

AN ADVANCED APPROACH TO DATA INTERPRETATION

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For Bank P.O., S.B.I.P.O., R.B.I., M.B.A., Hotel Management, Railways, I. Tax and Central Excise, I.A.S. (Prelims & Mains), C.B.I., Asstt. Grade, U.D.C., L.I.C., G.I.C.A.A.O. etc.

- * A whole lot of questions on Bar Graphs, Line Graphs, Pie-Charts and Tabulation, fully solved.
- * Illustrative examples with techniques to solve all types of problems.
- * Previous years' questions included.

24. IDIOMS & PHRASES

TYPE 1 : CHOOSING THE CORRECT MEANING OF THE GIVEN IDIOM

In this type of questions, an idiom is given followed by four alternatives. The candidate is required to choose that alternative which correctly expresses the meaning of the given idiom.

Example : To meet one's Waterloo

- (a) To die an ignoble death (b) To meet a strong adversary
(c) To die fighting (d) To meet one's final defeat

Solution : The idiom 'To meet one's Waterloo' means 'To meet one's final defeat'. Hence, the answer is (d).

PRACTICE SET 1

Directions : In each of the following questions, an idiomatic expression/a proverb has been given, followed by some alternatives. Choose the one which best expresses the meaning of the given idiom/proverb.

1. **To turn over a new leaf**
(a) To change completely one's course of action
(b) To shift attention to new problems after having studied the old ones thoroughly
(c) To cover up one's faults by wearing new marks
(d) To change the old habits and adopt new ones (Railways, 1995)
2. **A fair crack of the whip**
(a) Severe punishment
(b) A good check
(c) A period of importance
(d) Failure of administration
3. **To talk one's head off**
(a) To talk loudly
(b) To talk in whispers
(c) To talk to oneself
(d) To talk excessively
4. **To hold something in leash**
(a) To restrain (b) To disappoint
(c) To dismiss (d) To discourage
5. **To play fast and loose**
(a) To trust others
(b) To be undependable
(c) To cheat people
(d) To hurt somebody's feelings
6. **To wrangle over an ass's shadow**
(a) To act in a foolish way
(b) To quarrel over trifles
(c) To waste time on petty things
(d) To do something funny (S.B.I.P.O. 1984)
7. **All Agog**
(a) Everybody (b) All ready
(c) Restless (d) Almighty
8. **To frame a person**
(a) To befool someone
(b) To make one appear guilty
(c) To praise someone
9. **A close shave**
(a) A lucky escape
(b) A clean shave
(c) A well guarded secret
(d) A narrow escape
10. **To take with a grain of salt**
(a) To take with some reservation
(b) To take with total disbelief
(c) To take whole heartedly
(d) To take seriously (Asstt. Grade, 1984)
11. **To keep one's head**
(a) To be agile and active
(b) To keep calm
(c) To think coherently
(d) None of these
12. **To cross swords**
(a) To fight (b) To defend
(c) To kill (d) To rob
13. **A snake in the grass**
(a) Secret or hidden enemy
(b) Unforeseen happening
(c) Unrecognisable danger
(d) Irreliable person
14. **To give up the ghost**
(a) To suffer
(b) To fight evil forces
(c) To die
(d) To become rational (Railways, 1991)
15. **Hobson's choice**
(a) Feeling of insecurity
(b) Accept or leave the offer
(c) Feeling of strength
(d) Excellent choice
16. **To be at loggerheads**
(a) To have tough encounter
(b) To be at enmity or strife
(c) To face stiff opposition
(d) To tax one's mind and body
17. **To talk through one's hat**
(a) To speak fluently

- (b) To talk nonsense
(c) To talk wisdom
(d) To speak at random
18. **To snap one's fingers**
(a) To speak abruptly
(b) To accept immediately
(c) To grasp eagerly
(d) To become contemptuous of
(e) To be anxious
19. **A pipe dream**
(a) A pleasant dream
(b) A bad dream
(c) An impracticable plan
(d) A foolish idea
20. **To give up the ghost**
(a) To die
(b) To make false appearance
(c) To terrify others by acting in suspicious manner
(d) To leave useless pursuits
21. **To have an easy time of it**
(a) To take the world lightly
(b) To indulge in frivolities
(c) To squander away resources
(d) To live in quiet and comfort
22. **To stand to one's guns**
(a) To keep the guns close to oneself even amid danger
(b) To persevere when hardships press
(c) To maintain dignified and unbending attitude
(d) To maintain one's position
23. **To take the bull by the horns**
(a) To punish a person severely for his arrogance
(b) To grapple courageously with a difficulty that lies in our way
(c) To handle it by fierce attack
(d) To bypass the legal process and take action according to one's own whims. (Railways, 1995)
24. **To lose one's head**
(a) To go mad
(b) To become nervous
(c) To become confused and over excited
(d) To lose the balance
25. **By the skin of one's teeth**
(a) Hardly (b) In time
(c) Hurriedly (d) Only just
26. **To throw down the glove**
(a) To resort to wrong tactics
(b) To give a challenge
(c) To accept defeat
(d) To reject the prize
27. **To be in abeyance**
(a) To be in trouble
(b) Dual minded
(c) In a fighting mood
- (d) In suspense
28. **To cast pearls before a swine**
(a) To spend recklessly
(b) To spend a lot of money on the unkeep of domestic hogs
(c) To waste money over trifles
(d) To offer to a person a thing which he cannot appreciate (C.I.C.A.A.O. 1990)
29. **A chip off the old block**
(a) A piece of wood
(b) An old friend
(c) Characteristics of one's ancestors
(d) A good bargain
30. **To smell a rat**
(a) To detect bad smell
(b) To misunderstand
(c) To suspect a trick or deceit
(d) To see hidden meaning
31. **To take people by storm**
(a) To put people in utter surprise
(b) To captivate them unexpectedly
(c) To exploit people's agitation
(d) To bring out something sensational attracting people's attention
32. **To throw up the sponge**
(a) To surrender or give up a contest
(b) To offer a challenge
(c) To become utterly disappointed
(d) To maintain grit and enthusiasm until the end
33. **Harp on**
(a) To comment (b) To criticise
(c) To keep on talking
(d) To keep on insulting
34. **To catch somebody on the hop**
(a) To give someone a surprise
(b) To catch somebody off guard
(c) To stand in the way of someone
(d) To catch somebody suddenly
35. **To spill the beans**
(a) To reveal secret information
(b) To misbehave
(c) To keep secrets
(d) To talk irrelevant
36. **To bring one's eggs to a bad market**
(a) To face a humiliating situation
(b) To bring one's commodities to a market where there is no demand for them
(c) To show one's talents before audience which is incapable of appreciating them
(d) To fail in one's plans because one goes to the wrong people for help (S.B.I.P.O. 1984)
37. **To hit below the belt**
(a) To work confidentially

- (b) To harm unfairly
(c) To strike at the exact position
(d) To hit the correct mark
38. **To get cold feet**
(a) To run for life (b) To be afraid
(c) To fall sick
(d) To become discourteous
39. **To take a leap in the dark**
(a) To take risk
(b) To hazard one self
(c) To do a task secretly
(d) To do a hazardous thing without any idea of the result
40. **To give/get the bird** (M.B.A. 1993)
(a) To get the awaited
(b) To have good luck
(c) To send away
(d) To get the impossible
41. **To be at daggers drawn**
(a) To be frightened
(b) To be ready to face danger
(c) To threaten one
(d) To be bitter enemy
42. **To turn up one's nose at a thing**
(a) To show eagerness to have something
(b) To show indifference
(c) To treat it with contemptuous dislike or disgust
(d) To start to grapple with it
43. **To save one's face**
(a) To hide oneself
(b) To oppose
(c) To evade disgrace
(d) To say plainly
44. **To split hairs**
- (a) To sidetrack the issue
(b) To quarrel over trifles
(c) To indulge in over-refined arguments
(d) To find faults with others
45. **To wash one's dirty linen in public**
(a) To criticise one's nature in public
(b) To quarrel in the open
(c) To do some ugly work in public
(d) To discuss dirty and scandalous matters of personal nature in the presence of strangers
46. **A lady's man**
(a) A woman-tailor
(b) A lover of woman company
(c) A man working as per a lady's directions
(d) A timid husband
47. **To throw dust in one's eyes**
(a) To show false things
(b) To make blind
(c) To harm someone (d) To deceive
48. **To be rolling in money**
(a) Wasting a lot of money
(b) Very rich
(c) Borrowing money liberally
(d) Spending more than his income
49. **To get into hot waters**
(a) To be impatient
(b) To suffer a huge financial loss
(c) To get into trouble
(d) To be in a confused state of mind
50. **Will o' the wisp** (G.I.C.A.A.O. 1993)
(a) Anything which eludes or deceives
(b) To act in a childish way
(c) To act in a foolish way
(d) To have desires unbacked by efforts

ANSWERS

1. (d)	2. (c)	3. (d)	4. (a)	5. (b)	6. (b)	7. (c)	8. (b)	9. (d)	10. (a)
11. (b)	12. (a)	13. (c)	14. (c)	15. (b)	16. (b)	17. (b)	18. (d)	19. (c)	20. (a)
21. (d)	22. (b)	23. (b)	24. (c)	25. (d)	26. (b)	27. (d)	28. (d)	29. (c)	30. (c)
31. (b)	32. (a)	33. (c)	34. (b)	35. (a)	36. (d)	37. (b)	38. (b)	39. (d)	40. (c)
41. (d)	42. (c)	43. (c)	44. (c)	45. (d)	46. (b)	47. (d)	48. (b)	49. (c)	50. (a)

PRACTICE SET 2

Directions : Each of the following idioms is followed by some alternatives. Choose the one which best expresses its meaning.

1. **To get into a scrape**
(a) To get into a muddle
(b) To find oneself in an awkward predicament
(c) To get into irritating circumstances
(d) To be trapped in a conspiracy
2. **To fly off the handle** (S.B.I.P.O. 1984)
(a) To take off (b) To be indifferent
(c) To dislocate
(d) To lose one's temper

3. **To read between the lines**
 (a) To concentrate (b) To read carefully
 (c) To suspect
 (d) To grasp the hidden meaning
4. **To blaze trail**
 (a) To set on fire
 (b) To be annoyed
 (c) To vehemently oppose
 (d) To initiate work in a movement
5. **To be lost in the cloud**
 (a) To meet with one's death
 (b) To be perplexed
 (c) To be concealed from view
 (d) To find oneself in a very uncomfortable position
6. **To flog a dead horse**
 (a) To act in a foolish way
 (b) To waste one's efforts
 (c) To revive interest in an old subject
 (d) To revive old memories
7. **Hush money**
 (a) Money overdue
 (b) Easy money
 (c) Money earned by wrong means
 (d) Bribe paid to secure silence
8. **To pay one back in the same coin**
 (a) To provoke a person to quarrel
 (b) To offer another polite attention
 (c) To retaliate
 (d) To give a word of encouragement or praise to another
9. **A tall order**
 (a) A task difficult to perform
 (b) A big problem
 (c) A royal summons (d) A big demand
10. **To draw a bead upon**
 (a) To make prayers
 (b) To cause hindrance in work
 (c) To count the benefits
 (d) To take aim at
11. **To turn the tables**
 (a) To defeat (b) To oppose
 (c) To create chaos
 (d) To change the sorry scheme
 (e) To change completely the position of disadvantage
12. **To keep the ball rolling**
 (a) To earn more and more
 (b) To work constantly
 (c) To keep the conversation going
 (d) To make the best use of
 (Bank P.O. 1988)
13. **All and sundry**
 (a) Greater share (b) All of a sudden
 (c) Completion of work
 (d) Everyone without distinction
14. **To worship the rising sun**
 (a) To honour a man who is coming into office
 (b) To honour the promising people
 (c) To indulge in flattery
 (d) To welcome the coming events
15. **To disabuse one's mind**
 (a) To conceal something
 (b) To remove a misapprehension
 (c) To banish from one's mind a thought
 (d) To proceed cautiously so as to avoid risks and dangers
16. **A storm in a teacup**
 (a) Unexpected event
 (b) A danger signal
 (c) Much excitement over something trivial
 (d) A great noise
17. **To play fast and loose**
 (a) To beguile others
 (b) To be winning sometimes and losing at other times
 (c) To play with someone's feelings
 (d) To play tricks
18. **To tempt providence**
 (a) To invite punishment
 (b) To achieve a fortune
 (c) To take reckless risks
 (d) To have God's favour
19. **To haul over the coals**
 (a) To put hand in a wrong task
 (b) To throw into the fire
 (c) To put to task
 (d) To say the wrong words
20. **To put the cart before the horse**
 (a) To offer a person what he cannot eat
 (b) To force a person to do something
 (c) To raise obstacles
 (d) To reverse the natural order of things
21. **To accept the Gauntlet**
 (a) To accept defeat
 (b) To accept a challenge
 (c) To suffer humiliation
 (d) To accept an honour
22. **To give currency**
 (a) To bestow importance
 (b) To misinterpret
 (c) To make publicly known
 (d) To originate
23. **French leave**
 (a) Long absence
 (b) Leave on the pretext of illness
 (c) Casual leave
 (d) Absence without permission
24. **Castles in the air**
 (a) Romantic designs
 (b) Perfect plans

- (c) Ideal projects
 (d) Fanciful schemes
 (e) Visionary projects
25. **To have brush with** (Railways, 1995)
 (a) To start painting
 (b) To have good and pleasing terms
 (c) To be impressed
 (d) To have a slight encounter
26. **To lose face**
 (a) To look angry (b) To be humiliated
 (c) To be helpless (d) To look vacant
27. **To turn the other cheek**
 (a) To sulk and suffer
 (b) To respond to violence with violence
 (c) To respond to violence with non-violence
 (d) To be indifferent to peace overtures
28. **To pull one's socks up**
 (a) To prepare (b) To try hard
 (c) To get ready (d) To depart
29. **To bite one's lips**
 (a) To be angry (b) To feel sorry
 (c) To have doubt
 (d) To laugh at others
30. **Within An Ace of**
 (a) Within one's reach
 (b) Very near
 (c) Within the hitting range
 (d) Narrowly
31. **Dog in the manger** (G.I.C.A.A.O. 1990)
 (a) An undersized bull almost the shape of a dog
 (b) A dog that has no kennel of its own
 (c) A person who puts himself in difficulties on account of other people
 (d) A person who prevents others from enjoying something useless to himself
32. **To blow hot and cold**
 (a) Changing weather
 (b) To be untrustworthy
 (c) To be inconsistent
 (d) To be rich and poor frequently
33. **To set the people by ears**
 (a) To box the people
 (b) To insult and disgrace the people
 (c) To punish heavily
 (d) To excite people to a quarrel
34. **To give chapter and verse for a thing**
 (a) To produce the proof of something
 (b) To eulogize the qualities of a thing
 (c) To make publicity of a thing
 (d) To attach artificial value to a thing
35. **To beggars' description**
 (a) A poor statement
 (b) To describe things without care
 (c) Beyond one's power to describe adequately
 (d) None of these
36. **To plough the sands**
 (a) To work hard to achieve one's aim
 (b) To afford hope or ground for expecting a good result
 (c) To busy oneself in a way which cannot lead to any profitable result
 (d) To advance one's position in life
37. **Foar in the mouth**
 (a) Bitten by a snake
 (b) To reveal the secret
 (c) To be furious
 (d) To be in the extreme hatred
38. **To take umbrage**
 (a) To feel depressed
 (b) To be offended
 (c) To be satisfied
 (d) To be pleased
39. **Something up one's sleeve**
 (a) A grand idea (b) A secret plan
 (c) A profitable plan
 (d) Something important
 (Assistant Grade, 1994)
40. **Adam's ale**
 (a) Grace (b) Pleasure
 (c) Water (d) Wine
41. **To draw the long bow**
 (a) To over-estimate oneself
 (b) To put up high demands
 (c) To demand a very high price
 (d) To make an exaggerated statement
42. **To hit the jackpot**
 (a) To gamble
 (b) To make money unexpectedly
 (c) To inherit money
 (d) To become bankrupt
43. **Tall order**
 (a) Simple (b) Difficult
 (c) Customary (d) Too much
44. **To drink like a fish**
 (a) To drink little (b) To drink alone
 (c) To be a drunkard
 (d) To drink in the company of others
45. **To fight to the bitter end**
 (a) To fight with poison-tipped arrows
 (b) To fight to the last point of enemy position
 (c) To die fighting
 (d) To carry on a contest regardless of consequences
46. **To give a false colouring**
 (a) To misrepresent
 (b) To submit the false report
 (c) To be dishonest
 (d) To conceal the facts

47. **A red letter day**
 (a) An important day
 (b) An auspicious day
 (c) A dangerous day
 (d) An unimportant day
48. **Queer somebody's pitch**
 (a) Upset one's plan (b) Reprimand him
 (c) Check him (d) Work him up
49. **To make the grade**
 (a) To fail in a task
 (b) To get good marks in an examination
 (c) To come out successful
 (d) To make good one's previous loss
50. **To be up and doing**
 (a) To recover from illness
 (b) To be actively engaged
 (c) To progress satisfactorily
 (d) To be expressive and explicit

ANSWERS

1. (b) 2. (d) 3. (d) 4. (d) 5. (b) 6. (b) 7. (d) 8. (c) 9. (a) 10. (d)
 11. (d) 12. (c) 13. (d) 14. (a) 15. (b) 16. (c) 17. (d) 18. (c) 19. (c) 20. (d)
 21. (b) 22. (c) 23. (d) 24. (e) 25. (d) 26. (b) 27. (c) 28. (b) 29. (a) 30. (d)
 31. (d) 32. (c) 33. (d) 34. (a) 35. (c) 36. (c) 37. (d) 38. (b) 39. (b) 40. (c)
 41. (d) 42. (b) 43. (d) 44. (c) 45. (d) 46. (a) 47. (a) 48. (a) 49. (c) 50. (b)

PRACTICE SET 3

Directions : In each of the following questions, choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the idiom printed in bold.

