I am wrong, I will eat humble pie.
778. (1) (1) to end in smoke : to come to nothing; fail.
Here, to fail is the right option.
Look at the sentence :
- I All the efforts of the principal to bring him round ended in smoke.
779. (3) (1) to spill the beans : reveal secret information indiscreetly.
Here, to reveal a secret is the right option.
Look at the sentence :
- I I spilled the beans about the surprise party, by telling the birthday girl.
780. (3) cut the mustard : to be as good as expected or required.
Look at the sentence :
- I I did not cut the mustard as a hockey player.
- Here, to perform well is the right option
781. (1) a chip off the old block : a person who is very similar to their mother or father in the way that they look or behave.
Look at the sentence :
- I She enjoys bossing people around just like her mother used to do – she's a real chip off the old block
Here, reminds them of one's father is the right option
782. (2) to fish in troubled waters : to try to win an advantage from a difficult situation or from someone else's problems.
Look at the sentence :
- I He is fishing in troubled waters by buying more shares of that company.
Here, to make a profit out of disturbance is the right option
783. (1) bark is worse than bite : threat is worse than the action taken.
Here, threat is worse than the action taken is the right option
Look at the sentences :
- I I wouldn't be scared of her if I were you.
Her bark's a lot worse than her bite.
784. (3) throw caution to the winds: to do something without worrying about the risk; to behave recklessly.
Here, to behave recklessly is the right option.
Look at the sentence :
- I I threw caution to the wind and bought the most expensive one.
785. (3) ill at ease : uncomfortable or embarrassed
Here, uneasy is the right option.
Look at the sentence :
- I I just shifted in my seat, feeling very nervous and ill at ease.
786. (2) to get cold feet : to suddenly become nervous about doing something.
Here, fear is the right option.
Look at the sentence :
- I He was going to ask her but he got cold feet and said nothing.
787. (2) beside the mark : not to be accurate.

- Here, not to the point is the right option
 Look at the sentence :
 I Her answer is beside the mark, so she will not be given good marks.
788. (2) on tenterhooks : very anxious or excited
 Here, in suspense and anxiety is the right option.
 Look at the sentence :
 I I have been on tenterhooks all week waiting for the results.
789. (3) burn your boats/bridges : to do something that makes it impossible to return to the previous situation later.
 Here, do something that makes it impossible to return to the previous situation is the right option.
 Look at the sentence :
 I Think carefully before you resign-you don't want to burn your bridges/ boats.
790. (3) dressing-down (N.) : an occasion when somebody speaks angrily to a person because they have done something wrong.
 Here, give a scolding is the right option.
 Look at the sentence
 I I'm really late. I know my parents will dress me down when I get home.
791. (1) null and void : having no legal force; not valid
 Here, invalid is the right option.
 Look at the sentence :
 I The contract was declared null and void.
792. (2) catch a tartar : to deal with someone or something that proves unexpectedly troublesome or powerful.
 Here, to deal with a person who is more than one's match is the right option.
 Look at the sentence :
 I It looks like we caught a Tartar when we tried to muscle their store out of the area.
793. (4) go/come cap in hand : to ask someone for money or help in a polite way which makes you feel ashamed.
 Here, in a respectful manner is the right option.
- Look at the sentence :
 I I had to go cap in hand to my parents again to ask for some money.
794. (1) in the blues : feelings of sadness and depression.
 Here, cheerless and depressed is the right option.
 Look at the sentence :
 I She went in the blues after the failure in the exam.
795. (4) straw in the wind : a small sign of what might happen in the near future.
 Here, an indication of what might happen is the right option.
 Look at the sentence :
 I There were straws in the wind that suggested a strike was likely.
796. (3) face the music : to accept and deal with criticism or punishment for something you have done.
 Here, be punished is the right option.
 Look at the sentence :
 I The others all ran off, leaving me to face the music.
797. (2) curry favour : to try to get somebody to like or support you by praising or helping.
 Here, seek favourable attention is the right option.
 Look at the sentence :
 I He's always trying to carry favour with the boss.
798. (3) to keep in abeyance : not being used or being stopped for a period of time.
 Here, in a state of suspension is the right option.
 Look at the sentence :
 I The law has been kept in abeyance.
799. (4) to be in a fix : in a difficult situation ; mess.
 Look at the sentence :
 I We have got ourselves in a fix about this.
 Here, in a difficult situation is the right option.
