Idioms & Phrases | 35 practice questions

Q1. Choose the correct idiom for the word highlighted in bold.
"Mrs. Robinson has three children to support, and she doesn't make very much money at her job. She is barely **keeping her head above water**."

(a) Struggling to survive financially
(b) Learning how to swim
(c) Feeling relaxed and stress-free
(d) Living in a house near the water

Q2. Choose the correct meaning of idiom:
Beard the lion in his den

(a) Hide from danger
(b) Flatter a powerful person
(c) Feed captive animals
(d) Confront someone powerful on their own ground

Q3. Choose the correct meaning of idiom:
Cried up

(a) Ignored intentionally
(b) Exposed harshly
(c) Praised extravagantly
(d) Rejected summarily

Q4. Choose the correct meaning of idiom:
Ride roughshod over

(a) Travel very quickly
(b) Disregard others' feelings or rights
(c) Improve something drastically
(d) Face obstacles bravely

Q5. Choose the correct meaning of idiom given below:
"Go the whole hog"

(a) Refuse to try
(b) Do something completely
(c) Be lazy
(d) Plan early

Q6. Choose the correct meaning of idiom:
Give someone the slip

(a) To insult someone subtly
(b) To evade or escape from someone unnoticed
(c) To forgive after insult
(d) To follow and copy someone

Q7. Choose the correct meaning of idiom given below:
" Break new ground"

(a) Innovate or pioneer
(b) Create a mess
(c) Destroy something
(d) Start agriculture

Q8. Choose the correct idiom for the word highlighted in bold.
"Benjamin isn't happy now that he's working the **graveyard shift**."

(a) He is working at a cemetery.
(b) He is working late-night hours.
(c) He is working fewer hours than before.
(d) He is working in a dangerous job.

Q9. What does the idiom "bristle with anger" mean?

(a) To become visibly angry and defensive
(b) To remain calm under pressure
(c) To ignore a provocation
(d) To laugh at a situation

Q10. Choose the correct meaning of idiom:

To milk the ram

(a) To exploit one's privilege
(b) To attempt the impossible or futile
(c) To exaggerate defeat
(d) To question authority subtly

Q11. Choose the correct meaning of idiom:

Break the fourth wall

(a) To construct a theater set
(b) To hide from the audience
(c) To address the audience directly
(d) To remove a character from a play

Q12. Choose the correct meaning of idiom given below:

"Break out in hives"

(a) To develop rashes from allergies
(b) To react angrily
(c) To become unconscious
(d) To recover from illness

Q13. Read the sentence carefully and select the most suitable idiom/phrase to fill in the blank.

My grandmother ---------- Spanish while living in Spain for three years.

(a) picked up **(b)** spend up **(c)** leaning **(d)** talking to

Q14. Choose the correct meaning of idiom:

Cut him up

(a) To assist him generously
(b) To criticize him severely
(c) To imitate him humorously
(d) To promote him rapidly

Q15. Choose the correct meaning of idiom:

To throw one's cap over the windmill

(a) To act recklessly
(b) To challenge authority in public
(c) To mock traditional values
(d) To fall prey to delusion

Q16. What does the idiom "All his ventures went to the winds" mean?

(a) All his efforts were wasted
(b) He became very successful
(c) He changed his business frequently
(d) His ventures were well-organized

Q17. Choose the correct meaning of idiom:

Rock the boat

(a) To maintain balance
(b) To disturb the status quo
(c) To enjoy boating
(d) To avoid trouble

Q18. Choose the correct meaning of idiom:

To kick against the pricks

(a) To challenge injustice successfully
(b) To act with excessive caution
(c) To resist futilely against authority
(d) To support power without question

Q19. Read the sentence below and choose the idiom meaning that best fits the context:
"Meeta says she doesn't want to become a big wheel in the company because she doesn't want so much responsibility." What does the idiom "a big wheel" mean in this context?

(a) A person who does physical work in the company
(b) A person who is important or powerful in an organization
(c) A person who constantly changes jobs in the company
(d) A person who causes problems in the company

Q20. Choose the correct meaning of idiom:
Put a good face on

(a) To appear angry despite happiness
(b) To act cheerfully despite adversity
(c) To distort the truth intentionally
(d) To change appearance for attention

Q21. Choose the correct meaning of idiom:
Hung on his lips

(a) Argued relentlessly
(b) Was emotionally unstable
(c) Listened with deep admiration
(d) Spoke in riddles

Q22. Choose the correct meaning of idiom:
Gild the lily

(a) To beautify something already perfect
(b) To plant lilies in spring
(c) To decorate unnecessarily
(d) To misrepresent reality

Q23. Choose the correct meaning of idiom:
The die is cast

(a) Anew choice is offered
(b) An irreversible decision has been made
(c) There's a risk involved
(d) The plan has failed

Q24. Choose the correct meaning of idiom given below:
"Turn the page"

(a) Publish a new chapter
(b) Forget the past and start anew
(c) Add suspense to a story
(d) Reveal a plot twist

Q25. Choose the correct meaning of idiom given below:
"Skeleton in the closet"

(a) A hidden treasure
(b) An unknown character in a book
(c) A family heirloom
(d) A hidden shame or scandal

Q26. Choose the correct meaning of idiom given below:
" The powers that be"

(a) Supernatural forces
(b) Current authorities
(c) Past rulers
(d) Media groups

Q27. Choose the correct meaning of idiom given below:
" Know the ropes"

(a) Understand procedures
(b) Be a sailor
(c) Learn to fight
(d) Fear nothing

Q28. Choose the correct meaning of idiom:

Brought into play

(a) Put under physical strain
(b) Engaged in recreational activity
(c) Made operational or effective
(d) Delayed unnecessarily

Q29. Choose the correct meaning of idiom:

To pour new wine into old bottles

(a) To repeat history unnecessarily
(b) To disguise change as tradition
(c) To force a new idea into an outdated framework
(d) To dilute meaning through overuse

Q30. Choose the correct meaning of idiom given below:

" Hit the roof"

(a) Achieve success
(b) Become very angry
(c) Climb a building
(d) Escape trouble

Q31. Choose the correct meaning of idiom given below:

"Poetic justice"

(a) Justice through courts
(b) Punishment fits the crime
(c) Irony where villain suffers fittingly
(d) Justice delayed

Q32. Choose the correct meaning of idiom given below:

" Clutch at straws"

(a) Attempt desperately
(b) Handle fragile objects
(c) Succeed against odds
(d) Refuse to help

Q33. Which of the following options most accurately expresses the meaning of the idiom "to fly a kite"?

(a) To indulge in trivial, non-productive recreational distractions during critical corporate working hours to evade administrative duties.
(b) To harness atmospheric wind patterns through innovative, non-traditional renewable energy technologies to power local manufacturing grids.
(c) To experience an overwhelming sensation of creative euphoria or psychological detachment during a complex brainstorming session.
(d) To intentionally introduce a controversial policy or speculative idea to the public to gauge collective reactions and opinions.

Q34. Choose the correct idiom for the word highlighted in bold.

"The president told the people that if they wanted the country to continue to move forward, they should reelect him. He said that to elect his opponent would be like **changing horses in midstream**."

(a) Switching to a new leader or plan in the middle of an ongoing process
(b) Going horseback riding during a flood
(c) Trying a new hobby while still learning the old one
(d) Giving up on something before even starting it

Q35. What does the idiom "to be pressed for time" mean?

(a) To have plenty of free time
(b) To be in a hurry due to a lack of time
(c) To waste time on unnecessary things
(d) To manage time effectively

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