1. **To see eye to eye with**
 (a) To agree (b) To stare fixedly
 (c) To be angry (d) To take revenge
2. **A jaundiced eye**
 (a) Jealousy (b) A generous view
 (c) Angry (d) Prejudice
3. **To see red**
 (a) To be very angry
 (b) To victimise someone
 (c) To find fault with
 (d) To criticise others
4. **To push somebody to the wall**
 (a) To defeat him
 (b) To humiliate him
 (c) To heckle him
 (d) To knock him down
5. **To be in two minds**
 (a) To be dominated by someone else
 (b) To be uncertain
 (c) To work on somebody else's advice
 (d) To be in a critical state
6. **Leave one to sink or swim**
 (a) To be in a dilemma
 (b) To leave to one's fate
 (c) To put one in difficulty
 (d) Not to help one
7. **To rip up old sores**
 (a) To revive a quarrel which was almost forgotten
 (b) To censure someone in strong terms
 (c) To strain one's thoughts to the most
 (d) To preserve oneself from harm
8. **A square peg in a round hole**
 (a) An impossible task
 (b) A scheme that never works
 (c) A person unsuited to the position he fills
 (d) None of these
9. **To carry off the bell**
 (a) To call others for help
 (b) To bag the first position
 (c) To steal all wealth and flee
 (d) To trouble others
10. **To live in clover**
 (a) To live in great comfort and luxury
 (b) To live a carefree life
 (c) To be surrounded by cares and worries
 (d) To live in great difficulty
11. **Pin-money**
 (a) Bribery
 (b) Money paid for compensation
 (c) Alimony
 (d) Allowance made to a lady for her expenses
12. **To keep the wolf away from the door**
 (a) To keep away from extreme poverty
 (b) To keep off an unwanted and undesirable person
 (c) To keep alive
 (d) To hold the difficulties and dangers in check (Railways, 1995)
13. **Get down to brass tacks**
 (a) Start unravelling the mystery

- (b) Begin to discuss secret matters
 (c) Begin to talk in plain, straight forward terms
 (d) Get into the thick of a problem
14. **To show the white feather**
 (a) To show signs of cowardice
 (b) To seek peace
 (c) To show arrogance
 (d) To become polite
15. **To leave no avenue unexplored**
 (a) To call in question
 (b) To roam about
 (c) To try every source
 (d) To depend on
16. **Spick and span**
 (a) Neat and clean (b) Outspoken
 (c) A ready-made thing
 (d) Garrulous
17. **To take the wind out of another's sails** (I.E.S. 1985)
 (a) To manoeuvre to mislead another on the high seas
 (b) To cause harm to another
 (c) To defeat the motives of another
 (d) To anticipate another and to gain advantage over him
18. **To carry the coal to newcastle**
 (a) To work hard (b) To finish a job
 (c) To do unnecessary things
 (d) To do menial jobs
19. **To turn the cover**
 (a) To take a new way of life
 (b) To work hard
 (c) To pass the crises
 (d) To hide the reality
20. **In double-quick time**
 (a) Steadily (b) Very quickly
 (c) Gradually (d) Much time
21. **The pros and cons** (Bank P.O. 1992)
 (a) For and against a thing
 (b) Foul and fair
 (c) Good and evil
 (d) Former and latter
22. **A sop to cerberus**
 (a) Bribery (b) Hush money
 (c) Ransom to an enemy
 (d) Money for compensation
23. **To give one a long rope**
 (a) To speak ill of
 (b) To get into trouble
 (c) To dismiss
 (d) To allow a man to continue his mistakes or crimes
24. **To hit the nail on the head**
 (a) To hit the target
 (b) To catch someone napping
 (c) To guess right
 (d) To settle the old score
25. **A baker's dozen**
 (a) Twelve (b) Charity
 (c) Thirteen (d) Allowance
26. **To have full hands**
 (a) To be fully occupied
 (b) To be rich
 (c) To be in lot of troubles
 (d) To lead an easy life
27. **To run amuck**
 (a) To run a race
 (b) To run about in frenzy
 (c) To feel exhausted
 (d) To run to somebody's help
28. **A bull in a china shop**
 (a) A person who is very ugly but loves the beautiful things of life
 (b) A person who takes a sadistic delight in harming innocent people
 (c) A person who becomes too excited where no excitement is warranted
 (d) A person who is rough and clumsy where skill and care are required (G.I.C.A.A.O. 1990)
29. **By fair means or foul**
 (a) Without using common sense
 (b) Without difficulty
 (c) In any way, honest or dishonest
 (d) Having been instigated
30. **To look down one's nose at**
 (a) To backbite (b) To show anger
 (c) To insult in the presence of others
 (d) To regard with half-hidden displeasure or contempt
31. **Hard-pressed** (L.I.C.A.A.O. 1992)
 (a) Bewildered (b) Insulted
 (c) Hard discipline (d) In difficulties
32. **To be at one's finger's end**
 (a) To be hopeless
 (b) To be highly perplexed
 (c) To be completely conversant with
 (d) To count things
33. **To pull strings**
 (a) To exert hidden influence
 (b) To tease someone
 (c) To speed up
 (d) To start something
34. **A green horn**
 (a) An envious lady (b) A trainee
 (c) An inexperienced man
 (d) A soft-hearted man
35. **To be old as the hills**
 (a) To be very ancient
 (b) To be wise and learned
 (c) To be old but foolish
 (d) Not being worth the age
36. **To look sharp**
 (a) To concentrate (b) To speak roughly
 (c) To be attentive and active

- (d) To be quick
37. **To show one's teeth**
 (a) To ridicule (b) To face difficulties
 (c) To adopt a threatening attitude
 (d) To be humble
38. **To pour oil in troubled water**
 (a) To foment trouble
 (b) To add to the trouble
 (c) To instigate
 (d) To calm a quarrel with soothing words (Railways, 1992)
39. **To play on a fiddle**
 (a) To play upon a musical instrument
 (b) To play an important role
 (c) To be busy over trifles
 (d) To be busy over important matter
40. **To mind one's P's and Q's**
 (a) To be cautious
 (b) To be accurate and precise
 (c) To be careful of one's accounts
 (d) To be careful of one's personality
41. **At one's beck and call**
 (a) Enjoying oneself without caring for others
 (b) To be always at one's service
 (c) To be under one's subjugation
 (d) To be in an advantageous position
42. **Swan-song**
 (a) Music as sweet as a song of birds
 (b) A melodious song in praise of someone
 (c) Praise of a woman by her lover
 (d) Last work of a poet or musician before death
43. **To play to the gallery**
 (a) To work hard to achieve the best
 (b) Trying to get appreciation from least intelligent people
- (c) Use wrong means to achieve success
 (d) To be able to do a work easily
44. **To break the ice**
 (a) To start quarreling
 (b) To end the hostility
 (c) To start a conversation
 (d) To end up partnership
45. **To oil the knocker**
 (a) To instigate a person to do a job
 (b) To do a work with increased pace
 (c) To tip the office-boy
 (d) To revive old enmity
46. **To cut the crackle**
 (a) To humiliate
 (b) To annoy someone
 (c) To act in a friendly way
 (d) To stop talking and start
47. **To take somebody for a ride**
 (a) To provide entertainment
 (b) To keep company
 (c) To deceive or humiliate him
 (d) To exploit a person (M.B.A. 1990)
48. **To cool one's heels**
 (a) To rest for sometime
 (b) To give no importance to someone
 (c) To remain in a comfortable position
 (d) To be kept waiting for sometime
49. **By the rule of thumb**
 (a) By the use of force
 (b) By the use of trickery
 (c) By cheating and deception
 (d) By practical experience which is rather rough
50. **A fool's errand**
 (a) A blunder
 (b) An impossible task
 (c) A useless undertaking
 (d) None of these

ANSWERS

1. (a) 2. (d) 3. (c) 4. (a) 5. (b) 6. (d) 7. (a) 8. (c) 9. (b) 10. (a)
 11. (d) 12. (a) 13. (c) 14. (a) 15. (c) 16. (a) 17. (d) 18. (c) 19. (c) 20. (b)
 21. (a) 22. (c) 23. (d) 24. (c) 25. (c) 26. (a) 27. (b) 28. (d) 29. (c) 30. (d)
 31. (d) 32. (c) 33. (a) 34. (c) 35. (a) 36. (d) 37. (c) 38. (d) 39. (c) 40. (b)
 41. (b) 42. (d) 43. (b) 44. (c) 45. (c) 46. (d) 47. (c) 48. (d) 49. (d) 50. (c)

PRACTICE SET 4

Directions : In each of the following questions, choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the idiom/phrase printed in bold type.

1. **To put somebody in his place**
 (a) To turn him out
 (b) To honour him
 (c) To give him due respect
 (d) To make him humble
2. **To talk shop**
 (a) To talk nonsense
 (b) To talk reasonably
 (c) To talk about business or professional affairs
 (d) To abuse someone
3. **To keep one's head above water**
 (a) To be cautious
 (b) To keep out of debt
 (c) To remain aloof
 (d) None of these
4. **To go at each other hammer and tongs**
 (a) To fight with weapons
 (b) To argue noisily
 (c) To hug each other
 (d) To go crazy about meeting each other
5. **To live fast**
 (a) To lead a life of dissipation
 (b) To accomplish a purpose
 (c) To do a task hurriedly
 (d) To use up one's income as fast as it comes in
6. **Once in a blue moon**
 (a) Once in a month
 (b) Bi-weekly
 (c) On rare occasions
 (d) Every now and then
7. **To hold a brief for**
 (a) To help someone
 (b) To do someone a favour
 (c) To stay on for a brief period
 (d) To defend someone
8. **To hold somebody to ransom**
 (a) To keep captive and demand concession
 (b) To humiliate somebody
 (c) To offer bribe
 (d) To blackmail and extract money
9. **To hit the jackpot**
 (a) To gamble
 (b) To get an unexpected victory
 (c) To be wealthy
 (d) To make money unexpectedly
10. **To let the cat out of the bag**
 (a) To give latitude
 (b) To show compassion
 (c) To miss a golden opportunity
 (d) To tell a secret without intending to do so
11. **To pay off old scores**
 (a) To have one's revenge
 (b) To settle a dispute
 (c) To repay the old loan
 (d) None of these
12. **A cock-and-bull story**
 (a) A true story
 (b) A children's story
 (c) A story of animals
 (d) A foolish and concocted story
13. **To beat the air**
 (a) To make frantic efforts
 (b) To act foolishly
 (c) To make efforts that are useless or vain
 (d) To make every possible effort
14. **To be a good Samaritan**
 (a) To be law-abiding
 (b) A wise person
 (c) A religious person
 (d) A genuinely charitable person
15. **To take a leaf out of somebody's book**
 (a) To take him as a model
 (b) To steal something valuable
 (c) To follow the dictates of someone
 (d) To conform to other's standard
16. **To set the Thames on fire**
 (a) To do something remarkable
 (b) To try to do the impossible
 (c) To burn something to ashes
 (d) To fling ironical remarks
17. **To cast pearls before a swine**
 (a) To offer someone a thing which he cannot appreciate
 (b) To bring something good before the eyes of a greedy person

- (c) To spend recklessly on a useless fellow
(d) To indulge in fruitless endeavours
18. **To bear the palm**
(a) To win
(b) To accept a challenge
(c) To accept defeat
(d) To endure something
19. **To change colour**
(a) To change appearance
(b) To shift allegiance to
(c) To favour the wrong person
(d) None of these
20. **To cut the Gordian knot**
(a) To solve a difficult problem
(b) To be victorious
(c) To break ties with someone
(d) To defeat a powerful person
21. **To wrangle over an ass's shadow**
(a) To act in a foolish way
(b) To do something funny
(c) To quarrel over trifles
(d) To quarrel over the possession of an ass
22. **To have one's heart in one's boots**
(a) To be deeply depressed
(b) To be frightened
(c) To get angry
(d) To keep a secret
23. **To strike one's colours**
(a) To fight vigorously
(b) To work hard
(c) To surrender
(d) To make a rude gesture
24. **To cry wolf**
(a) To grieve over something which cannot be recovered
(b) To cry from grief, inconsolably
(c) To raise a false alarm
(d) To announce to one and all
25. **To give one's ears**
(a) To make almost any sacrifice
(b) To listen carefully
(c) To refuse to listen
(d) To incite someone
26. **To hang up one's hat**
(a) To challenge
(b) To surrender
(c) To postpone
(d) To make oneself comfortable in another person's home
27. **To get the hang of a thing**
(a) To know a secret
(b) To understand the meaning of it
(c) To find the cause of something
(d) None of these
28. **To make a shot**
(a) To retaliate
(b) To hit someone
(c) To make a guess
(d) To achieve one's objective
29. **A man of weight**
(a) A fat person
(b) To truthful and trustworthy man
(c) A man of importance
(d) A notorious man
30. **Pell-mell**
(a) In hurried disorder
(b) Gaiety and excitement
(c) Extremely worried
(d) None of these
31. **To put one on one's mettle**
(a) To rouse one to do one's best
(b) To ruin somebody
(c) To discourage a person
(d) To incite a person to fight
32. **To ride hell for leather**
(a) To ride with furious speed
(b) To adopt false means to succeed
(c) To work hard for a small accomplishment
(d) To earn money by all means
33. **To speak daggers**
(a) To abuse someone
(b) To indulge in voracious talks
(c) To speak to a person with hostility
(d) None of these
34. **Be in the mire**
(a) Be under debt
(b) Be in love
(c) Be in difficulties
(d) Be uneasy
35. **To give a rap on the knuckles**
(a) To eulogise
(b) To chatise
(c) To condemn
(d) To rebuke

ANSWERS

1. (d) 2. (c) 3. (b) 4. (b) 5. (a) 6. (c) 7. (d) 8. (a) 9. (b) 10. (d)
11. (b) 12. (d) 13. (c) 14. (d) 15. (a) 16. (b) 17. (a) 18. (a) 19. (b) 20. (a)
21. (c) 22. (a) 23. (c) 24. (c) 25. (a) 26. (d) 27. (b) 28. (c) 29. (c) 30. (a)
31. (a) 32. (a) 33. (c) 34. (c) 35. (d)

TYPE 2 : Choosing the correct meaning of an idiom as used in a sentence

In this type of questions, a sentence is given in which an idiom has been italicised. It is followed by four or five alternatives. The candidate is required to choose that alternative which best expresses the meaning of the italicised idiom.

Directions : Choose the correct meaning of the italicised idiom in the following sentences :

Example 1 : Tell me the *sum and substance* of your pleadings.

- (a) summary (b) explanation (c) result (d) effect

Solution : The idiom 'sum and substance' means 'the summary'. Hence, the answer is (a).

Example 2 : In summer, woollen goods are a *drug in the market*.

- (a) rarely available (b) worthless products
(c) commodities not in demand (d) available at cheap rates

Solution : The idiom 'a drug in the market' means something which is not in demand.

Hence, the answer is (c).

PRACTICE SET 5

Directions : In each of the following questions, some alternatives are suggested for the idiom/phrase in italic in the sentence. Choose the one which best expresses the meaning of the idiom/phrase in italics.