800. (4) to break the ice : to say or do something that makes people feel more relaxed.
 Here, made people relaxed and comfortable is the right option.
801. (3) put two and two together : to guess the truth from what you see.
 Here, reason logically is the right option.
 Look at the sentence :
 I He's inclined to put two and two together.
802. (4) an axe to grind : to have private reason for being involved in something.
 Here, have a selfish interest is the right option
 Look at the sentence :
 I She had no axe to grind and was only acting out of concern for their safety.
803. (3) pick to pieces : to criticize somebody
 Here, analyse critically is the right option.
 Look at the sentence :
 I You have just picked her to pieces leave her alone !
804. (3) wet behind the ears : young and without much experience ; naive.
 Here, young and without much experience is the right option.
 Look at the sentence :
 I He was still wet behind the ears, politically.
805. (2) under a cloud : If somebody is under a cloud, other people think that they have done something wrong and are suspicious of them; under suspicion.
 Here, under suspicion is the right option.
 Look at the sentence :
 I She resigned under a cloud.
806. (4) get the sack : being told by your employer that you can no longer continue working for a company etc.; be dismissed.
 Here, be dismissed is the right option
 Look at the sentence :
 I He got the sack when they found out that he'd lied about his qualifications.
807. (1) to nip in the bud : to stop something when it has just begun.
 Here, to stop something at the start is the right option.

- Look at the sentences :
- I He was doing petty crimes. Police nipped him in the bud.
808. (2) to put a spoke in one's wheel: to prevent somebody from putting their plans into operation; to hinder
- Here, to hinder is the right option
- Look at the sentence :
- I An injury was putting a spoke in his wheel from playing his best.
809. (3) to clip one's wings : to restrict a person's freedom or power.
- Here, to deprive one of power is the right option.
- Look at the sentence :
- I In rural India parents generally clip the wings of their daughters.
810. (2) take the bull by the horns : to face a difficult or dangerous situation directly and with courage; deal decisively with a difficult situation.
- Here, grapple the situation courageously is the right option.
- Look at the sentence :
- I She decided to take the bull by the horns and organise things for herself.
811. (2) a gentleman at large : a man without a job.
- Here, a man without a job is the right option.
- Look at the sentences :
- I Having sold off his factory, he is now a gentleman at large. a gentleman of leisure : a man who does not have to work.
812. (1) lose face : be humiliated or come to be less highly respected; become embarrassed.
- Here, become embarrassed is the right option.
- Look at the sentence :
- I The teacher lost face when she forgot to give the students their final exam marks.
813. (3) build castles in the air : thinking of some impossible task; dream; make plans or hopes that have very little chance of happening.
- Here, dream is the right option.

- Look at the sentence :
- I She keeps talking about her long time ambitions, but it's all castles in the air.
814. (4) fall back on : resort to something; have recourse to when in difficulty; turn to; employ.
- Here, resort to something is the right option
- Look at the sentence :
- I When necessary, instinct is the most reliable resource you can fall back on.
815. (4) go to rack and ruin : to become worse; worsen; decline; deteriorate; get into a bad condition.
- Here, get into a bad condition is the right option
- Look at the sentence :
- I Their tenants had let the property go to rack and ruin.
816. (2) bite the dust : to fail or to be defeated or destroyed; to die.
- Here, suffer a defeat is the right option.
- Look at the sentence :
- I Thousands of small businesses bite the dust every year.
817. (1) have a chip on one's shoulder: to be sensitive about something that happened in the past; nurse a grudge or grievance that readily provokes disputation.
- Here, nurse a grudge is the right option.
- Look at the sentence :
- I He has got a chip on his shoulder about not having been to university.
818. (2) the seamy side : unpleasant aspect; sordid; unattractive aspect of something.
- Here, unpleasant aspect is the right option
- Look at the sentences :
- I Mary saw the seamy side of life when she worked as a volunteer in the homeless shelter.
- I Lying and stealing are part of the seamy side of life.
819. (2) too many chiefs and not enough Indians : an inefficient situation.
- Here, an inefficient situation is the right option
- Look at the sentence :
- I Some demand arbitrary reductions in management staff,

- believing there are too many chiefs and not enough Indians.
820. (1) make one's mark : to become famous and successful in a particular area; distinguish oneself.
- Here, distinguish oneself is the right option.
