

Idioms & Phrases

Exercise

Directions: *In the following questions, four alternatives are given. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the underlined idiom/phrase.*

1. Cry over spilt milk
 - (a) Complaining about a loss in the past
 - (b) Too much inquisitive about something
 - (c) When something is done badly to save money
 - (d) Dealing with a problem only in an emergency situation
2. Cut the mustard
 - (a) Prepare spices out of mustard seeds
 - (b) To come up to expectations
 - (c) Making absurd expectations
 - (d) Very enthusiastic
3. Devil's advocate [NDA-I 2018]
 - (a) A dangerous person
 - (b) To present a counter argument
 - (c) Very argumentative person
 - (d) Creating an unpleasant situation
4. Don't count your chickens before the eggs have hatched [NDA-I 2018]
 - (a) If you are not good at something, better to avoid that
 - (b) Don't make plans for something that might not happen
 - (c) Not to come up to expectations
 - (d) Don't put all your resources in one possibility
5. Give the benefit of doubt [NDA-I 2018]
 - (a) To be partial to someone
 - (b) To be judgmental
 - (c) Regard someone as innocent until proven otherwise
 - (d) Say something exactly right
6. A red-letter day [NDA-II 2018]
 - (a) A trivial day
 - (b) A very important or significant day
 - (c) A day of bloodshed and violence
 - (d) A mourning day
7. The gift of the gab [NDA-II 2018]
 - (a) Ability to speak easily and confidently
 - (b) Ability to spoil something
 - (c) Ability to sell things
 - (d) Gift from a sacred institution
8. Walk a tightrope [NDA-II 2018]
 - (a) To be forced to leave your job
 - (b) To be ready to fall
 - (c) To act very carefully
 - (d) To invite danger
9. To be in a fix [NDA-II 2018]
 - (a) To receive strong criticism
 - (b) To support oneself
 - (c) To fix problems
 - (d) To be in a difficult situation
10. To fish in troubled waters [NDA-II 2018]
 - (a) To borrow money
 - (b) To steal belongings of
 - (c) To get benefit in bad situation
 - (d) To extend a helping hand
11. A dark horse [NDA-II 2019]
 - (a) a black coloured horse
 - (b) a person who wins a race or competition although no one expected him to
 - (c) a person who keeps secrets
 - (d) an ignorant person