- The boy turned a *deaf ear* to the pleadings of all his well-wishers.
(a) listened carefully
(b) was deadly opposed
(c) posed indifference
(d) did not pay any attention
(Asstt. Grade, 1992)
- The *mealy-mouthed* politician succeeded in influencing the voters
(a) ill-tempered (b) soft-tongued
(c) cunning (d) ambitious
- It is a *moot point* whether we should stop work or struggle on.
(a) all too clear (b) a fixed belief
(c) a burning question
(d) a debatable point
- We should give a *wide berth* to bad characters. (Railways, 1995)
(a) keep away from
(b) publicly condemn
(c) give publicly to
(d) not sympathise with
- The parliamentary inquiry into the Bofors deal has not *brought to light* any startling facts.
(a) proved (b) highlighted
(c) disclosed (d) probed
- He works *by fits and starts*.
(a) consistently (b) irregularly
(c) in high spirits (d) enthusiastically
- Sumit had to look *high and low* before he could find his scooter key. (C.B.I. 1993)
(a) nowhere (b) always
(c) everywhere (d) somewhere
- To *all intents and purposes* he is a good man.
(a) Finally (b) Practically
(c) Above all (d) In practice
- I am ambitious and never want to *rest on my laurels*.
(a) be dissatisfied (b) be satisfied
(c) be complacent (d) be good

- (c) be complacent (d) be good
10. The casting vote of the chairman *clinched the issue*.
(a) closed (b) decided
(c) finished (d) started
11. It was such a messy affair but Manish somehow managed to *wash his hands of* the entire affair.
(a) subdue (b) twist the facts of
(c) prove himself innocent in
(d) disclaim responsibility
12. He *threw cold water over* the project that the secretary had prepared.
(a) encouraged (b) discouraged
(c) cleared (d) rejected
13. He is a plain, simple and sincere man. He will always *call a spade a spade*.
(a) say something to be taken seriously
(b) desist from making controversial statement
(c) find meaning or purpose in your action
(d) avoid controversial situations
(e) be outspoken in language
(Bank P.O. 1993, 96)
14. He is *at loggerheads* with his assistants about the management of the concern.
(a) differing strongly
(b) in agreement
(c) in confusion (d) undecided
15. She rejected his proposal of marriage *point-blank*. (Clerks' Grade, 1993)
(a) directly (b) pointedly
(c) abruptly (d) briefly
16. Don't *stick your neck out*.
(a) interfere (b) look outside
(c) invite trouble unnecessarily
(d) move
17. The aroma from the kitchen *makes my mouth water*.
(a) makes me sick (b) makes me giddy
(c) makes me vomit
(d) stimulates my appetite
18. We should guard against our *green-eyed* friends. (Translators' Exam, 1994)
(a) rich (b) jealous
(c) handsome (d) enthusiastic
19. This place affords a *bird's eye view* of the green valley below.
(a) beautiful view (b) general view
(c) narrow view (d) ugly view
20. I won't mind even if he *goes to dogs*.
(a) goes mad (b) is insulted
(c) is ruined (d) becomes brutal
21. It is difficult to *keep a level head* in these days of mounting prices.
(a) remain cool and composed
- (b) eke out existence
(c) make both ends meet
(d) maintain standard of living
(C.B.I. 1995)
22. The doctor says the patient has *turned the corner*.
(a) completely recovered
(b) become worse
(c) passed the crisis
(d) died
23. He is in the habit of *fishing in troubled waters*.
(a) putting others in trouble
(b) indulging in evil conspiracies
(c) aggravating the situation
(d) taking advantage of troubled conditions for personal profit
24. At a party, he is always in *high spirits*.
(a) talkative (b) cheerful
(c) drunk (d) uncontrollable
(N.D.A. 1991)
25. Things are progressing well—don't do anything to *rock the boat*.
(a) create difficulties
(b) conspire against
(c) upset the balance
(d) agitate against
26. It *goes to his heart* to see so much misery.
(a) influences him
(b) touches him deeply
(c) makes him yield
(d) annoys him
27. Rahul fought *tooth and nail* to save his company. (I. Tax & Central Excise, 1994)
(a) with weapons
(b) as best as he could
(c) using unfair means
(d) with strength and fury
28. Mr. Roy is known as a *shop-lifter* in the city commercial centre.
(a) daily visitor
(b) buyer of all new things
(c) smuggler
(d) a thief in guise of customer
29. The robbery was committed *in the wee hours of the day*.
(a) after midnight (b) at dawn
(c) at noontime (d) in the evening
30. Harassed by repeated acts of injustice, he decided to *put his foot down*.
(a) resign (b) not to yield
(c) withdraw
(d) accept the proposal unconditionally
(S.B.I. P.O. 1994)
31. Mrs. Khanna has been *in the blues* for the last several weeks.
(a) unwell (b) lonely
(c) penniless (d) depressed

32. The popularity of the yesteryears' superstar is *on the wane*.
(a) growing more (b) at its peak
(c) growing less (d) at rock-bottom
(Section officers, 1993)
33. His father advised him to be *fair and square* in his dealings lest he should fall into trouble.
(a) considerate (b) upright
(c) careful (d) polite
34. Rajeev achieved success by resorting to a *hole and corner* method.
(a) obscure (b) usual
(c) underhand (d) clever
35. He has made his mark in politics.
(a) attained notoriety
(b) ruined his wealth
(c) acquired wealth
(d) distinguished himself
(Stenographers' Exam, 1993)
36. Shweta might *scream blue murder*, but I feel Ritu should get the promotion since she is better qualified for the job.
(a) suffer from persecution complex
(b) try to prove herself as more suited to the job
(c) regard it as an act of partiality
(d) make a great deal of noise and object vehemently
37. At Christmas, even the elderly fathers *paint the town red*. (Central Excise, 1993)
(a) indulge in rioting
(b) paint the houses red
(c) spill red wine
(d) have a lively time
38. In almost every party, my friend tries to *rule the roost*.
(a) to make friends (b) to domineer
(c) to remain aloof (d) to become popular
39. We have to *keep our fingers crossed* till the final result is declared.
(a) keep praying (b) feel suspicious
(c) wait expectantly (d) feel scared
40. The members of the group were *at odds* over the selection procedure.
(a) acting foolishly (b) in dispute
(c) unanimous
(d) behaving childishly
(Assistant Grade, 1995)
41. The young heir to his father's huge estate *made ducks and drakes* of his patrimony.
(a) made best use of
- (b) took stock of
(c) squandered lavishly
(d) invested wisely
42. There is *no love lost* between the two neighbours. (C.B.I. 1995)
(a) close friendship (b) intense dislike
(c) a love-hate relationship
(d) cool indifference
43. He *rides the high horse* because of his high connection.
(a) is famous (b) talks flatteringly
(c) puts on airs (d) is prosperous
44. Whenever I meet him he *pulls a long face*.
(a) looks angry (b) looks cheerful
(c) looks gloomy (d) looks indifferent
45. The speaker's observations on the subject were *beside the mark*.
(a) correct (b) exaggerated
(c) incorrect (d) irrelevant
46. In parliament, every member can *have the floor* with the permission of the speaker.
(a) leave the house (b) make a speech
(c) raise an issue
(d) speak against his own party
47. The Chief Minister had the Inspector General of Police to *fill him in* on the behaviour of the arrested terrorists.
(a) probe into the cases against the terrorists
(b) take action against the terrorists
(c) inform him about the terrorists
(d) None of these
48. I did not mind what he was saying, he was only *talking through his hat*.
(a) talking insultingly
(b) talking irresponsibly
(c) talking ignorantly
(d) talking nonsense
(Assistant Grade, 1996)
49. I *sent him about his business* as I could stand his insolence no longer.
(a) broke the partnership with him
(b) requested him to bother someone else
(c) dismissed him peremptorily
(d) abused him heartily
50. He is a *person after my own heart*.
(a) an object of mockery
(b) an emotional man
(c) a happy-go-lucky fellow
(d) exactly to one's own liking

ANSWERS

1. (d) 2. (c) 3. (d) 4. (a) 5. (c) 6. (b) 7. (c) 8. (b) 9. (c) 10. (b)
 11. (d) 12. (b) 13. (e) 14. (a) 15. (b) 16. (c) 17. (d) 18. (b) 19. (b) 20. (c)
 21. (a) 22. (c) 23. (d) 24. (b) 25. (c) 26. (b) 27. (d) 28. (d) 29. (b) 30. (b)
 31. (d) 32. (c) 33. (b) 34. (c) 35. (d) 36. (d) 37. (d) 38. (b) 39. (c) 40. (b)
 41. (c) 42. (b) 43. (c) 44. (d) 45. (d) 46. (c) 47. (c) 48. (d) 49. (c) 50. (d)

PRACTICE SET 6

Directions : In each of the following questions, out of the given alternatives, choose the one which best expresses the meaning of the idiom/phrase in *italics* in the sentence.

- If you pass this difficult examination, it will be a *feather in your cap*.
 (a) you will get a very good job
 (b) you will feel proud of it
 (c) your parents will be very happy
 (d) you will get a scholarship for higher studies (Bank P.O. 1993)
- It is clear that the ideas of both reformers *ran in the same groove*.
 (a) promoted each other
 (b) clashed with each other
 (c) advanced in harmony
 (d) moved in different directions
- He is a *wolf in sheep's clothing*.
 (a) scoundrel (b) rogue
 (c) hypocrite (d) crook
- He is in the habit of *chewing the cud*s.
 (a) accusing others
 (b) crying over spilt milk
 (c) forgetting things
 (d) to muse on (Hotel Management, 1992)
- He felt ill *at ease* after receiving the letter from his son.
 (a) disturbed (b) relieved
 (c) embarrassed (d) sick
- With regard to licensing policy, it is advisable for every state to *cut corners*.
 (a) become lenient
 (b) amend the existing rules
 (c) exercise strict control
 (d) simplify the procedure
- If you *rub him the wrong way*, he is bound to react. (Railways, 1995)
 (a) annoy him (b) abuse him
 (c) flatter him (d) encourage him
- He is in the habit of responding *at the drop of a hat*.
 (a) thoughtfully (b) wisely
 (c) without delay (d) foolishly
- You cannot *throw dust into my eyes*.
 (a) hurt me (b) abuse me
 (c) terrify me (d) cheat me
- There was opposition to the new policy by *the rank and file* of the Government.
 (a) the majority
 (b) the ordinary members
 (c) the cabinet members
 (d) the official machinery (Stenographers' Exam, 1995)
- The company has been handed over to new masters *lock, stock and barrel*.
 (a) financially (b) partially
 (c) completely (d) administratively
- Dowry is a *burning question* of the day.
 (a) a relevant problem
 (b) a dying issue
 (c) an irrelevant problem
 (d) a widely debated issue (Assistant Grade, 1994)
- You must not *mince matters*; tell the truth.
 (a) cut short
 (b) keep secret
 (c) tell with frankness
 (d) not to tell the whole truth
- The sailor found himself *between the devil and the deep sea*.
 (a) lost in the deep ocean
 (b) facing two challenges
 (c) facing two equally bad alternatives
 (d) confronting two opportunities
- The hero of Naipaul's novel 'A House for Biswas', like modern young men, wishes to *paddle his own canoe*. (C.B.I. 1995)
 (a) lead an independent life
 (b) depend on himself
 (c) make the best of his life
 (d) have his own means of livelihood

- I am afraid the two brothers are *at cross purposes*.
 (a) quarrel with each other
 (b) dislike each other
 (c) are working against each other
 (d) are misunderstanding each other
- Our school is *within a stone's throw* of the railway station. (G.I.C.A.A.O. 1990)
 (a) within a certain radius
 (b) at a short distance
 (c) within a definite circumference
 (d) very far off
- My mother is *in raptures* over her new stove.
 (a) very enthusiastic
 (b) working vigorously
 (c) completely dissatisfied with
 (d) extremely angry
- It was *out of place* for him to talk on politics when the seminar was arranged to discuss recent trends in literature.
 (a) foolish (b) strange
 (c) inappropriate (d) odd
- His voice *gets on my nerves*.
 (a) makes me sad
 (b) irritates me
 (c) makes me ill
 (d) pierces my eardrums (Central Excise, 1994)
- The police are used to seeing the *seamy side of life*.
 (a) an adventurous life
 (b) a life full of risks
 (c) immoral aspects of society
 (d) criminal society
- Do not *add fuel to the fire*.
 (a) create problem
 (b) harass
 (c) aggravate trouble
 (d) calm down
- Some people have a habit of *wearing their heart on their sleeve*. (Bank P.O. 1996)
 (a) avoiding being friendly with others
 (b) saying something which is not to be taken seriously
 (c) exposing their innermost feelings to others
 (d) wasting their time on unnecessary details
- When I saw him in the morning, he looked *like a duck in a thunderstorm*.
 (a) timid (b) peaceful
 (c) distressed (d) indomitable
- It was a *Herculean task* for me.
 (a) work requiring great effort
 (b) impossible task
 (c) easy work
 (d) an entirely new task
- In everything that he does he has *an eye to the main chance*.
 (a) he organises it well.
 (b) he evinces interest only in big things.
 (c) he does not leave things to chance.
 (d) his object is to make money.
- The sight of the accident *made my flesh creep*. (Section Officers, 1993)
 (a) worried me (b) frightened me
 (c) confused me (d) drew my attention
- Manoj always *keeps himself to himself*.
 (a) is selfish
 (b) does not take sides
 (c) is unsociable
 (d) is too busy
- She was received by her friends *with open arms*.
 (a) indifferently (b) warmly
 (c) casually (d) coldly
- Kamal was left *high and dry* by his friends when he lost all his money.
 (a) isolated (b) rejected
 (c) wounded (d) depressed (C.B.I. 1994)
- This report *calls in question* all previous research on the subject.
 (a) recalls (b) criticises
 (c) challenges (d) takes note of
- I am sure he *means business*.
 (a) is earnest (b) is inquisitive
 (c) is a trader
 (d) is anxious to make profit
- I just paid him a *left-handed compliment*. (Clerks' Grade, 1993)
 (a) an honest (b) a well deserved
 (c) an insincere (d) a flattering
- Once in a while* he might gamble a little.
 (a) frequently (b) continually
 (c) seldom (d) occasionally
- I *stood my ground* inspite of many pressures.
 (a) remained firm (b) was obstinate
 (c) was prejudiced (d) felt shaky
- The train was late and we had to *kick our heels*.
 (a) fun fast (b) wait eagerly
 (c) waste time (d) play some game
- The party stalwarts have advised the President to *take it lying down* for a while. (Asstt. Grade, 1996)
 (a) to show no reaction
 (b) to take rest
 (c) to be on the defensive
 (d) to be cautious
- His hard-earned money has *gone down the drain*.
 (a) has been wasted

- (b) has been spent
(c) has been collected
(d) has been looted
39. A movement for the world unity is in the offing. (C.D.S. 1994)
(a) at the end (b) about to start
(c) on decline (d) in the air
40. He has designs on that young girl.
(a) wants to rape
(b) desires to be alone with
(c) wants to cheat
(d) wants to be intimate with
41. The captain played with determination because the honour of the team was at stake.
(a) inevitable (b) at the top
(c) necessary (d) in danger
42. He is a queer fish, I have failed to understand him.
(a) funny person (b) sensitive person
(c) strange person
(d) quarrelsome person
(Stenographers' Exam, 1993)
43. Childhood and innocence lie cheek by jowl.
(a) together (b) one after another
(c) side by side (d) proportionately
44. He is really a broken reed.
(a) a frustrated man
(b) an unsuccessful person
(c) undependable
(d) one who has lost in business
45. No caring for the family, Devender wanted to gather roses only.
(a) wanted to paint a rosy picture of the past
(b) wanted to start business of roses
(c) wanted to make safe investment
(d) wanted to seek all the enjoyments of life
(e) desired to attain fame by hard work
(Bank P.O. 1994)
46. He knew she was dead but was completely at sea about the cause of her death.
(a) anxious (b) confused
(c) ignorant (d) certain
47. His most trusted friend proved to be a snake in the grass. (Asstt. Grade, 1993)
(a) cowardly and brutal
(b) an unreliable and deceitful person
(c) a hidden enemy
(d) low and mean
48. It was after a long time that the police was able to lay the thief by the heels.
(a) run fast after (b) play tricks on
(c) chase and capture
(d) arrest
49. None of this hanky-panky; please talk straight.
(a) indifference (b) jugglery
(c) diversification (d) obsession
50. The new C.M. stuck his neck out today and promised 10 kgs. free wheat a month for all rural families.
(a) extended help (b) took an oath
(c) caused embarrassment
(d) took a risk (Central Excise, 1995)

ANSWERS

1. (b) 2. (c) 3. (c) 4. (d) 5. (c) 6. (d) 7. (a) 8. (c) 9. (d) 10. (b)
11. (c) 12. (d) 13. (b) 14. (c) 15. (b) 16. (d) 17. (b) 18. (a) 19. (c) 20. (b)
21. (c) 22. (c) 23. (c) 24. (c) 25. (a) 26. (d) 27. (b) 28. (c) 29. (b) 30. (b)
31. (c) 32. (a) 33. (c) 34. (d) 35. (a) 36. (c) 37. (a) 38. (a) 39. (b) 40. (a)
41. (d) 42. (c) 43. (c) 44. (a) 45. (d) 46. (b) 47. (c) 48. (c) 49. (b) 50. (d)

PRACTICE SET 7

Directions : In each of the following questions, choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the idiom in *italics*.