- Look at the sentence :
- I Sachin has made his mark in cricket.
821. (2) throw in the towel : to admit that you have been defeated and stop trying; acknowledge defeat.
- Here, acknowledge defeat is the right option.
- Look at the sentence :
- I Do not give up now! It is too soon to throw in the towel (sponge).
822. (2) mare's nest : a discovery that seems interesting but is found to have no value; a very complicated situation; worthless thing.
- Here, worthless thing is the right option.
- Look at the sentence :
- I The announced cure for the disease was merely another mare's nest.
823. (3) a storm in a tea cup/a tempest in a teapot : a lot of unnecessary anger and worry about a matter that is not important.
- Here, big fuss over a small matter is the right option.
- Look at the sentence :
- I To quarrel for a joke is like a storm in a tea cup.
824. (2) blue-blooded : relating to royalty and the nobility; aristocratic; of noble birth.
- Here, of noble birth is the right option.
- Look at the sentence :
- I Pt. Nehru was a blue-blooded politician.
825. (2) do a roaring trade : do very good business, to be highly successful.
- Here, highly successful is the right option.
- Look at the sentence :
- I It was a hot sunny day and the ice cream sellers were doing a roaring trade.

826. (3) keep body and soul together: stay alive especially in difficult circumstances; to have just enough to sustain.
Here, to have just enough to sustain is the right option.
Look at the sentence :
I Do you think a man can keep body and soul together by selling coconuts?
827. (3) will-o-the-wisp : a thing that is impossible to obtain; a person that you cannot depend on.
Here, unreal imagining is the right option.
Look at the sentence :
I To build a bridge across an ocean is like will -o-the wisp.
828. (3) cloak and dagger : activities that are secret and mysterious, sometimes in a way that people think is unnecessary or ridiculous.
Here, an activity that involves is the right option.
Look at the sentence :
I Why can't we be open about it ? Do we really need all this cloak-and-dagger stuff ?
829. (3) palm off : to persuade somebody to accept something that has no value; to dispose off with the intent to deceive.
Here, to dispose off with the intent to deceive is the right option.
Look at the sentence :
I Make sure he doesn't try to palm you off with faulty goods.
830. (3) get the sack from : being told by your employer that you can no longer continue working for a company etc. usually because of something that you have done wrong.
Here, was dismissed from is the right usage.
831. (3) stimulates my appetite mouth-watering : food looks or smells so good that you want to eat it immediately; tempting
832. (4) waching all his actions closely breathe down somebody's neck: to watch closely what somebody is doing in a way that makes them feel anxious or annoyed.
833. (1) am angry
have a bone to pick with somebody : to be angry with somebody about something
834. (4) None of these
flog a dead horse : to waste your effort by trying to do something that is no longer possible.
835. (2) cheated
836. (3) perplexed
at sea : confused and not knowing what to do.
837. (2) detachment and seclusion
ivory tower : a situation where you are separated from the problems and practical aspects of normal life.
838. (4) reverie
a brown study : a mood of deep absorption or thoughtfulness.
839. (2) red handed : caught in the act of doing something wrong or illegal.
840. (2) Smooth ruffled feathers = to make somebody feel less angry or offended.
Look at the sentence :
I spent the afternoon smoothing ruffled feathers and trying to convince people to give the talks another chance.
841. (4) Assume airs = to pretend superiority
Look at the sentence :
He is in the habit of assuming airs in the presence of his inlaws.
842. (2) Play truant = to stay away from school without permission.
843. (1) Cannot be described
Beggars description/belief = to be too extreme, shocking etc. to describe/believe.
Look at the sentence :
The beauty of Kashmir beggars description.
844. (3) Be reluctant to act
Drag one's feet/heels = to be deliberately slow in doing something or in making a decision.
845. (3) Nurture an impossible hope
Hope against hope = to continue to hope for something although it is very unlikely to happen.
846. (2) far from reality
All moonshine = silly talk; nonsense.
- Look at the sentence :
The promises made by the politicians are all moonshines.
847. (4) slowly
At a snail's pace = very slowly.
Look at the sentence :
He won the game at snail's pace.
848. (3) Pay a visit
Call on = to visit someone.
Look at the sentence :
Part of my job was to go out and call on farmers.
849. (1) to make peace
To bury the hatchet = to stop being unfriendly and become friends again.
850. (4) To have a very good sale
Selling like hot cakes = selling quickly or in great numbers.