12. A show-stopper [NDA-I 2019]
 (a) someone who stops the show
 (b) someone who organizes the show
 (c) a performance that is extremely good
 (d) a fashionable person
13. A jack of all trades [NDA-I 2019]
 (a) someone who has many skills
 (b) a confident and not very serious young man
 (c) someone who has hit the jackpot
 (d) a great businessman
14. Fight tooth and nail [NDA-I 2019]
 (a) to quarrel with someone
 (b) to attack someone with a lot of force
 (c) to try hard to prevent something from happening
 (d) to try very hard to achieve some thing
15. Fair and square [NDA-I 2019]
 (a) in an honest way
 (b) in a critical way
 (c) neither very good nor very bad
 (d) in a foolish way
16. Be over the hill [NDA-II 2019]
 (a) to be on a mountain top
 (b) to travel in the jungle
 (c) to be too old to do things
 (d) to do something in the most complete way
17. Bite your tongue [NDA-II 2019]
 (a) to stop yourself from saying something because it would be better not to
 (b) to bite off your tongue while eating
 (c) to feel sorry
 (d) to ask someone something that your want
18. Turn a blind eye [NDA-II 2019]
 (a) to run away
 (b) to begin to behave in a more positive manner
 (c) to change a situation
 (d) to choose to ignore behaviour that you know as wrong
19. Yellow journalism [NDA-II 2019]
 (a) Paid storytelling
 (b) Government reports published on yellow coloured papers
 (c) Writings in newspapers that try to influence people's opinion by using strong language and false information
 (d) Journalism which agrees completely with the policies of the governments and capitalists
20. To be in seventh heaven [NDA-II 2019]
 (a) to fly in the air
 (b) to be extremely happy
 (c) To be completely alone
 (d) To visit a place which is in the list of the seven wonders of the world
21. Overstep the mark [NDA-I 2021]
 (a) To tell people how successful you are
 (b) To step into someone else's areas of expertise
 (c) To upset someone by doing/saying more than you should
 (d) To do something in an excited way
22. Palsy-walsy friends [NDA-I 2021]
 (a) Good friends
 (b) Friends who help each other in difficult situations
 (c) Friends by choice, and not by chance
 (d) Unfriendly
23. Open a Pandora's box [NDA-I 2021]
 (a) To do something that causes a lot of new problems that you did not expect
 (b) To do something out of compulsion
 (c) To do something beyond expectation
 (d) To do something out of the box
24. Pull your socks up [NDA-I 2021]
 (a) To get well-dressed for the occasion
 (b) Improve your work or behaviour
 (c) To speak in an honest way without hesitation
 (d) To be in control of an organization, often secretly
25. To get under somebody's skin [NDA-I 2021]
 (a) To deceive someone
 (b) To admire someone
 (c) To annoy someone
 (d) To support someone
26. Turn topsy-turvy [NDA-I 2021]
 (a) To completely change something
 (b) To completely evaluate something
 (c) To enjoy yourself greatly
 (d) To exhaust yourself completely
27. A clarion call [NDA-I 2021]
 (a) A trumpet call
 (b) An intimidating voice
 (c) A strong request
 (d) An urgent order
28. Fire in the belly [NDA-I 2021]
 (a) Fear and hatred
 (b) Powerful ambition
 (c) Love and dedication
 (d) Lethargy and indifference
29. A hunky-dory situation [NDA-I 2021]
 (a) There are serious issues among people
 (b) There are no problems and people are happy
 (c) There is war and bloodshed all over
 (d) There is no work, only enjoyment

Idioms & Phrases

30. Give somebody a leg up [NDA-I 2021]
 (a) To pull someone down
 (b) To deceive and betray someone
 (c) To help someone for their livelihood
 (d) To help someone to be successful
31. Once-over [NDA-II 2021]
 (a) To do something quickly
 (b) To do something elaborately
 (c) To do something perforce
 (d) To do something for others
32. A bag of bones [NDA-II 2021]
 (a) An extremely fat person
 (b) An extremely thin person
 (c) A wealthy person
 (d) A healthy person
33. Muddy the waters [NDA-II 2021]
 (a) To spread dirt around
 (b) To make a situation easy
 (c) To cheat someone
 (d) To take revenge
34. To level with [NDA-II 2021]
 (a) To be honest (b) To be on a plain
 (c) To cheat someone (d) To take revenge
35. Show your hand [NDA-II 2021]
 (a) To tell people about the past
 (b) To tell people about the future
 (c) To tell people about them
 (d) To tell people about your plans
36. To pull up [NDA-II 2021]
 (a) To lift heavy weights
 (b) To check oneself
 (c) To shorten the distance
 (d) Too short of destination
37. Be out of action [NDA-II 2021]
 (a) To get punishment
 (b) To get reward
 (c) To become dysfunctional
 (d) To become superactive
38. Learning from the school of hard knocks [NDA-II 2021]
 (a) Learning things from experience
 (b) Learning things from others
 (c) Learning things from environment
 (d) Learning things through difficult experiences
39. Raise some hackles [NDA-II 2021]
 (a) To annoy
 (b) To make someone happy
 (c) To do a great task
 (d) To sit idle
40. A man of letters [NDA-II 2021]
 (a) An excellent artist
 (b) A scholar in literature
 (c) An outstanding sportsman
 (d) A known novelist
41. Counting your chickens [NDA-I 2022]
 (a) confident of success
 (b) greedily accumulating wealth
 (c) being careful about spending money
 (d) getting scared because of danger
42. The icing on the cake [NDA-I 2022]
 (a) baked food that is delicate and delicious with a topping
 (b) extra benefit over and above an already good deal
 (c) getting what you asked for
 (d) more than what is needed
43. A stitch in time [NDA-I 2022]
 (a) tailoring one's efforts efficiently
 (b) making an effort to succeed
 (c) inability to take timely decision
 (d) timely action that prevents a negative outcome
44. At sixes and sevens [NDA-I 2022]
 (a) on top of the situation
 (b) state of denial
 (c) state of total confusion
 (d) well-planned and prepared
45. Talking twenty to the dozen [NDA-I 2022]
 (a) talking hurriedly and rapidly
 (b) talking too much
 (c) talking without making sense
 (d) talking out of turn
46. Under the weather [NDA-I 2022]
 (a) walking in the rain
 (b) controlled by the elements
 (c) browbeaten by the heat
 (d) unwell
47. To sit on the fence [NDA-I 2022]
 (a) to act promptly
 (b) to be lazy
 (c) to delay making a decision
 (d) to sit without doing anything
48. Once in a blue moon [NDA-I 2022]
 (a) romantic moment (b) occasionally
 (c) Lick rarely (d) often
49. Through thick and thin [NDA-I 2022]
 (a) in genuine friendship
 (b) through the best of everything
 (c) among people both fat and slim
 (d) through difficult times