1. The involvement of teachers in the scheme of education proves to be a *mare's nest*.
(a) a false invention (b) a noble thing
(c) a successful idea (d) a timely step
(R.R.B. 1995)
2. I want none of your *back-chat*.
(a) impertinent remarks
(b) complaints
(c) trenchant criticism
(d) pleasing remarks
3. We must always *bear in mind* that only hard work leads to success.
(a) understand (b) remember

- (c) forget (d) think
4. Pt. Nehru was born with a silver spoon in his mouth. (Asstt. Grade, 1994)
(a) born in a royal family
(b) born in a middle class family
(c) born in a family of nationalists
(d) born in a wealthy family
5. There was a job for me to cut my teeth on.
(a) to try (b) to gain experience
(c) to sharpen my wits
(d) to earn a decent salary
6. In spite of his poverty, Ravi believed in keeping up appearances.
(a) showing indifference
(b) maintaining outward show
(c) showing good manners
(d) revealing the truth
7. It is evident from the minister's statement that heads will roll.
(a) government will change
(b) transfers will take place
(c) dismissals will occur
(d) heads of department will have to repent
8. He has such a nature that he must have a finger in every pie.
(a) do things with his own hands
(b) help everyone in need
(c) meddle in every affair
(d) dominate everybody else.
9. He burnt his fingers by interfering in his neighbour's affairs. (G.I.C.A.A.O. 1990)
(a) got rebuked
(b) got himself insulted
(c) burnt himself
(d) got himself into trouble
10. The present syllabus leaves very little elbowroom for teachers to be innovative.
(a) cause (b) possibility
(c) freedom (d) necessity
11. Most of the present day politicians have an axe to grind.
(a) have promises to fulfil
(b) have obstacles to face
(c) have personal end to serve
(d) None of these
12. When the police came, the thieves took to their heels.
(a) were taken by surprise
(b) took to flight
(c) took shelter in a tall building
(d) unconditionally surrendered
(e) opened indiscriminate fire
(Bank P.O. 1993, S.B.I.P.O. 1995)
13. The sworn enemies have decided to bury the hatchet.
(a) to help each other
(b) to avoid each other
(c) to make peace
(d) to become partners
14. He is a strange fellow. It is very difficult to deal with him ; it seems that he has a bee in his bonnet. (S.B.I.P.O. 1995)
(a) an achievement to be proud of
(b) an obsession about something
(c) to face problems as a result of his senseless actions
(d) peculiar habit of confusing others
(e) unreliable and inconsistent way of behaving
15. The politician was able to sway the mob with his gift of the gab.
(a) fluency of speech
(b) flattering words
(c) abundance of promises
(d) political foresight
(Translator's Exam, 1994)
16. Honesty is at a discount, where corruption is the rule.
(a) discouraged (b) rare
(c) undervalued (d) unknown
17. Akshay can turn his hand to anything.
(a) refuse to do (b) adapt himself to
(c) take advantage of
(d) find fault with
18. The speaker gave a bird's eye view of the political conditions in the country.
(a) a detailed presentation
(b) a biased view
(c) a general view (d) a personal view
(Section officers, 1993)
19. His best jokes fell flat.
(a) were not paid attention to
(b) had no effect
(c) became completely unnerved
(d) faced total failure
20. The detective left no stone unturned to trace the culprit.
(a) did very irrelevant things
(b) used all available means
(c) took no pains
(d) resorted to illegitimate practices
(S.B.I.P.O. 1994)
21. Having sold off his factory, Mr. Roy is now a gentleman at large.
(a) held in high esteem
(b) respected by every body
(c) has no serious occupation
(d) living comfortably
22. They sold their house because it was a real white elephant. (C.B.I. 1994)
(a) an expensive one
(b) a big one
(c) a useless one
(d) a rare find

23. After a lot of arguments over losses in the partnership firm, Aditya put his cards on the table to show Rasheed his sincerity.
(a) withdrew his partnership
(b) reserved his right
(c) concealed nothing
(d) sought pardon
24. It will be wise on your part to let the bygones be bygones.
(a) resist the past (b) ignore the past
(c) recollect the past
(d) revive the past (Assistant Grade, 1992)
25. He always says that he will help, but when it comes to the crunch, he does nothing.
(a) decisive moment
(b) confused situation
(c) difficult time
(d) troublesome moment
26. The boy had a hair-bread escape from a street accident.
(a) lucky (b) easy
(c) narrow (d) quick
(I. Tax and Central Excise, 1994)
27. Despite being under debt, Amit still keeps a good table.
(a) keeps up an outward show of prosperity
(b) entertains his guests sumptuously
(c) helps his friends with money
(d) is lively and gay when his friends call
28. When he tells stories about himself, he is inclined to draw the long bone.
(a) get excited (b) exaggerate
(c) get emotional (d) understate
(C.B.I. 1995)
29. I am afraid he is burning the candle at both ends.
(a) putting in sustained effort
(b) working at night also
(c) working hard
(d) overtaxing his energies
30. He always leads others up the garden path.
(a) befools others
(b) advises others to their advantage
(c) deceives others
(d) worries others
31. The great warrior, Baji Prabhū, held the enemy at bay but was killed in the end.
(a) prevented the enemy from coming too near
(b) did not allow the enemy to attack his position
(c) launched a counter attack after initial success
(d) retreated initially but launched a heavy attack afterwards
(e) made the enemy to run away
(Bank P.O. 1994)
32. The recent film 'Secular India' has tried to keep the pot of Muslim Women's Bill boiling.
(a) to earn enough support for
(b) to force the authorities to reconsider
(c) keep the controversy alive
(d) none of these
33. In spite of the efforts of all peace loving people, world peace is still a far cry.
(a) an abstract ideal
(b) a long way off
(c) an impracticable idea
(d) out of reach (Asstt. Grade, 1994)
34. One should be prepared to get a bolt from the blue in life, but should not get unnerved by them
(a) sad experience (b) unexpected loss
(c) sudden shock (d) depreciation
35. He has reached present position in his job through elbow grease.
(a) his persistent fighting
(b) his good connections
(c) flattering his superiors
(d) his hard work (Central Excise, 1993)
36. He will win this election hands down.
(a) win easily
(b) win with a big margin
(c) win with a narrow margin
(d) scrape through
37. He has been working on and off for several years on this research project.
(a) at intervals (b) continuously
(c) rarely (d) painstakingly
38. He was a king who ruled his subjects with a high hand. (Bank P.O. 1996)
(a) oppressively (b) kindly
(c) conveniently (d) sympathetically
(e) democratically
39. Those who make no bones about such actions face a tough opposition.
(a) invite no comments
(b) make no plan
(c) do without hesitation
(d) waste no time
40. He got hold of the wrong end of the stick.
(a) committed a blunder
(b) misjudged a situation
(c) fixed wrong priorities
(d) felt uneasy
41. Discipline is on the wane in schools and colleges these days.
(a) increasing (b) declining
(c) spreading (d) spiralling
(Slenographers' Exam, 1993)

42. He was cool as a cucumber.
(a) nervous (b) fainted
(c) dead (d) calm and composed
43. Some of us are really in a Catch-22 situation.
(a) absurd (b) dangerous
(c) hopeful (d) depressive
44. Eloquent lamentations regarding the fate of the flora and fauna are certain to be rendered a cry in the wilderness.
(a) a cry in vain
(b) an unpleasant situation
(c) a cry with a laughter
(d) a laughter having no end
(Railways, 1995)
45. He took to heart the death of his wife as he was very much attached to her.
(a) was shocked by
(b) was ruined by
(c) was deeply affected by
(d) was consoled
46. As our army attacked, the enemy retreated pell-mell.
(a) hurriedly
(b) in a disorderly manner
- (c) in a heap
(d) without the least thought
47. In the organised society of today no individual or nation can plough a lonely furrow. (I. Tax, 1995)
(a) remain unaffected
(b) do without the help of others
(c) survive in isolation
(d) remain non-aligned
48. He is a great hand at organising public meetings
(a) very fond of (b) expert at
(c) accustomed to (d) well qualified for
49. Let us admit that we could not heap coals of fire on his head.
(a) agitate him
(b) incite him to a fight
(c) put him to shame
(d) make him feel sorry
50. Kunika was cocksure that she was able to do the job as desired.
(a) doubtful
(b) not able to imagine
(c) least worried
(d) perfectly confident

ANSWERS

- | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. (a) | 2. (a) | 3. (b) | 4. (d) | 5. (b) | 6. (b) | 7. (c) | 8. (c) | 9. (d) | 10. (c) |
| 11. (c) | 12. (b) | 13. (c) | 14. (b) | 15. (a) | 16. (c) | 17. (b) | 18. (c) | 19. (b) | 20. (b) |
| 21. (c) | 22. (c) | 23. (c) | 24. (b) | 25. (a) | 26. (c) | 27. (b) | 28. (b) | 29. (d) | 30. (c) |
| 31. (a) | 32. (c) | 33. (b) | 34. (c) | 35. (d) | 36. (a) | 37. (a) | 38. (a) | 39. (c) | 40. (b) |
| 41. (b) | 42. (d) | 43. (a) | 44. (a) | 45. (c) | 46. (b) | 47. (b) | 48. (b) | 49. (c) | 50. (d) |

PRACTICE SET 8

Directions : In each of the following questions, choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the idiom in italics.

1. He always cuts both ends.
(a) works for both sides
(b) inflicts injuries on others
(c) argues in support of both sides of the issue
(d) behaves dishonestly
(e) creates discord among friends
(Bank P.O. 1993)
2. He is temporarily in charge of the company and is trying to feather his nest.
(a) raise the image of the company
(b) bring order and discipline in the company
(c) act for his own future benefits
(d) practice his own brand of management philosophy
(e) diversify the products of the company
3. Chandu used very ugly words against his kind uncle; he threw down the gauntlet before him. (S.B.I.P.O. 1995)
(a) he abused and insulted him
(b) he threw the challenge
(c) he behaved as if he was very great and important person
(d) he put several conditions for negotiation
(e) he showed his readiness to leave the place
4. The captors of the kidnapped kept his family on tenterhooks.

- (a) in excited wait (b) in seething anger
(c) on constant move
(d) in anxious suspense
5. Do not *ride rough shod* over the poor.
(a) give undue importance to
(b) hate (c) treat harshly
(d) pamper
6. He *did me a good turn* by recommending me for the post of Vice-Principal.
(a) became suddenly good
(b) improved my prospects
(c) did an act of kindness
(d) returned my kindness
(Section Officers, 1993)
7. Although both the partners are running the business for the last twelve years but their business is now *on its last legs*.
(a) about to take off
(b) about to perish
(c) about to produce results
(d) about to fructify
8. It has been *raining cats and dogs*.
(a) incessantly (b) heavily
(c) endlessly (d) continuously
9. There is no *hard and fast rule* regarding this subject.
(a) rule that is difficult
(b) rule that is fast-changing
(c) rule that cannot be broken or modified
(d) rule that can be broken or modified
(Stenographer's Exam, 1995)
10. He *left his friend in lurch*.
(a) left forever (b) left temporarily
(c) left to his fate
(d) left when he was needing help
11. He has accomplished a *Herculean task*.
(a) allotted work
(b) work requiring great effort
(c) impossible job
(d) incomplete work
12. Being an introvert, he will only eat his *heart out*. (I. Tax & Central Excise, 1993)
(a) eat too much (b) keep brooding
(c) invite trouble (d) suffer silently
13. He can get the job if he has the *mind*.
(a) has the courtesy
(b) has the willingness
(c) has a good memory
(d) is intelligent
14. Since he already has *cushy job*, he can afford to be extravagant.
(a) luxurious job (b) job with no work
(c) everlasting job
(d) financially comfortable job
15. You will *get into hot water* if you commit the same mistake again.

- (a) suffer (b) be in a fix
(c) incur loss (d) be in trouble
16. I have warned him *now and then* not to resort to violence.
(a) consistently (b) frequently
(c) occasionally (d) repeatedly
17. His phenomenal success shows that he has got the *midas touch*.
(a) fabulous wealth
(b) tremendous acquaintances and resources
(c) superhuman qualities
(d) ability to succeed in all projects
18. The new economic policy is likely to *run into rough weather*.
(a) make things difficult
(b) confuse matters
(c) encounter difficulties
(d) create problems
(Assistant Grade, 1994)
19. The story published in the newspaper is not true, but the journalist has *painted it in bright colours*.
(a) provided illustrations with it
(b) exaggerated it
(c) made it more comic
(d) added some emotional incident to it
20. It requires unparalleled courage to *set the Thames on fire*.
(a) do a heroic deed
(b) destroy with fire
(c) do something extraordinary or brilliant
(d) wreak evil on something
21. The question of abolition of private property is still a *moot point*.
(a) unknown (b) undecided
(c) not clear (d) uncertain
(Central Excise, 1995)
22. He is *on the wrong side of fifty*.
(a) not yet fifty (b) over fifty years old
(c) a sinner (d) old and haggard
23. It is *out of the question* for only one to have a quiet meal with a set of ultras around him.
(a) unthinkable (b) undesirable
(c) impossible (d) unbecoming
24. Ladies fall victim to *green eyed monster*.
(a) love (b) hatred
(c) jealousy (d) flattery
25. The boss *brought matters to a head* by forcing him to work more.
(a) made him unhappy
(b) created a lot of unhappiness
(c) created an atmosphere of confrontation
(d) brought matters to a decisive point
(Asstt. Grade, 1992)

26. Wait here, I shall be back *in a jiffy*.
(a) in a hurry (b) by some vehicle
(c) at once (d) after some time
27. Please do not indulge in *double dealing*.
(a) dealing improperly (b) deception
(c) two standards (d) two jobs
28. The M.P. from our constituency is fond of *blowing his own trumpet* whenever he gets a chance.
(a) parading his own good deeds
(b) speaking too loudly
(c) looking after his own interest
(d) making long speeches
(Stenographers' Exam, 1991)
29. When he met me at the street corner, he *cut me dead*.
(a) surprised me by his arrogance
(b) deliberately insulted me by ignoring me
(c) showered filthy abuses on me
(d) made an assault on me
30. He was undecided. He *let the grass grow under his feet*.
(a) moved away (b) loitered around
(c) stayed out (d) sat unmoving
31. He cannot *make both ends meet*.
(a) manage the business
(b) work hard
(c) earn enough (d) control affairs
(Hotel Management, 1992)
32. He *made light of* his father's advice.
(a) followed readily (b) disregarded
(c) treated lightly (d) rejected
33. It is Rashmi who *wears the trousers* in their house and he timidly allows it.
(a) dresses glamorously
(b) earns a living (c) is dominant
(d) makes all the decisions
34. I have come to know of your *hole and corner* method of dealing with people.
(a) strict (b) servile
(c) secret (d) suspicious
(Asstt. Grade, 1993)
35. By putting on the mime act, Deepak *stole some of the thunder* of Peter's speech.
(a) made unimpressive
(b) made a lot of noise
(c) filched something
(d) detracted the listeners from
36. The social worker rendered *yeoman service* to the victims.
(a) excellent service
(b) paid service
(c) free, generous help
(d) needed aid
37. The soldiers *laid down their arms*.
(a) put their arms on the ground
(b) surrendered
(c) refused to obey orders
(d) put the arms in their place
(N.D.A. 1991)
38. His biographers discovered to their surprise that he was an atheist *to the backbone*.
(a) completely (b) by and large
(c) by birth (d) to some extent
39. In modern democratic societies *lynch law* seems to have become a common feature in almost all the spheres of life.
(a) law of the parliament
(b) law of the constitution
(c) law of the mob
(d) law of the underworld
(Section Officers, 1993)
40. Sachin *has bitten off more than he can chew*.
(a) is always hungry
(b) is trying to do too much
(c) is very greedy
(d) has little regard for others
41. Who will *carry the day* in this war?
(a) win (b) attack first
(c) be defeated (d) withdraw first
42. The trade union's seemingly rightful demand is only a *stalking horse* to blackmail the management. (C.B.I. 1994)
(a) trick (b) proposal
(c) pretence (d) suggestion
43. Kamal told the audience *to hold their peace* until he had finished his address.
(a) remain peaceful
(b) keep silent
(c) remain seated
(d) become reconciled
44. Leaders should not only make speeches, they should also be prepared *to bell the cat*.
(a) to be alert of the enemy
(b) to take lead in danger
(c) to speak against a wrong policy
(d) to have enough say in the government
45. The teacher was *as good as his word*.
(a) incapable of action
(b) better than expected
(c) highly pretentious
(d) ready to fulfil his promise
(I. Tax, 1994)
46. One should not indulge in *tall talks*.
(a) flattering (b) boasting
(c) ideal talk (d) irrelevant talk
47. The lady was shedding *crocodile tears*.
(a) silent tears (b) profuse tears
(c) false tears (d) tears of happiness

48. He believes in the policy of *making hay while the sun shines*.
 (a) giving bribes to get his work done
 (b) making the best use of a favourable situation
 (c) helping those who help him
 (d) seeking advice from one and all
 (Stenographers' Exam, 1995)
49. It is difficult for me to believe you, so please put down everything in *black and white*.
 (a) in detail (b) in written form
 (c) sequentially, as it happened
 (d) what you saw
50. The number of *globetrotters* has increased after the Second World War.
 (a) foreign countries
 (b) great persons
 (c) people of importance
 (d) travellers around the world

ANSWERS

1. (c) 2. (c) 3. (b) 4. (d) 5. (c) 6. (c) 7. (b) 8. (b) 9. (c) 10. (d)
 11. (b) 12. (d) 13. (b) 14. (d) 15. (d) 16. (c) 17. (d) 18. (c) 19. (b) 20. (a)
 21. (b) 22. (b) 23. (a) 24. (c) 25. (c) 26. (a) 27. (b) 28. (a) 29. (b) 30. (c)
 31. (c) 32. (c) 33. (c) 34. (c) 35. (d) 36. (c) 37. (b) 38. (a) 39. (c) 40. (b)
 41. (a) 42. (a) 43. (b) 44. (b) 45. (d) 46. (b) 47. (c) 48. (b) 49. (b) 50. (d)

PRACTICE SET 9

Directions : In each of the following questions, some alternatives are suggested for the idiom/phrase in italics in the sentence. Choose the one which best expresses the meaning of the idiom/phrase in italics.