851. (2) Unpunishment
Scot-free = without receiving the punishment you deserve.
Look at the sentence :
They got off scot-free because of lack of evidence.
852. (2) Emphasise
Drive home = to make somebody understand or accept something.
853. (1) End without any practical result
To end in smoke = futile; end with no practical result.
854. (3) An ambiguous compliment
A left handed compliment = a remark that seems to express admiration but could also be understood as an insult.
855. (3) Enmity
Bad blood = feelings of hatred or strong dislike; enmity.
Look at the sentence :
There is bad blood between two families.
856. (4) To talk about irrelevant things
To beat about the bush = to talk about something for a long time without coming to the main point.
857. (2) First speech
Maiden speech = the first speech made by an MP in the parliaments of some countries.
858. (3) An unwelcome intruder
A cuckoo in the nest = an unwelcome intruder in a place or situation.
Look at the sentence :
For Peter, his new father was a cuckoo in the nest.

859. (1) An insecure scheme
A house of cards = an organisation or a plan that is very weak and can easily be destroyed; an insecure scheme.
Look at the sentence :
Their partners began to suspect that the company was a financial house of cards.
860. (3) To suspect foul dealings
To smell a rat = to suspect that something is wrong; to sense that someone has caused something wrong.
Look at the sentence :
The minute I came in I smelt a rat. Sure enough I had been robbed.
861. (3) To be wise beyond his years
Old head on young shoulders = a young person who behaves like an older person with more experience; to be wise beyond his years.
Look at the sentences :
You can't put a wise head on young shoulders. Young people inevitably lack the experience and wisdom which come with age.
862. (2) A pointless search
A wild-goose chase = a foolish and hopeless search for something.
Look at the sentence :
Physicists searching for the hypothetical particle may be on a wild goose chase.
863. (3) To be deaf
Hard of hearing refers to someone who doesn't hear well; somewhat deaf.
Look at the sentences :
You will have to speak distinctly. Dad is a little hard of hearing.
864. (3) An unknown entry
A dark horse = a little known person or thing that emerges to prominence.
Look at the sentence :
You can never say, some dark horse may come along and win a House of Lords seat.
865. (2) Discourage
Throw cold water = to be unenthusiastic or discourage
Look at the sentence :
Our boss never likes to throw cold water on our suggestions.
866. (4) Interrupt
Butt in = interrupt or intrude on a conversation or activity; break in; interject in
Look at the sentence :
He kept on butting in with silly comments.
867. (2) A person who prefers to watch television
Couch potato = a person who takes little or no exercise and watches a lot of television.
Look at the sentence :
It is no good you being a couch potato and having a Dobermann.
868. (2) Be in charge
Carry the ball = to be in charge; to be considered reliable enough to make sure that a job gets done.
Look at the sentences :
John can't carry the ball. He isn't organised enough.
869. (3) Reject
Turn down = to reject something; to deny someone's request.
Look at the sentence :
The board turned our request down.
870. (1) very close together
Cheek by jowl = side by side
Look at the sentence :
They lived cheek by jowl in a one-room flat.
871. (1) Unreasonable or unacceptable
Beyond the pale = outside the bounds of acceptable behaviour; improper; unreasonable; objectionable.
Look at the sentence :
The language my father used was beyond the pale.
872. (3) Praise oneself
Blow one's own trumpet = talk boastfully about one's achievements; sing one's own praises.
Look at the sentence :
He refused to blow his own trumpet and blushinglly declined to speak.
873. (3) to praise a oneself
Blow one's trumpet = talk boastfully about one's achievement.
- Look at the sentence :
He refused to blow his own trumpet and blushinglly declined to speak.
874. (2) Maintain his own opinion
Stick to his guns = to continue to have his own beliefs.
Look at the sentence :
Despite harsh criticism, he is sticking to his guns on this issue.
875. (2) at a loss
At sea = confused.
Look at the sentence :
Reading economic theory leaves me feeling at sea.
876. (4) Good times and bad times
Weal and woe = good and bad times; the joys and sorrows; prosperity and misfortune.
Look at the sentence :
We all get our share of weal and woe in life.
877. (4) Challenge
Call in/into question = to cause something or someone to be evaluated; interrogate; to cause doubts.
Look at the sentence :
How can you call her honesty into question ?
878. (1) Live within means
Make both ends meet = earn just enough money to live on; manage; survive.