50. Like chalk and cheese [NDA-I 2022]
 (a) very different from each other
 (b) without any blemish
 (c) pure white in colour
 (d) very like each other
51. A queer fish [NDA-II 2022]
 (a) A strange person (b) A good person
 (c) An unlucky person (d) A lucky person
52. Eat like a bird [NDA-II 2022]
 (a) Eat very quickly (b) Eat a lot
 (c) Eat continuously (d) Eat very little
53. Lock horns [NDA-II 2022]
 (a) Be like a bull (b) Argue about something
 (c) Agree with someone (d) Think about the horns
54. Early bird [NDA-II 2022]
 (a) Low flying (b) Latest
 (c) Ancient avian (d) First arrival
55. Be in the pink [NDA-II 2022]
 (a) To be very healthy (b) To be very colourful
 (c) To be very sad (d) To be very rich
56. Be in the running [NDA-II 2022]
 (a) In a very bad state to speak
 (b) In a powerful position
 (c) In a good position to win
 (d) In a losing position
57. A sea change [NDA-II 2022]
 (a) Change in the sea tides
 (b) A complete change
 (c) Change like sea
 (d) Changed sea with pollution
58. A pearl of wisdom [NDA-II 2022]
 (a) An important event in one's life
 (b) An important person of wisdom
 (c) An important piece of advice
 (d) An important thing in one's life
59. Be in seventh heaven [NDA-II 2022]
 (a) To be extremely sorry
 (b) To be extremely wise
 (c) To be extremely sad
 (d) To be extremely happy
60. Be in the red [NDA-II 2022]
 (a) To owe money to a bank
 (b) To get money from one's family
 (c) To be in danger of being caught
 (d) To be in favour of needy people

ANSWERS

1.	(a)	2.	(b)	3.	(b)	4.	(b)	5.	(c)	6.	(b)	7.	(a)	8.	(c)	9.	(d)	10.	(c)
11.	(b)	12.	(b)	13.	(b)	14.	(b)	15.	(c)	16.	(b)	17.	(a)	18.	(c)	19.	(c)	20.	(c)
21.	(b)	22.	(c)	23.	(a)	24.	(d)	25.	(a)	26.	(c)	27.	(a)	28.	(d)	29.	(c)	30.	(b)
31.	(c)	32.	(b)	33.	(a)	34.	(b)	35.	(c)	36.	(a)	37.	(c)	38.	(b)	39.	(b)	40.	(d)
41.	(a)	42.	(b)	43.	(d)	44.	(a)	45.	(a)	46.	(b)	47.	(c)	48.	(d)	49.	(a)	50.	(b)
51.	(a)	52.	(b)	53.	(b)	54.	(c)	55.	(a)	56.	(d)	57.	(c)	58.	(c)	59.	(d)	60.	(a)