1. It is a matter of gratification for me that he has *turned a new leaf*.
 (a) begun a different mode of life
 (b) started using his intelligence
 (c) proved to be a worthy person on his job
 (d) accepted the new job that was offered to him
 (e) decided to use a different strategy to solve the problem (Bank P.O. 1996)
2. If we give them this concession, it will be *the thin end of the wedge*. (I. Tax, 1994)
 (a) a compromise on principles
 (b) the least we could do for them
 (c) the beginning of further concessions
 (d) inadequate for their needs
3. All the political parties are *tared with the same brush*.
 (a) work on the same principles
 (b) have the same merits
 (c) are treated equally
 (d) possess the same defects
4. He was selected because he always manages to *steal a march* upon his opponents.
 (a) resist (b) outshine
 (c) defy (d) challenge
5. He is always *picking holes* in every project. (Stenographers' Exam, 1993)
 (a) asking irrelevant questions on
 (b) suggesting improvement in
 (c) finding fault with
 (d) creating problems in
6. Gambling makes a man *go broke*.
 (a) lose temper (b) become rich
 (c) become penniless
 (d) sell all he has
7. Sanjay always *sets great store* by his father's advice.
 (a) laughs at (b) values greatly
 (c) ignores (d) neglects
8. If Gaurav does not complete the work allotted to him properly, we shall *send him packing*. (Bank P.O. 1994)
 (a) put him in packing department
 (b) give him our best wishes
 (c) give him another work
 (d) recall with honour
 (e) terminate his services immediately
9. The operation was *touch and go* as new complications arose and were solved.
 (a) safe (b) risky
 (c) easy (d) quick
10. It is not easy to *strike gold* in this particular matter because the man who

- has implemented the scheme is very shrewd.
 (a) make money
 (b) find a line of argument
 (c) benefit from
 (d) get good results
11. Caesar was *done to death* by the conspirators. (Clerks' Grade, 1993)
 (a) attacked (b) removed
 (c) eliminated (d) murdered
12. Lord Clive *won his laurels* in the battle of Plassey.
 (a) fought bravely
 (b) defeated his enemies
 (c) acquired distinction
 (d) overpowered his enemies
13. He gave his erring son a *piece of his mind*.
 (a) advised him (b) scolded him
 (c) encouraged him (d) suggested anew
14. His boss was always *breathing down his neck*. (Assistang Grade, 1995)
 (a) abusing and ill-treating him
 (b) watching all his actions closely
 (c) shouting loudly at him
 (d) giving him strenuous work
15. The best policy is to *let sleeping dogs lie*.
 (a) to be liberal (b) to be tolerant
 (c) to be neutral
 (d) to avoid discussing troublesome matters
16. Don't *thrust your nose into my affairs*.
 (a) be in opposition to
 (b) deal with
 (c) advise me about
 (d) meddle officiously in
17. He is *not worth his salt* if he fails at this juncture. (G.I.C.A.A.O. 1990)
 (a) quite worthless
 (b) very proud of himself
 (c) quite depressed
 (d) very strange
18. If he goes on drinking like that, *as sure as eggs is eggs*, he will have no liver left.
 (a) in course of time (b) it is a fact
 (c) quite certainly (d) unfortunately
19. Satish *kicked the bucket* last evening and his friends came to know about it very late.
 (a) met with an accident
 (b) was badly injured
 (c) quarrelled (d) died
20. He was in a *brown study* and did not seem to catch my point.
 (a) in his study room
 (b) absorbed in reading
 (c) absent-minded
 (d) in a state of shock
- (Assst. Grade, 1993)
21. It was clearly a case of *the pot calling the kettle black* when Dhruv said that Ravi was selfish.
 (a) both being guilty of the same mistake
 (b) a person accusing another of being black
 (c) a person blaming another for something he has not done
 (d) someone criticising another for a fault which he himself has
22. He *fights shy* of his young nephew, who is a crook.
 (a) quarrels bitterly with
 (b) is afraid of
 (c) avoids from a feeling of mistrust
 (d) is frightened by
23. He *threw cold water* over the project that the secretary had prepared.
 (a) encouraged (b) cleared
 (c) discouraged (d) rejected
24. He does not like to be friendly with Sarita; he always *gives her a cold shoulder*. (Bank P.O. 1993)
 (a) pushes her with his shoulder whenever they meet
 (b) creates all sorts of troubles for her
 (c) insults her in the presence of others
 (d) tries to be unfriendly by taking no notice of her
 (e) argues with her on any issue
25. My friend *got the sack* from his first job.
 (a) got tired of (b) was demoted from
 (c) resigned (d) was dismissed from
26. With the existing management, the future of the company is *in doldrums*.
 (a) dull (b) bright
 (c) uncertain (d) secure
 (Translators' Exam, 1994)
27. He *went out of his way* to support my candidature for the post of Manager.
 (a) took special trouble
 (b) was determined
 (c) agreed whole-heartedly
 (d) was hesitating
28. He has *stolen a march* on his rival.
 (a) defeated (b) pushed back
 (c) gained an advantage (d) deceived
29. His visit to France proved a *damp squib*.
 (a) a great success (b) an utter failure
 (c) a curtain raiser (d) a thaw
30. A man should, if possible, *steer clear* of money lenders.
 (a) hate (b) dislike
 (c) avoid (d) run after

31. Though he has a lot of money, yet all his plans are *built upon sand*.
 (a) based on inexperience
 (b) resting on immature ideas
 (c) resting on cheap material
 (d) established on insecure foundations
 (Section officers, 1993)
32. The culprit was *brought to book*.
 (a) made to swear (b) punished
 (c) arrested (d) beaten
33. He *stuck to his guns* even in the face of stiff opposition
 (a) clung to his weapon
 (b) kept arguing
 (c) followed the chosen path
 (d) held on against attack or argument
34. It was such a strange affair that I could not make head or tail of it. (Bank P.O. 1996)
 (a) face it (b) tolerate it
 (c) remember it (d) understand it
 (e) believe it
35. In these days of rising prices, we are *paying through our nose*.
 (a) paying dearly
 (b) reducing our purchases
 (c) buying on credit
 (d) paying in instalments
36. He came to meet me when I was in the *dumps*.
 (a) in high spirits (b) in low spirits
 (c) too busy
 (d) engaged in official work
37. Sunil thought his skill would match up to Keshav's bulk, but in the fight he was *beaten neck and crop*.
 (a) softly (b) completely
 (c) swiftly (d) profoundly
 (I. Tax & Central Excise, 1993)
38. It is better to have one friend who is *as true as steel* than to have fifty acquaintances who refuse to recognise you in your hour of need.
 (a) is strong
 (b) is physically and mentally fit
 (c) is with you
 (d) is very loyal and dependable
 (e) always speaks the truth
39. She *thinks highly of you* but I doubt whether you would be able to prove yourself to her expectations.
 (a) gives you great regard
 (b) wants you to rise high in life
 (c) has a good opinion about you
 (d) thinks that you pretend to be what you are not
40. His *oily tongue* has won him promotion.
 (a) soft speech (b) word power
- (c) flattery (d) fluency in speech
 (Hotel Management, 1991)
41. The new boy always had a *hard rosed* attitude.
 (a) inquisitive (b) abusive and rude
 (c) liberal (d) tough and aggressive
42. We, being in a hurry, had to *cut off a corner* to reach in time.
 (a) to go fast
 (b) to take a short cut
 (c) to take an alternative route
 (d) None of these
43. Those persons who are ready to *sail close to the wind* can be successful in life.
 (a) to take risk
 (b) to manage the situation
 (c) to work hard
 (d) to be regular
 (Railways, 1995)
44. The lady was murdered *in cold blood*.
 (a) coolly (b) deliberately
 (c) unfeelingly (d) thoughtlessly
45. He *put us in a real fix* when he did not turn up to pick us up.
 (a) feel awkward (b) bad mood
 (c) made us feel bad
 (d) difficult situation
46. A good teacher should have the *gift of the gab*. (Clerk's Grade, 1993)
 (a) a good personality
 (b) a talent for acting
 (c) a talent for speaking
 (d) an interest in discipline
47. Suresh was truly *in his elements* and he easily impressed the audience with his erudition.
 (a) in high spirits
 (b) unusually confident
 (c) at his best
 (d) feeling relaxed and confident
48. Randhir will do anything to *rock the boat*, if he knows about your progress.
 (a) agitate against
 (b) conspire against
 (c) create difficulties
 (d) upset the balance
49. It was not long before the captain of the ship decided to *weigh anchor* that a sudden storm overtook the ship.
 (a) estimate the load in the ship
 (b) prepare to sail again
 (c) unload the ship to keep balance
 (d) drop the anchor
50. She exhibited remarkable *sang froid* during the crisis.
 (a) temper (b) irritation
 (c) composure (d) anger
 (G.I.C.A.A.O. 1990)

ANSWERS

- | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. (a) | 2. (c) | 3. (d) | 4. (b) | 5. (c) | 6. (c) | 7. (b) | 8. (e) | 9. (b) | 10. (b) |
| 11. (d) | 12. (c) | 13. (b) | 14. (b) | 15. (d) | 16. (d) | 17. (a) | 18. (c) | 19. (d) | 20. (b) |
| 21. (d) | 22. (c) | 23. (c) | 24. (d) | 25. (d) | 26. (c) | 27. (a) | 28. (c) | 29. (b) | 30. (c) |
| 31. (b) | 32. (b) | 33. (d) | 34. (d) | 35. (a) | 36. (a) | 37. (b) | 38. (d) | 39. (c) | 40. (c) |
| 41. (d) | 42. (b) | 43. (a) | 44. (c) | 45. (d) | 46. (c) | 47. (d) | 48. (d) | 49. (b) | 50. (c) |

PRACTICE SET 10

Directions : In each of the following questions, some alternatives are suggested for the idiom/phrase in italics in the sentence. Choose the one which best expresses the meaning of the idiom/phrase in italics in the sentence.

1. The meeting *ended in fiasco*.
 (a) succeeded (b) in confusion
 (c) in complete failure
 (d) in acrimonious debate
2. If you *rub him the wrong way*, he is bound to react. (S.S.C. 1993)
 (a) flatter him (b) encourage him
 (c) annoy him (d) abuse him
3. He is *Argus-eyed*.
 (a) far sighted (b) short sighted
 (c) observant
 (d) blind to the realities of life
4. I *raked my brains* to solve this difficult problem.
 (a) I consulted several people
 (b) I subjected my mind to hard thinking
 (c) I read number of books
 (d) I brainwashed several experts
 (e) I used my common sense.
 (Bank P.O. 1996)
5. The cricket match proved to be a *big draw*.
 (a) a game without any result
 (b) a keen contest
 (c) a lovely spectacle
 (d) a huge attraction
 (Assistant Grade, 1994)
6. I am *like a cog in the wheel* of this company.
 (a) a technician
 (b) the least paid employee
 (c) an important person
 (d) an unimportant person
7. It is time that government *seized the nettle* and stopped parleying with terrorists.
 (a) seized properly
 (b) overcame the difficulties
 (c) got hold of
 (d) dealt firmly
8. My father *strained every nerve* to enable me to get settled in life.
 (a) worked very hard
 (b) spent a huge amount
 (c) tried all tricks
 (d) bribed several persons
 (Stenographer's Exam, 1995)
9. The two women are so jealous that *at the drop of a hat* they start insulting each other.
 (a) on every occasion
 (b) whenever they meet
 (c) for no reason at all
 (d) none of these
10. I must *take exception* to your remark.
 (a) accept gladly (b) thank you for
 (c) consider carefully (d) object to
11. The captain and the coach are trying to *pass the buck* on each other for the poor performance of their team.
 (a) to repent (b) to shirk work
 (c) to blame (d) to shift responsibility
12. The prices are going up *by leaps and bounds*.
 (a) systematically (b) irregularly
 (c) gradually (d) rapidly
13. He *bids fair* to be an excellent cricketer.
 (a) seems likely (b) is ambitious
 (c) is confident (d) is unlikely
 (I. Tax, 1993)
14. To find real happiness in the world is a *wild goose chase*.
 (a) ideal seeking (b) hunting
 (c) futile search (d) real aim
15. The class could not *keep a straight face* on hearing the strange pronunciation of the new teacher.
 (C.B.I. 1995)

- (a) remain serious
(b) remain unaffected
(c) remain silent
(d) remain indifferent
16. He had to eat a humble pie owing to his misdeeds.
(a) feel downtrodden
(b) apologise humbly
(c) be humiliated
(d) accept abuses
17. He managed to secure the job through backstair influence.
(a) sheer merit
(b) hard effort
(c) strong recommendation
(d) underhand means
18. The police fired at random at the violent crowd and several persons lost their lives. (Stenographers' Exam, 1993)
(a) pointedly (b) aimlessly
(c) unwillingly (d) intentionally
19. You cannot have your cake and eat it too.
(a) have it both ways
(b) fulfil all your wishes
(c) run away from responsibility
(d) always work according to your whims
20. He is really worth his salt.
(a) loyal (b) affectionate
(c) of value (d) untrustworthy
21. Some people now wonder whether we just pay lip service or genuinely subscribe to democracy.
(a) pay oral tribute
(b) attach no value
(c) remain indifferent
(d) show only outward respect
(Assistant Grade, 1994)
22. By foregoing your claim for damages done by Kanti, you have done the handsome thing by him.
(a) reduced his misery
(b) raised his morale
(c) behaved magnanimously
(d) changed his views
23. A hen pecked husband plays second fiddle to his wife.
(a) pleases (b) fondles with
(c) humours
(d) plays a subordinate role to
24. I saw him make a wry face.
(a) feel sick (b) cry with pain
(c) abuse (d) show disappointment
25. Before the actual interview, Manish was truly in his elements.
(a) flustered in nervousness
(b) feeling relaxed and confident
- (c) at his best
(d) intuitive of failure
26. I have been betrayed by my own flesh and blood. (Asstt. Grade, 1992)
(a) relatives (b) friends
(c) children (d) acquaintances
27. He blew out all the candles at one go.
(a) suddenly (b) at once
(c) simultaneously (d) at one attempt
28. The people in North India are known for keeping open house.
(a) never locking it
(b) keeping house well-ventilated
(c) offering hospitality to every one
(d) not worrying about its security
29. Dishonesty is at a premium in almost all spheres of public life.
(a) prevalent (b) practised openly
(c) encouraged (d) valued highly
(Translator's Exam, 1994)
30. His letters to his ward speak volumes for his forbearance and good sense.
(a) speak ill of
(b) serve as strong testimony to
(c) show indications of
(d) are intended to impress
31. It was he who put a spoke in my wheel.
(a) tried to cause an accident
(b) helped in the execution of the plan
(c) thwarted the execution of the plan
(d) destroyed the plan
(Central Excise, 1995)
32. He finds no difficulty in keeping the wolf away from the door.
(a) guarding against wild animals
(b) keeping off starvation
(c) keeping aloof from disputed matters
(d) guarding himself against enemies
33. He is known to be the right-hand man of the minister.
(a) private secretary (b) trusted person
(c) bosom friend (d) bitter critic
34. The captain played with determination because the honour of the team was at stake. (Asstt. Grade, 1993)
(a) very low (b) at the top
(c) in danger (d) appropriate
35. He knows what side his bread is buttered.
(a) knows the art of cooking
(b) knows how to accomplish a task
(c) knows how to flatter
(d) knows where his advantage lies
36. Some kids get a kick smoking cigarettes as a gesture of revolt against adult domination.
(a) are kicked for (b) have fun
(c) are punished for (d) get a thrill