Look at the sentence :
They were finding it hard to make ends meet.
879. (1) Went out of business
Put up the shutters = cease trading for the day or permanently.
Look at the sentence :
The village post office put up the shutters for the last time.
880. (4) A very insignificant amount
A drop in a bucket = a very small or unimportant amount.
Look at the sentence :
What we were paid for our work was a drop in the bucket compared to what the company earned.
881. (2) Find no favour
Draw a blank = to fail to get an answer or a result.
Look at the sentence :
He asked me for my phone number and I drew a blank - I just couldn't remember it.

882. (1) Extremely silly
As daft as a brush = to be very silly; lacking commonsense.
Look at the sentence :
He is a nice enough boy but he is as daft as a brush.
883. (4) Briefly and concisely
In a nutshell = in a few words; concisely.
Look at the sentence :
Just give me the facts in a nutshell.
884. (2) Work very hard
Strain every nerve = make every possible effort.
Look at the sentence :
He strained every nerve to get a job for his wife.
885. (1) Evening of life = old age
Look at the sentence :
The residents of this rest home are all in the evening of life.
886. (2) to stop talking
Button one's lip = to be quiet; to stop talking; to say nothing.
Look at the sentence :
She did not want to get into a fight, so she decided to button her lip.
887. (3) Absurd and unlikely stories
Invent cock and bull stories = an absurd, improbable story presented as the truth; a fanciful and unbelievable tale.
Look at the sentence :
She told me some cock and bull story about her car breaking down.
888. (3) A foolish, unprofitable adventure
Wild goose chase = a foolish and hopeless search for or in pursuit of something unattainable; a worthless hunt.
Look at the sentence :
John was angry because he was sent out on a wild goose chase.
889. (2) suspect a trick or deceit
Smell a rat = to suspect that something is wrong; suspect a deceit.
Look at the sentence :
I don't think this was an accident. I smell a rat.
890. (2) Lively and active
A live wire = an energetic and unpredictable person; high spirited.
- Look at the sentence :
When we saw you in the starlight club you were a real live wire.
891. (1) Death sentence
Capital Punishment = death penalty is a government sanctioned practice where by a person is put to death by the state as a punishment for a crime.
892. (2) Rapidly
By leaps and bounds = to become larger quickly; by large movements forward.
Look at the sentence :
The profits of my company are increasing by leaps and bounds.
893. (1) Suspect something wrong
Smell a rat = begin to suspect trickery or deception.
Look at the sentence :
When she died, investigators were called in who soon smelt a rat.
894. (2) A new and additional distinction
Feather in one's cap = an achievement to be proud of.
Look at the sentence :
It is a feather in your cap when you are asked to be captain.
895. (2) A long time
Donkey's years = a very long time
Look at the sentence :
We have been close friends for donkey's years.
896. (1) Try every possible way
Leave no stone unturned = to do everything you can to achieve a good result.
Look at the sentence :
He left no stone unturned in his search for his natural mother.
897. (4) Scholar
A man of letters = a male scholar or author; a man who knows a lot.
Look at the sentence :
He wished to fashion for himself a career as a man of letters.
898. (2) Sad
Under a cloud = under suspicion or discredited; in trouble.
Look at the sentence :
He left under something of a cloud accused of misappropriating funds.
899. (3) Remember
Bear in mind = to remember a piece of information when you are making decisions
Look at the sentence :
Bearing in mind that she has had so little experience, I thought she did very well.
900. (2) Delayed
Held up = put off; withheld.
Look at the sentence :
We were held up for two hours on account of an accident.
901. (3) To act in an unreliable way
To play fast and loose = behave irresponsibly or immorally.
Look at the sentence :
I am not someone who plays fast and loose with other people's lives.
902. (4) make money in an improper way
Feather one's own nest = to make yourself rich especially in a way that is unfair or dishonest.
Look at the sentence :
You always try to feather your own nest first.
903. (2) play a trick
Pull a fast one = to successfully deceive someone.
Look at the sentence :
You paid too much-I think he pulled a fast one on you.
904. (4) bribe
Grease the palm = to bribe someone.
Look at the sentence :
If you want to get something done around here, you have to grease someone's palm.
905. (3) over-turn
Turn turtle = turn upsidedown.
Look at the sentence :
But en route at Chavara the ambulance met with an accident and turned turtle.