37. By doing these errands, he is merely trying to *curry favour* with his boss.
(a) earn goodwill (b) expect promotion
(c) gain favour (d) gain influence
38. His promotion is *on the cards*.
(a) due (b) evident
(c) certain (d) probable
(Railways, 1995)
39. As he does not listen to me, I do not hold a brief for him.
(a) admire (b) consult
(c) defend (d) finance
40. The two brothers have decided to go *hand in hand* in business.
(a) move in union
(b) make joint venture with others
(c) work in competition
(d) keep parallel accounts
41. He resigned the post of *his own accord*.
(a) according to his judgement
(b) which he liked
(c) voluntarily and willingly
(d) according to his convenience
(Section Officers, 1993)
42. It has been the first time in this office that a clerk *wiped the nose* of the boss.
(a) abused (b) slapped
(c) cheated (d) complained against
43. Kishen is a *chicken-hearted* fellow.
(a) weak (b) kind hearted
(c) bold (d) cowardly
44. The poor women do manual labour even when they are *in the family way*.
(a) in domestic routine
(b) doing household jobs
- (c) unwell (d) pregnant
45. He *faced the music* for reaching home late. (I. Tax, 1994)
(a) faced punishment
(b) faced entertainment
(c) faced reprimand
(d) faced pleasure
46. He has *too many irons in the fire*.
(a) wants to grab everything
(b) is engaged in too many enterprises simultaneously
(c) pokes his nose in every affair
(d) is very selfish and greedy
47. David has *an eye* for detecting crime.
(a) is alert in
(b) is no good in
(c) has an extraordinary talent in
(d) none of these
48. I would advise you to *keep your nose clean*.
(a) be polite
(b) not to indulge in evil conspiracies
(c) keep out of trouble
(d) not to take to bad habits.
49. Though they knew that the defeat was inevitable, they *fought to the finish*.
(a) till the end
(b) till they died
(c) till peace was declared
(d) till they got good results
50. While the ladies continued their *small talk* in the drawing room, I felt bored.
(a) light conversation (b) gossip
(c) backbiting (d) whispering
(Asstt. Grade, 1996)

ANSWERS

- | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. (c) | 2. (c) | 3. (c) | 4. (b) | 5. (d) | 6. (d) | 7. (d) | 8. (a) | 9. (c) | 10. (d) |
| 11. (d) | 12. (d) | 13. (a) | 14. (c) | 15. (a) | 16. (b) | 17. (d) | 18. (b) | 19. (a) | 20. (c) |
| 21. (d) | 22. (c) | 23. (d) | 24. (d) | 25. (b) | 26. (c) | 27. (d) | 28. (c) | 29. (d) | 30. (b) |
| 31. (c) | 32. (b) | 33. (b) | 34. (c) | 35. (d) | 36. (d) | 37. (c) | 38. (c) | 39. (c) | 40. (a) |
| 41. (c) | 42. (c) | 43. (d) | 44. (d) | 45. (c) | 46. (b) | 47. (c) | 48. (c) | 49. (a) | 50. (a) |

PRACTICE SET 11

Directions : In each of the following questions, out of the given alternatives, choose the one which best expresses the meaning of the idiom/phrase in italics in the sentence.

1. Tell me plainly who broke the mirror, do not *beat about the bush*. (Bank P.O. 1993)
(a) put any blame on others
(b) pretend to be unaware of the matter
(c) approach the matter in a round about way
(d) try to impress me with your arguments

2. He is disliked because of his habit of *making a mountain of a molehill*.
(a) exaggerating (b) boasting
(c) taking undue advantage of a favourable opportunity
(d) giving great importance to trifles
3. The point you have raised *has no bearing* on the issue we are discussing.
(a) has no relationship with
(b) is not affected by
(c) provides no evidence to
(d) has no impact on
4. In life, we have to *take the rough with the smooth*. (I. Tax, 1994)
(a) be tough in order to be successful
(b) use pleasant words to make things smooth
(c) accept unpleasant as well as pleasant things
(d) make unpleasant things better
5. The dispute regarding the granting of bonus to workers *came to a head* this week.
(a) reached a crisis
(b) settled amicably
(c) took a turn for the better
(d) resulted in senseless violence
6. It was discovered that the young man was *over head and ears* in love with her.
(a) secretly (b) openly
(c) completely (d) sufficiently
7. Nobody could *see through the design* of that wily fellow.
(a) learn the aim
(b) know the antecedents
(c) know the secret
(d) be aware of the trick
8. The reproduction of Mona Lisa portrait by the 8-year old child matches the original *to a hair*.
(a) not at all (b) vaguely
(c) to some extent (d) exactly
9. The trial was so important that the entire proceedings were *held in camera*.
(a) a secret (b) in strict vigilance
(c) not open to the public
(d) amidst great security
10. His *prodigal son* was a constant source of trouble to him.
(a) given into bad habits
(b) poor and miserly
(c) extravagant
(d) step-son
11. In the armed forces, it is considered a great privilege to *die in harness*.
(a) die with honour
(b) die on a horse back
(c) die while still working
(d) die in the battle field
- (Asstt. Grade, 1994)
12. He used his boyish, innocent looks to *take people in*.
(a) amuse people
(b) understand people
(c) cheat people
(d) accommodate guests
13. The arrival of the mother-in-law in the family proved *a rift in the lute*.
(a) brought about disharmony
(b) brought about a disciplined atmosphere
(c) caused unnecessary worries
(d) caused a pleasant atmosphere
- (C.B.I. 1995)
14. Pankaj had a *chequered career* since I first knew him as an assistant dealer in the transport company.
(a) indulged in odd jobs
(b) a career which helped him make lot of money
(c) a variety of jobs and experiences
(d) is jobless
15. He was *carried off his feet* when he was declared to have won the prize.
(a) became delirious
(b) danced on his toes
(c) was dizzy
(d) was wild with excitement
- (G.I.C.A.A.O. 1990)
16. My aunt was *in a flutter* last night.
(a) frightened (b) very angry
(c) in a jovial mood
(d) in a state of nervous excitement
17. All his schemes to murder the king *ended in smoke*.
(a) fructified gradually
(b) came to nothing
(c) were discarded
(d) were partially carried out
18. He has *turned the tables* on his enemy.
(a) behaved hospitably towards
(b) hit
(c) created obstacle for
(d) changed possible defeat into victory
19. He is the only civil servant I know who *hates red tape*.
(a) accepting bribes
(b) formal procedures
(c) corruption
(d) dishonesty
20. For the first week, the apprentice felt *like a fish out of water*.
(a) disappointed (b) frustrated
(c) uncomfortable (d) homeless

21. Inflation in *running riot* and prices are out of control.
(a) becoming unbearable
(b) causing depression
(c) behaving wild
(d) moving upward
22. Do you know why I avoid this man? *He has a bee in bonnet*.
(a) is crazy (b) is ambitious
(c) is over confident (d) is frustrated
(e) is suspicious
23. Seema is a little *hard of hearing*.
(a) inaudible (b) disinterested
(c) deaf (d) insensitive
- (Stenographers' Exam, 1994)
24. The recently won brand new Maruti car is *worth a jew's eye* for Rakesh.
(a) a costly item (b) unnecessary
(c) not a worthy possession
(d) a possession of high value
25. Sachin should do his own work instead of always *back-seat driving*.
(a) teasing others
(b) offering advice without responsibility
(c) interfering in others affairs
(d) being critical of the work being done by others
26. To tell you *in a nutshell*, lust for power and money has almost spoiled him.
(a) as objectively as possible
(b) in a simple and brief manner
(c) an actual experience described vividly
(d) to take in confidence
- (Bank P.O. 1994)
27. He did the mischief and I had to *carry the can*.
(a) get into trouble
(b) accept the blame
(c) face the repercussions
(d) share the responsibility
28. It is *high time* that India did something about the population problem.
(a) auspicious moment
(b) desired occasion
(c) appropriate time (d) already late
- (Asstt. Grade, 1994)
29. At the *eleventh hour*, Mridul arrived and saved him from the crisis.
(a) one hour before twelve
(b) right at the end
(c) at the last minute
(d) when in trouble
30. The servant had to confess his mistake when he was *caught red handed*.
(a) caught easily
(b) caught in the right time
(c) caught in the act of committing crime
(d) caught in a preplanned way
31. She was in a *brown study* and did not notice my entrance.
(a) reverie (b) fear
(c) sleep (d) dream
- (Central Excise, 1995)
32. Since Peter can be boring, teaching his works is not *every lecturer's cup of tea*.
(a) refreshing drink
(b) what one likes and can do well
(c) routine work
(d) not liked by most people
33. By refusing to finance my industrial projects, the bank *threw a spanner* in them.
(a) defeated (b) disappointed
(c) sacked (d) sabotaged
34. The people of the town considered her a *scarlet woman* for her old habits.
(a) a whore
(b) a troublesome lady
(c) an ominous person
(d) a woman suffering from a mania
35. The authorities *took him to task* for this negligence. (S.B.I.P.O. 1994)
(a) forced him to resign
(b) suspended his assignment
(c) reprimanded him
(d) gave him additional work
36. I *rated* my assistant *soundly* for his slackness.
(a) suspended (b) censured strongly
(c) dismissed (d) criticised
37. Unless you *grease his palm* he will not do your work.
(a) talk to him (b) flatter him
(c) beat him (d) bribe him
38. If you give Ashish all your money, you are likely to *burn your fingers*.
(a) be ill (b) be happy
(c) suffer (d) be unhappy
39. Their attitude towards each other only tended to create *bad blood* between the brothers.
(a) jealousy (b) misunderstanding
(c) distrust (d) angry feeling
40. The *carrot and the stick* policy pays dividends in every organisation.
(a) fair and foul
(b) continuous vigilance
(c) democratic
(d) reward and punishment
41. Rejesh and Vikas have remained friends *through thick and thin*. (C.B.I. 1994)
(a) inspite of all difficulties

- (b) always
(c) through days of struggle
(d) through happy days
42. Smuggling can get you *easy money*.
(a) tax-free income
(b) money to make one lazy
(c) money which can be spent easily
(d) money earned after very little work
43. The lawyer told Tajinder *straight from the shoulder* that his case was weak.
(a) standing very close to his shoulder
(b) discreetly
(c) without evasion
(d) in writing
44. I did not know that he was *pulling my leg* all the time. (S.S.C. 1993)
(a) befooling me (b) degrading me
(c) defaming me (d) complimenting me
45. He has had *second thoughts* about going to Delhi.
(a) decided to go elsewhere
(b) is reconsidering his decision
(c) planned very carefully
(d) is going to take somebody with him
46. In the times of the Mughal emperor Jahangir, Nur Jahan was the *power behind the throne*.
(a) who has real control and power
(b) an acknowledged leader
(c) who has control over the king
(d) who rules without others knowing it
47. If only teachers *come down from their ivory towers* and develop an intimacy with the students, can the student-teacher relationship improve?
(a) feeling of superiority
(b) detachment and seclusion
(c) strict and uncompromising attitude
(d) false pride
48. The cause may be a trifle but he would not let you go without *splitting hairs*.
(a) making it a bit quarrel
(b) indulging in over-refined arguments
(c) reviving every small event
(d) annoying you
49. While going through the enquiry papers, the police inspector had *smelt a rat*.
(a) planned something evil
(b) changed his procedure
(c) smelt something suspicious
(d) perceived an obnoxious order
50. All his schemes *bite the dust* for lack of practicality.
(a) are humiliated (b) are stolen
(c) are looked down upon
(d) are killed

ANSWERS

1. (c) 2. (d) 3. (a) 4. (c) 5. (a) 6. (c) 7. (d) 8. (d) 9. (c) 10. (c)
11. (c) 12. (c) 13. (a) 14. (c) 15. (d) 16. (d) 17. (b) 18. (d) 19. (b) 20. (d)
21. (c) 22. (a) 23. (c) 24. (d) 25. (b) 26. (b) 27. (b) 28. (d) 29. (c) 30. (c)
31. (a) 32. (b) 33. (d) 34. (a) 35. (c) 36. (b) 37. (d) 38. (c) 39. (d) 40. (d)
41. (c) 42. (d) 43. (c) 44. (a) 45. (b) 46. (a) 47. (b) 48. (b) 49. (c) 50. (a)

SOME MORE IDIOMS

1. I am prepared to *meet you half-way* (come to a compromise with you).
2. This unexpected new difficulty *put me on my mettle*, (roused me to do my best).
3. From his attitude it is clear that he wants to *pay off old scores* (have his revenge).
4. He is *hand and glove* (very intimate) with my cousin.
5. He *turns* even his errors to *account* (profits by them).
6. In the manufacture of dyes the Germans *bear the palm* (are pre-eminent).
7. He was disappointed, but he *took heart* (cheered himself up) and tried again.
8. He is *falling foul of* (quarrelling with) everybody.
9. Just now my hands are *full*. (I am very busy).
10. That house is *put on the market*. (offered for sale).
11. He *took up the cudgels for* (defended vigorously) his friend.
12. *High words* (angry words) often come out in quarrels.
13. Some persons do not like to be under *petticoat government* (rule of women).
14. Every examinee is *on tiptoe* (anxious) to learn his result.

15. He *won his spurs* (gained reputation) by perseverance and knowledge.
16. This company has good *watch and ward*. (guard).
17. This officer seems to be quite a *green horn* (novice) in office work.
18. He lives from *hand to mouth*. (on daily earnings).
19. He will *ere long* (shortly) start for Shimla.
20. He narrated *chapter and verse* (full detail) on the subject.
21. If a leader *turns his coat*, (goes to opposite party) people suspect his intentions.
22. He is *playing ducks and drakes* with (squandering) his money.
23. She is a vain lady and *makes parade of* (speaks highly of) herself.
24. I will pay you in *monkey's money* (kind, not cash).
25. The *long and short* (main point) of it is that he won't come.
26. He *egged Suresh on* (instigated) to fight with Mohan.
27. He *looked blank* (seemed surprised) when he learnt that he was surprised.
28. All the documents were declared *null and void* (invalid).
29. His youngest son is the *apple of his eye*. (dearest thing).
30. 15th August is a *red-letter day* (auspicious day) in the history of our country.
31. Every man should have confidence in his *better half* (wife).
32. Our examination is *close at hand*. (very near).
33. He is *out of pocket*. (without money).
34. The pick-pocket is a *jail-bird*. (notorious offender).
35. Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru was a *man of parts*. (a man of ability).
36. Dr. Radha drishnan was a *man of letters*. (scholar).
37. Shivaji was a *man of spirit*. (courageous man).
38. She keeps all things in *apple-pie order* (perfect order).
39. His affairs are *at loose ends* (badly managed).
40. *Bad debts* (unrealisable debts) should not be included in the assets.
41. *Ever and anon* (frequently) we heard a cry from the other house.
42. We should not play *fast and loose* (unreliably) with anyone.
43. *Fast living* (luxurious living) is not appreciable.
44. *Flesh and blood* (Human nature) cannot bear it any larger.
45. He left the town *bag and baggage*. (with all belongings).
46. He was *born in the purple*. (born of royal parents).
47. He has managed to *butter his bread* (secure a comfortable living) pretty well.
48. He is bent on getting rich by *hook or crook* (by any means).
49. He earns his living by the *sweat of his brow* (by hard labour).
50. In this competition there is complete *fair play*. (no cheating).
51. James was *timid from the cradle*. (from childhood).
52. Many young men do their work *head-over-heels* (hurriedly).
53. They all ran *helter skelter* (in a state of disorder) down the hill.
54. *In the long run* (ultimately) the honest man succeeds better than the dishonest.
55. He was no kinder to him than to his own *kith and kin* (relatives).
56. This is a hard *nut to crack*. (difficult problem to solve).
57. Whatever he earns, he earns *off his own bat* (by his own exertions).
58. These ladies now *put their heads together*. (consult together).
59. The carpenter *put* the broken tables to *rights* (put in good order).
60. The talk of two Hindi-speaking persons may be *Greek to* (unintelligible) American people.
61. The merchant *looked* rather *blue* (appeared disturbed) at having to pay Rs 3000 as income tax for the first time.
62. We should not *pick holes* (to find fault/criticise) in other's reputation.