906. (3) To win a victory
To carry the day = to win a contest or competition; succeed; gain victory.
Look at the sentence :
It was the prosecutor's closing arguments that carried the day with the jury.
907. (1) A weak man, without substance
A man of straw = someone who has a weak character; a man of no substance.

- Look at the sentence :
He was accused by his opponents of being a man of straw and lacking in decisiveness.
908. (2) Refuse to accept responsibility
Pass the buck = to blame someone or make them responsible for a problem that you should deal with.
Look at the sentence :
She is always trying to pass the buck and I am sick of it.
909. (1) Becoming less acceptable
To lose ground = to become less popular or to be given less support.
Look at the sentence :
Do you agree that left wing politics are losing ground among the working classes?
910. (2) Every unpleasant situation has a positive side
Every dark cloud has a silver lining = Difficult times always lead to better days. Difficult times are like dark clouds that pass overhead and block the sun.
911. (4) in good health
Alive and kicking = prevalent and very active; alive, existing; active and in good health.
Look at the sentence :
You would be surprised how hard it is to keep certain patients alive and kicking.
912. (1) To lose impetus or enthusiasm
Run out of steam = to suddenly lose the energy or interest to continue doing something
Look at the sentence :
The peace talks seem to have run out of steam.
913. (2) saved at the last moment
Saved by the bell = saved by a last minute intervention
Look at the sentence :
She was drowning in the stream, but a boatman saved her by the bell.
914. (3) Pretended not to notice
Turn a blind eye = overlook ; disregard ; neglect ; ignore
Look at the sentence :
Management often turns a blind eye to bullying in the workplace.
915. (4) Up a blind alley = following a course of action that is certain to lead to an undesirable outcome.
Look at the sentence :
I keep telling Gina to stop chasing after Rima. She's just going up a blind alley
916. (1) From stem to stern = from the front to the back especially of a ship
Look at the sentence :
Surges of water rocked their boats from stem to stern
917. (1) add unnecessary details to make better or worse.
Over egg the pudding = to spoil something by trying too hard to improve it.
Look at the sentence :
As a director, I think he has a tendency to over-egg the pudding, with a few too many gorgeous shots of the country side.
918. (1) change one's behaviour for the better
Turn over a new leaf = start to act or or behave in a better or more responsible way; improve; to start behaving in a better way.
Look at the sentence :
Apparently he has turned over a new leaf and he is not smoking any more.
919. (4) prepare for or go to war
Take up the hatchet = to make or declare war
Look at the sentence :
He induced the tribes to take up the hatchet against the English.
920. (3) in an uncertain situation
At a loose end = to have nothing to do
At loose ends = not knowing what to do, especially because of an upsetting change.
Look at the sentences :
If you find yourself at loose ends, you could always clean the bathroom.
I was at loose ends after finishing school and not being able to find a job.
921. (2) with full force
With might and main = with all one's power or strength; to the best of one's ability; with as much effort as possible.
Look at the sentence :
They shouted with might and main but nobody came to rescue them.
922. (3) annoy somebody
Ruffle somebody's feather = to cause someone to be upset.
Look at the sentence :
Mohan ruffled a few feathers when he suggested cutting the teacher's salaries.
923. (3) interrupt
Cut short = to have to stop doing something before it is finished.
Look at the sentence :
Their conversation was cut short by the arrival of more guests.
924. (2) ill feeling
Bad blood = feelings of hate between people because of arguments in the past.
Look at the sentence :
There has been bad blood between the two families for years.
925. (1) an object of laughter
A laughing stock = someone or something that seems stupid or silly, especially by trying to be serious or important and not succeeding.
Look at the sentence :
Another performance like that and this team will be the laughing stock of the league.
926. (2) unrelenting
As hard as nails = very tough ; callous, unbending ; hard-hearted ; unforgiving ; inflexible ; strict.
927. (3) had many professional difficulties
Strike several bad patches = to experience a lot of problems in a period of your life
928. (3) discussed
Talk over = to exchange thoughts ; to discuss something.
929. (3) Cut a sorry figure = make a poor impression
Look at the sentence :
He cut a sorry figure in his outdated jacket.
930. (4) To take to task = to criticize somebody strongly for something they have done; reprimand
Look at the sentence :
The culprits were taken to task by the police.
931. (2) Bring to light = to make new information known to public; reveal.
Look at the sentence :
These facts have only just been brought to light.