PHRASES

1. He *bore away* (won) the first prize. The new king was able to *bear down* (overpower) all opposition. I cannot *bear with* (tolerate) her miserliness.

This new taxation will *bear hard upon* (press heavily) the farmers. If the evidence *bears out* (confirms) the charge, he may be sentenced to death.

- I bore up* (kept up spirits) against my misfortunes.
2. A burglar *broke into* (entered forcibly) his house.
The thief *broke away* (freed from restraint) from the police custody.
The sun *broke forth* (came out suddenly) and all was bright.
The thief *broke open* (opened with force) the box.
An epidemic *broke out* (burst forth) in the village.
He *broke down* (failed) in the middle of his speech.
This man generally *breaks through* (fails to keep) an engagement.
The meeting *broke up* (came to an end) with shouts of applause.
He seems to have *broken with* (ceased to be friendly with) satish.
3. He *called at* (visited) her house yesterday.
Seeing my friend, I *called to* (addressed loudly) him.
Call in (send for) a doctor.
The Government *called in* (withdrew from circulation) all silver coins.
This job *calls for* (demands) extraordinary skill.
The old man could not *call up* (recollect) past events.
Names on a class roll are *called over* (recited in order).
Call upon (Pray to) me in the day of trouble.
He *called on* (paid a brief visit) me in my office.
He *called his opponent out* (challenged to fight).
Seeing my dog barking at the gentleman I *called it off* (diverted attention).
4. *Take away* (remove) these papers.
He *took it for* (misunderstood) a rope.
The dentist *took out* (extracted) his tooth.
He has *taken to* (resorted to) gambling.
She *takes after* (resembles) her mother.
He *took over* (accepted) the charge.
It was not proper for him to *take up with* (be friendly with) such a rude fellow.
I will *take down* (record) the speeches.
Satish was *taken in* (admitted).
The old man was *taken in* (deceived) by the sharpers.
We couldn't *take in* (comprehend) his meaning.
I'm quite *taken with* (pleased with) the style of this author.
He *took on* (undertook) the task.
- He *took off* (removed) his hat.
He stopped and *took breath* (rested) for a while.
This should also be *taken into account* (considered).
He *took great pains* (attempted diligently) to do my work.
5. His head was *struck off* (cut off) with a sword.
We were *struck dumb* (astonished) by the news.
The workers *struck work* (refused to work) to compel an increase in wages.
The last sentence should be *struck off* (erased).
Strike up (begin to play) the drums.
6. No one could *stand against* (withstand) Alexander.
He *stood up* (opposed) against caste system.
He will *stand for* (present as candidate) chairmanship in the election.
He *stood by* (assisted) me at all times.
He *stood up for* (fought for) his rights.
A contract *stands good* (remains true) when it is legally made.
He *stood out against* (refused to yield) all our efforts to persuade him.
7. The summer has *set in* (begun).
He *set out* (started on) on his journey.
The decision of the High Court was *set aside* (disregarded) by the Supreme Court.
He *set off* (departed) for Bombay.
This building has been *set up* (established) recently.
The dog *set upon* (attacked) the beggar.
You should *set about* (begin) your own business.
One day in a week is *set apart* (reserved) for a holiday.
The magistrate *set down* (recorded) the statement of the accused.
He *set forth* (explained) his views clearly.
He *set on* (incited) Mala to fight.
8. The date of examination is *drawing near* (approaching).
They *drew out* (prepared) a plan.
He will not *draw back* (withdraw) from his promise.
Wickedness will *draw down* (attract) punishment from a righteous God.
The snail *draws in* (pulls inside) its horns.
Draw off (Divert) your mind from exciting amusements.
Dr. Ambedkar *drew up* (drafted) the Constitution.

9. I *hold with* (agree with) you.
You should not *hold back* (conceal) anything.
This rule *holds good* (is applicable) here.
His application was *held over* (retained) for further consideration.
He fell down as there was nothing to *hold by* (catch hold of).
The troops *held on* (continued) their march for many days.
The supplies did not *hold out* (last, continue) for long.
He *holds to* (sticks to) what he says.
The horse was *held in* (restrained) to prevent damage to fields.
If the rain *holds off* (is away) for even an hour, our work shall be done.
10. He *kept up* (maintained) his spirits.
Keep off (ward off) the cattle from the fields.
Keep at (continue doing) your work.
He could not *keep to* (maintain) his word.
We should *keep our* passions under (control).
You should *keep from* (abstain from) smoking.
I will *keep nothing back* (conceal) from you.
He is an able man, but his large family *keeps him down* (prevents from rising).
11. The dogs were *let loose* (set free).
He was *let in* (allowed to enter).
She *let down* (lowered) the bucket into the well.
He *let out* (to hire) his house on hire.
The bird in the cage was *let off* (released).
Businessmen will not *let you into* (allow to know) the secrets of trade.
12. You should *put away* (discard) bad habits.
He *put in* (presented) a claim for compensation.
Please *put out* (extinguish) the candle.
He has not *put by* (lay aside for future use) one shilling.
They managed to *put down* (suppress) the rebellion.
Put on (wear) your shoes.
They *put up at* (stayed in) an inn.
I can't *put up with* (endure) such a nasty fellow.
The function was *put off* (postponed) till the 15th.
He *put forth* (exerted) all his strength.
Someone has *put this boy up to* (incited) being obstinate.
13. His folly has *brought about* (caused) his ruin.
I was *brought up* (reared) by my uncle.
An open enquiry will *bring out* (highlight) the truth.
The publishers have recently *brought out* (published) a new dictionary.
A life boat *brings off* (rescues) people from a sinking ship.
The rebels were *brought under* (subdued).
It will *bring his pride down* (humble).
A good tree *brings forth* (produces) good fruit.
The house *brings in* (yields) Rs. 1000 a month.
He managed to *bring her round* (convert her) to his views.
He *brought forward* (adduced) several arguments in support of his scheme.
The king tried to *bring over* (persuade to change sides) the rebels by offering a general pardon to all.
14. Diwali *comes off* (takes place) in November.
How did all this *come about* (happen)?
How did you *come by* (acquire) this bag?
Gold *came down* (descended) in the market yesterday.
The things you have bought will *come to* (amount to) a large sum of.
They have *come to* (arrived at) friendly terms.
The grapes were too high for the fox to *come at* (get within reach of).
Yesterday, I *came across* (met accidentally) an old friend of mine.
He *comes of* (issues from) a royal family.
At last the truth has *come out* (appeared).
A man on a bicycle may easily *come up with* (overtake) a man on foot.
He has *come round* (agreed) to our views.
He will *come round* (recover) within a view.
15. He *got off* (dismounted) the horse.
I hope he would *get off* (escape) with a fine.
I can't *get out* (remove) this stain.
It seems difficult for me to *get out of* (free from) debt.
The thief *got away* (escaped) with cash box.
He *got down* (came down) from the tree.
A rumour has *got abroad* (become public) that he is going to resign.
He managed to *get over* (overcome) all difficulties.

He is *getting on* (progressing) well at school.
 He *gets up* (rises) early in the morning.
 A collector *gets in* (receives) reports from all quarters of his district.
 I *tried hard*, but couldn't *get in* (enter).
 Intelligent students *get ahead* (advance) in the class.

He is *getting along* (prospering) well in business.
 I won't let you *get before* (in forward position) me in learning.
 The weather is so bad today that it is not advisable to *get about* (go about).
 The dog tried to *get at* (reach) me.

TYPE I : Choosing the meaning of a phrase as used in a sentence

In this type of questions, a sentence is given in which a phrase has been italicised, followed by some alternatives. The candidate is required to choose that alternative which best expresses the meaning of the italicised phrase.

Example : He has rejoined office after a week and looks *run down*.

- (a) cheerful and bubbly (b) weak and tired
 (c) active and energetic (d) busy and preoccupied (Asstt. Grade, 1995)

Solution : The phrase '*run down*' means 'weak and tired'.

Hence, the answer is (b).

PRACTICE SET 12

Directions : In each of the following questions, four or five alternatives are given for the phrase in italics in the sentence. Choose the one which best expresses the meaning of the phrase in italics.

- He has *come up* during the last five years. (Stenographers' Exam, 1991)
 (a) fallen in rank (b) risen in status
 (c) become proud (d) become humble
- After tolerating a lot of exploitation at the hands of the authorities they finally decided to *stand up* for their rights.
 (a) seize (b) enforce
 (c) negotiate (d) vindicate
- The boss should not have *called* Arun *names* in front of others.
 (a) abused (b) summoned
 (c) scolded (d) praised
- Last evening I was *held up* at the meeting. (N.D.A. 1995)
 (a) kept (b) detained
 (c) stopped (d) delayed
- I have a problem to *square up* with the manager.
 (a) work out (b) consider
 (c) discuss (d) settle
- Sachin in not *cut out* for this kind of work.
 (a) trained (b) acquainted
 (c) suitable (d) considered
- Have you *given up* the idea of accepting the new assignment? (Clerk's Grade, 1993)
 (a) postponed (b) adopted
 (c) amended (d) abandoned
- The Committee could not *pare down* its report enough to suit the ruling party.
 (a) cut down (b) make smaller
- (c) reduce indictments (d) make austere
- He *passed himself off* as a noble man.
 (a) was thought to be
 (b) was regarded as
 (c) pretended to be
 (d) No error
- The promotions were granted *across the board*. (Asstt. Grade, 1995)
 (a) to those sitting diagonally opposite
 (b) to those working for the other board
 (c) selectively with a few exceptions
 (d) to all without exceptions
- The child *bids fair* to be a great man.
 (a) aims at becoming
 (b) seems likely to be
 (c) is trying hard to be
 (d) keeps away from
- Many people *called on* the minister when he was ill. (Stenographer's Exam, 1994)
 (a) helped (b) surrounded
 (c) visited (d) criticised
- When it came to the turn of the press, the rumour was *blown up* and presented as if the incident actually occurred.
 (a) exaggerated (b) wiped out
 (c) advertised (d) made important
- I was obliged to *set him down*.
 (a) to oppose him (b) to ruin him
 (c) to snub him (d) to humiliate him
- The old man was *cut to the quick* when his rich son refused to recognise him.
 (a) irritated (b) annoyed

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- (c) surprised (d) hurt intensely
 (Asstt. Grade, 1996)
- I had no alternative but to *set him down*.
 (a) oppose him (b) snub him
 (c) support him (d) pacify him
- Only strict laws make the evil of dowry *die out*.
 (a) drift (b) decrease
 (c) decay (d) disappear
 (Asstt. Grade, 1991)
- Men of dissolute lives *cry down* religion because they would not be under its restraints.
 (a) appreciate (b) follow
 (c) emphasise (d) depreciate
- Over and above* the household work, she works in a factory on a part-time basis.
 (a) beside (b) in addition to
 (c) together with (d) in place of
 (C.B.I., 1994)
- He *worked upon* the ignorant villagers by his talent and worth.
 (a) excited (b) influenced
 (c) incited (d) tempted
- Can't you *brush yourself up* a little?
 (a) improve your appearance
 (b) rejuvenate yourself
 (c) reconsider your views
 (d) rest
- We should abstain from *casting aspersions* on the character of our colleagues. (C.D.S. 1994)
 (a) passing critical remarks
 (b) cracking silly jokes
 (c) paying left-handed compliments
 (d) passing slanderous remarks
- My friends promised to *look up* my sister whenever they went to London.
 (a) survey (b) contact
 (c) visit (d) greet
- He has *fallen out* with his wife.
 (a) slipped away (b) had an accident
 (c) had a quarrel (d) gone away together
- Over and above* the household work, she works in a factory on a part-time basis.
 (a) together with (b) in place of
 (c) in addition to (d) beside
 (C.B.I. 1994)
- He was *pulled up* by the President.
 (a) rebuked (b) appreciated
 (c) given a high rank (d) made fun of
- They are going to *wrap up* the negotiations this week.
 (a) terminate (b) argue out
 (c) conduct (d) finalise
- The staff have felt *on edge* ever since they heard the rumour about retrenchment. (Asstt. Grade, 1995)
- (a) nervous (b) unhappy
 (c) disheartened (d) scared
- We shall be formidable if we *stand by* one another.
 (a) support
 (b) champion the cause of
 (c) understand
 (d) vindicate the rights of
- He *worked upon* the ignorant villagers.
 (a) befooled (b) influenced
 (c) worked for the uplift of
 (d) deceived
- Half the people of the village were *carried off* by the epidemic.
 (a) affected (b) forced to migrate
 (c) killed (d) made homeless
- He *tore up* the stairs of his house when he heard a cry.
 (a) walked up (b) go up
 (c) jumped up (d) ran up
- He felt *at home* here in my house.
 (a) happy (b) comfortable
 (c) welcome (d) friendly
- I *stood up for him* when everyone else was criticising him. (C.D.S. 1994)
 (a) tolerated him (b) faced him boldly
 (c) supported him energetically
 (d) opposed him insistently
- He was trying to *put across* his ideas to his audience. (N.D.A. 1993)
 (a) to convey (b) to cross
 (c) to influence (d) to convince
- That young author is *cried up* by his friends.
 (a) talked of (b) extolled
 (c) disliked (d) condemned
- The captain played with determination because the honour of the team was *at stake*. (Asstt. Grade, 1993)
 (a) very low (b) in danger
 (c) at the top (d) appropriate
- She feels very *put out* about the yesterday's incident.
 (a) disturbed (b) pleased
 (c) enraged (d) overjoyed
- We shall be formidable if we *stand by* one another.
 (a) champion the cause of (b) vindicate
 (c) support (d) understand
- No one would believe but before my eyes he *made away* with five thousand rupees from the bank.
 (a) spent (b) stole
 (c) withdrew (d) borrowed
- The old father *brought home* the moral of unity by asking each of his sons to break the bundle of sticks.
 (a) voiced (b) declared

- (c) eraphasised (d) suggested
(Stenographers' Exam, 1995)
42. I cannot *conceive* of a time when I was without a refrigerator.
(a) understand (b) imagine
(c) depend (d) wait for
43. The case was *held over* due to the great opposition to it.
(a) cancelled (b) dropped
(c) postponed (d) stopped
44. If he does not agree with your views, the best way is to *fall in* with him.
(a) agree (b) quarrel
(c) dissociate (d) agree
45. As is expected of him, Madhu is sure to *work up* the mob.
(a) excite (b) influence
(c) browbeat (d) tackle
46. At my friend's tea party I *fell in with* a strange fellow.
(a) had a quarrel with
- (b) met accidentally
(c) had an argument with
(d) made friends with
47. I *ran out of* money on my European tour.
(Stenographers' Exam, 1993)
(a) carried a lot of (b) lost
(c) did not have enough
(d) exhausted my stock of
48. There is no need to *rake up* an old quarrel.
(a) end (b) forget
(c) revive (d) start
49. The rebels *held out* for about a month.
(a) bargained (b) resisted
(c) retreated (d) waited
(Section Officers, 1993)
50. He always *runs down* his brother only because the latter is poor.
(a) quarrels with (b) disagrees with
(c) influences adversely
(d) disparages

ANSWERS

1. (b) 2. (d) 3. (a) 4. (b) 5. (d) 6. (c) 7. (d) 8. (c) 9. (c) 10. (d)
11. (b) 12. (c) 13. (a) 14. (c) 15. (d) 16. (b) 17. (d) 18. (d) 19. (b) 20. (b)
21. (a) 22. (d) 23. (c) 24. (c) 25. (c) 26. (a) 27. (d) 28. (a) 29. (a) 30. (b)
31. (c) 32. (d) 33. (b) 34. (c) 35. (a) 36. (b) 37. (b) 38. (a) 39. (c) 40. (b)
41. (c) 42. (b) 43. (c) 44. (a) 45. (a) 46. (b) 47. (d) 48. (c) 49. (b) 50. (d)

PRACTICE SET 13

Directions : In each of the following questions, four or five alternatives are given for the phrase in italics in the sentence. Choose the one which best expresses the meaning of the phrase in italics.

1. I hope it will not *put you out* if I am late.
(a) worry out (b) please you
(c) irritate you (d) harm you
(Asstt. Grade, 1994)
2. His dealings are all *above board*.
(a) decent (b) friendly
(c) open (d) simple
3. My plan to have a new car *fell through* because of the price rise.
(a) was completed
(b) was completed with difficulty
(c) was postponed
(d) failed to materialise
(Translators' Exam, 1994)
4. When I refused his request for a loan, he *was put out*.
(a) was annoyed
(b) threatened to use force
(c) started to cry
(d) collapsed
5. Rust has *eaten away* the plate
(a) consumed (b) corroded
(c) destroyed (d) swallowed
6. The father was *taken aback* by his son's rude behaviour.
(a) surprised (b) hurt
(c) annoyed (d) affected
7. After our steep climb, all of us were *greatly knocked out*.
(a) judilant (b) depressed
(c) happy (d) exhausted
8. A large number of small-scale industries have been *set up* in the rural areas.
(a) upgraded (b) opened
(c) demolished (d) encouraged
(Stenographer's Exam, 1994)
9. I cannot *put up with* that nasty fellow.
(a) appreciate (b) endure

- (c) control (d) forgive
(e) praise (Bank P.O. 1993)
10. My car *broke down* on way to college yesterday.
(a) dashed against another vehicle
(b) broke into pieces
(c) met with an accident
(d) stopped due to mechanical failure
11. He is *out and out* a reactionary.
(a) deadly against (b) in favour of
(c) no more (d) thoroughly
(Section Officers, 1993)
12. *Look sharp* if you wish to catch hold of this opportunity.
(a) Be quick (b) Be intelligent
(c) Be firm (d) Be careful
13. I was *hard up* last month because of heavy deductions from my salary.
(a) in acute tension
(b) in difficult circumstances
(c) in an unlucky phase
(d) not having enough money
14. It is *high time* that India did something about the population problem.
(a) desired occasion
(b) auspicious moment
(c) appropriate time
(d) already late (Asstt. Grade, 1994)
15. One cannot *get by* in a city without learning those sophisticated ways of dealing with the people.
(a) get a job (b) survive
(c) cope up
(d) continue your way of life
16. In his quest for knowledge, he has *knocked about* the world a great deal.
(a) gained experience (b) explored
(c) wandered about (d) exhausted
17. I expect he will *come round* within a week.
(a) arrive (b) visit us
(c) recover (d) call on us
18. The country's economy is beginning to *look up* now.
(a) remain static (b) improve
(c) look clear (d) go down
(N.D.A. 1995)
19. When I told him what I had done, he *went for* me like a wild beast.
(a) received (b) approached
(c) treated (d) attacked
20. Ramakant has *laid out* a large sum of money in the new factory.
(a) borrowed (b) invested
(c) collected (d) lost
21. In spite of the immense pressure exerted by the militants, the Government has decided not to *give in*.
(a) conform (b) oblige
- (c) accede (d) yield
(Assistant Grade, 1996)
22. Sher Singh could be easily arrested because the police were *tipped off* in advance.
(a) threatened (b) toppled over
(c) bribed
(d) given advance information
23. He is always *standing up* for the weak and oppressed.
(a) supporting
(b) boosting the claims of
(c) championing the cause of
(d) seeking help of others for
24. There are many things about behaviour that I can't *account for*.
(a) relate (b) pay for
(c) explain (d) enumerate
25. I am leaving India *for good*.
(a) permanently
(b) to do good for myself
(c) to do good for the country
(d) to do nobody good
(Clerk's Grade, 1994)
26. He has *drawn off* a major share of his profits from the company.
(a) to part with
(b) to transfer to some other name
(c) to write off (d) to withdraw
27. His views are *looked down upon* by his fellow workers.
(a) relied upon (b) regarded as inferior
(c) criticised (d) appreciated
28. The old beggar *ran amuck* and began to throw stones at the passerby.
(a) felt disgusted
(b) became annoyed
(c) ran about wildly
(d) became desperate (C.B.I. 1995)
29. There is no need to *go over* the second chapter of the book again.
(a) open up (b) overlook
(c) learn by heart (d) study carefully
30. I readily *closed with* his offer.
(a) turned down (b) accepted
(c) proclaimed (d) denied
31. You need rest; you look a bit *run down*.
(a) sad (b) in poor health
(c) ill (d) depressed
(Stenographer's Exam, 1994)
32. We were *bowed over* by the unexpected beauty of the landscape.
(a) shocked (b) overwhelmed
(c) confused (d) staggered
33. Enemy soldiers *fell upon* the platoon as soon as it crossed the border.
(a) warmly greeted
(b) accidentally met

- (c) attacked (d) happened to see
34. They *fixed upon* him to do the work.
(a) relied upon (b) chose
(c) compelled (d) requested
(e) ordered
35. He generally *passed by* the faults of subordinates.
(a) succeeded in mending
(b) managed to make them realise
(c) tolerated (d) overlooked
36. The doctors have *given him up*.
(a) cured him
(b) convinced him
(c) have no hope of his recovery
(d) are fully hopeful of his recovery
37. I can't *put off* consulting the doctor any longer.
(a) decide (b) forget
(c) postpone (d) afford
38. In order to save himself from a thrashing, the boy *trumped up* a story.
(a) flung (b) fabricated
(c) followed (d) presented
39. We should *do away with* the present examination system. (I. Tax, 1994)
(a) prohibit (b) demolish
(c) extend (d) abolish
40. The merchants were *advised of* the risk.
(a) acquainted with (b) warned against
(c) told how to avoid
(d) advised not to take
41. Men generally get *broken down* in old age.
(a) helpless (b) frustrated
(c) fail in health
(d) have poor financial conditions
42. He *dashed off* three letters in ten minutes.
(a) wrote (b) went through
(c) packed up (d) dispatched

ANSWERS

1. (c) 2. (c) 3. (d) 4. (a) 5. (b) 6. (a) 7. (d) 8. (b) 9. (b) 10. (d)
11. (d) 12. (a) 13. (d) 14. (d) 15. (b) 16. (c) 17. (c) 18. (b) 19. (d) 20. (b)
21. (d) 22. (d) 23. (c) 24. (d) 25. (a) 26. (d) 27. (b) 28. (c) 29. (d) 30. (d)
31. (b) 32. (b) 33. (c) 34. (b) 35. (d) 36. (c) 37. (c) 38. (b) 39. (d) 40. (a)
41. (c) 42. (a)

TYPE II ; USE OF PHRASES TO FILL IN THE BLANKS

In this type of questions, four phrases are suggested and labelled (a), (b), (c) and (d). These phrases serve as alternatives to fill in the blanks in some sentences that follow. The candidate is required to examine each phrase in context of the given sentence and then choose the most effective one as his answer. Here is an example.

Directions : Of the four alternatives given below find the one that best fits into the blank in each of the following sentences.

- (a) call up (b) call for (c) call out (d) call to

- The occasion prompt action.
- The fire brigade was twice yesterday.
- It is difficult for an old man to the events of his childhood.
- Seeing my friend on the roadside in a car I him, but he could not hear me.
- He his opponent, but the fellow was too great a coward to come.

Solution : 'call up' means 'to bring to memory'. So, the blank in sentence 3 should be filled up with (a).

'call for' means 'to demand'. So, the blank in sentence 1 should be filled up with 'calls for'. Hence, answer is (b).

'call out' means 'to challenge' or 'to require'. So, (c) is the answer for sentences 2 & 5.

'call to' means 'to address loudly'. So, (d) is the answer for sentence 4.

PRACTICE SET 14

Directions : Of the alternatives given for each group of sentences, find the one that best fits into the blank in each of the following sentences :

Questions 1 to 5 (Hotel Management, 1995)

- (a) carry away (b) carry out
(c) carry on (d) carry through
- The soldier has no choice but to his officer's orders.
 - The audience was by his wit.
 - The troops have exhausted the ammunition. They cannot any longer.
 - Our pooled resources will certainly us this crisis.
 - The South Koreans the 1995. Indira Gandhi Gold Cup in hockey
- Questions 6 to 9**
(a) put off (b) put by
(c) put up (d) put in
(e) put forward
- He talked so fast that I could not a word.
 - While in Delhi, I always in a hotel.
 - When your salary is good, something against contingencies.
 - Never till tomorrow what you can do today.

Questions 10 to 14

- (a) bring in (b) bring out
(c) bring up (d) bring forth
- Idleness and luxury poverty and want.
 - The problem is who will this child.
 - The company intends to many books this year.
 - How much will this auction ?
 - Our teacher often tells us a story to the meaning of a lesson.

Questions 15 to 17

- (a) blow out (b) blow up
(c) blow away
- Please the candle.
 - When a man winnows grain, he lets the chaff
 - The army intends to the bridge with gunpowder.

Questions 18 to 22

- (a) cut down (b) cut up
(c) cut off (d) cut out for
- He is a sailor.
 - He was in the prime of his life.
 - You must your expenditure.
 - The news of his son's death him greatly.
 - They the old mango tree.

Questions 23 to 28

- (a) deal with (b) deal by
(c) deal out (d) deal in
- He the cards among the players.
 - This book questions on grammar.
 - My father sugar and allied products.
 - I shall not him again.
 - Some officers well their clerks.
 - A judge should equal justice to all.

Questions 29 to 34

- (a) do with (b) do up
(c) do for (d) do away with
- Who will my room everyday in your absence ?
 - This cloth will you a wrapper.
 - Having walked twenty miles, he is quite
 - I am
 - We should with the dowry practice.
 - There is a pleasure in a debtor which none but a creditor can know.

Questions 35 to 41

- (a) fall in (b) fall out
(c) fall back (d) fall off
(e) fall through
- At last the rioters
 - The two brothers have with each other.
 - In the second school-term the attendance
 - As neither of us would give in, the bargain
 - At present many persons oppose my scheme, but by and by they will
 - Ripe mangoes have started
 - The standard of efficiency in public service has

Questions 42 to 45

- (a) look over (b) look into
(c) look for (d) look out for
- You should the matter.
 - I my accounts.
 - We are the lost keys.
 - The eagle is prey.

Questions 46 to 50

- (a) lay out (b) lay by
(c) lay down (d) lay up
- He resolved to a part of his income.

47. Satisfy has a large sum in share.
 48. The rebels their arms.
 49. He is with fever.
50. People, who do not their money carefully, soon come to grief.

ANSWERS

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. (b) : carry out – execute | 26. (a) : deal with |
| 2. (a) : carried away – enamoured | 27. (b) : deal by – behave with |
| 3. (c) : carry on – continue | 28. (c) : deal out – distribute |
| 4. (d) : carry through – to get through | 29. (b) : do up – make tidy |
| 5. (a) : carried away – bore | 30. (c) : do for – serve the purpose of |
| 6. (d) : put in – insert | 31. (b) : done up – tired |
| 7. (c) : put up – stay | 32. (c) : done for – ruined |
| 8. (b) : put by – lay aside for future | 33. (d) : do away with – remove |
| 9. (a) : put off – postpone | 34. (b) : doing up – making bankrupt |
| 10. (d) : bring forth – cause | 35. (c) : fell back – yielded |
| 11. (c) : bring up – rear | 36. (b) : fallen out – quarrelled |
| 12. (b) : bring out – publish | 37. (d) : fell off – diminished |
| 13. (a) : bring in – yield | 38. (e) : fell through – came to nothing |
| 14. (b) : bring out – show | 39. (a) : fall in – agree |
| 15. (a) : blow out – extinguish by blowing | 40. (d) : falling off – dropping |
| 16. (c) : blow away – clear away by wind | 41. (d) : fallen off – deteriorated |
| 17. (b) : blow up – destroy by explosion | 42. (b) : look into – investigate |
| 18. (d) : cut out for – fitted to be | 43. (a) : looked over – examined |
| 19. (c) : cut off – died | 44. (c) : looking for – searching for |
| 20. (a) : cut down – reduce | 45. (d) : looking out for – to be on watch for |
| 21. (b) : cut up – distressed | 46. (b) : lay by – save for future |
| 22. (a) : cut down | 47. (a) : laid out – invested |
| 23. (c) : dealt out – distributed | 48. (c) : laid down – surrendered |
| 24. (a) : deals with – treats | 49. (d) : laid up – confined to bed |
| 25. (d) : deals in – trades in | 50. (a) : lay out – spend |

PRACTICE SET 15

Directions : of the alternatives given for each group of sentences, find the one that best fits into the blank in each of the given sentences :

Questions 1 to 5

- (a) pass into (b) pass for
 (c) pass off (d) pass away
 (e) pass through
1. The old man without any trouble.
 2. He a great dramatist.
 3. His disease has a chronic state.
 4. The crew terrible sufferings.
 5. He was caught while trying to a counterfeit rupee.
 6. He himself as a nobleman.

Questions 7 to 11

- (a) look to (b) look up
 (c) look after (d) look on
7. The Indian economy is now
 8. My uncle me.
 9. the word in the dictionary.
 10. your manners.
 11. I him as my son.

Questions 12 to 18

- (a) make up (b) make out
 (c) make over (d) make of
 (e) make for
12. I cannot his writing.
 13. I cannot anything this telegram.
 14. He his bungalow to an orphanage.
 15. You have failed to your case.
 16. The two brothers quarrelled some time ago, but they have now it
 17. Contentment happiness.
 18. I cannot the meaning of this verse.

Questions 19 to 23

- (a) pull up (b) pull through
 (c) pull down (d) pull together
19. The coach at a little roadside inn.
 20. He managed to the examination.
 21. Unless we we cannot succeed.
 22. The building was
 23. The doctor says the patient will

Questions 24 to 27

- (a) cast away (b) cast down
 (c) cast up (d) cast aside
24. The student who the instructions of his teacher cannot learn anything.
 25. The ship was on the coast of Africa.
 26. Please this column of figures.
 27. He was much by his loss.

Questions 28 to 31

- (a) throw up (b) throw out
 (c) throw off (d) throw down
28. The Bill was
 29. She all sense of shame.
 30. The walls were
 31. He his appointment.

Questions 32 to 35

- (a) turn up (b) turn off
 (c) turn out (d) turn away
32. This road of the right.
 33. The lost boy after two years.
 34. Don't me of doors.
 35. He his dishonest servant.

Questions 36 to 40

- (a) give over (b) give out
 (c) give in (d) give away
36. The Chief Guest the prizes.

37. The strikers seem determined, and are not likely to
 38. The horses at the next milestone.
 39. this foolish attempt.
 40. It was that he was a bankrupt.

Questions 41 to 46

- (a) go by (b) go through
 (c) go down (d) go over
41. The auditor the balance sheet.
 42. You must this book again.
 43. She has patiently the sufferings of life.
 44. That story won't
 45. He the directions of the officer.
 46. Three months without the accused being traced out.

Questions 47 to 50

- (a) give off (b) give way
 (c) go into (d) to upon
47. He promised to the matter.
 48. The fire a dense smoke.
 49. The rope while the workmen were hauling up the iron pillar.
 50. We have no data to

ANSWERS

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. (d) : passed away – died | 27. (b) : cast down – depressed |
| 2. (b) : passed for – is regarded as | 28. (b) : thrown out – rejected |
| 3. (a) : passed into – changed into | 29. (c) : threw off – discarded |
| 4. (e) : passed through – underwent | 30. (b) : thrown down – demolished |
| 5. (c) : pass off – impose fraudulently | 31. (a) : threw up – resigned |
| 6. (c) : passed himself over – pretended to be | 32. (b) : turns up – diverts |
| 7. (b) : looking up – improving | 33. (a) : turned up – appeared |
| 8. (c) : looks after – takes care of | 34. (c) : turn out – expel |
| 9. (b) : look up – search for | 35. (d) : turned away – dismissed |
| 10. (a) : look to – Be careful about | 36. (d) : gave away – distributed |
| 11. (d) : look on – regard | 37. (c) : give in – yield |
| 12. (b) : make out – decipher | 38. (b) : gave out – exhausted |
| 13. (d) : make of – understand | 39. (a) : give over – abandon |
| 14. (c) : made over – presented | 40. (b) : given out – proclaimed |
| 15. (b) : make out – prove | 41. (d) : went over – examined |
| 16. (a) : made up – reconciled | 42. (b) : go through – read |
| 17. (e) : makes for – results in | 43. (b) : gone through – endured |
| 18. (b) : make out – discover | 44. (c) : go down – be believed |
| 19. (a) : pulled up – came to halt | 45. (a) : went by – followed |
| 20. (b) : pull through – pass with difficulty | 46. (a) : went by – elapsed |
| 21. (d) : pull together – cooperate | 47. (c) : go into – investigate |
| 22. (c) : pulled down – demolished | 48. (a) : gave off – emitted |
| 23. (b) : pull through – recover | 49. (b) : gave way – broke |
| 24. (c) : casts aside – ignores as useless | 50. (d) : go upon – on which to base our conclusion |
| 25. (a) : cast away – wrecked | |
| 26. (d) : cast up – calculate | |