

## Exercise – I

1. **Choose the appropriate meaning of the phrase:**

**To read between the lines**

- A. understand the hidden meaning
- B. to have good sight
- C. to learn quickly
- D. none of these

2. **In the following question, an idiom or proverb has been highlighted. Choose its correct meaning in the given context from the alternatives given below.**

**The parent was lecturing the child on discipline; you could take one look at the child and understand that he was being bored to death.**

- A. The parent was a boring person
- B. The child found the topic of death very boring
- C. The child found the father's lecture on discipline very boring
- D. The child thought that discipline was a very boring topic

3. **Choose the correct alternative which can be substituted for the below given word/ sentence.**

**To hold one's tongue**

- A. to support
- B. to interfere in one's work
- C. to insult someone
- D. to keep quite

4. **Choose the correct alternative which can be substituted for the below given word/ sentence.**

**Get carried away**

- A. move quickly
- B. overly excited

C. passed away

D. to get lost

5. **Choose the appropriate meaning of the idiom/phrase**

**Caught between two stools**

A. met with an accident

B. difficulty in choosing between two alternatives

C. struck in a calamity

D. none of these

6. **Choose the appropriate meaning of the idiom:**

**Make up one's mind**

A. to be prepared

B. to make someone happy

C. make a decision

D. To criticize someone

7. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom/ phrase.**

**A man of straw**

A. a worthy fellow

B. a man of no substance

C. a very active man

D. a selfish person

8. **Select the option which gives correct meaning of the given idiom/phrase.**

**To weather the storm**

A. survive a difficult situation

B. create difficulty for others

C. victim of crisis

D. unsuccessful attempt

9. In the sentence given below, replace the phrase underlined to make the sentence grammatically correct. If the sentence is correct as it is, mark (d) i.e. "No correction required" as the answer.

Whether I stay in Mumbai or Pune, it is all and one to me.

- A. all but one
- B. all one
- C. one and all
- D. No correction required

10. In the sentence given below, replace the phrase underlined to make the sentence grammatically correct. If the sentence is correct as it is, mark (e) i.e. "No error" as the answer.

1. She has been working off and on for several months to complete the project.

- A. Regularly
- B. on and off
- C. on or off
- D. on and of
- E. No error

11. In the following question, an idiom or proverb has been underlined. Choose its correct meaning in the given context from the alternatives given below.

Her fame spread far and wide because she was a talented singer.

- A. Her fame grew
- B. Her fame lessened
- C. Her fame ended
- D. Her fame began

12. In the following question, an idiom or proverb has been highlighted. Choose its correct meaning in the given context from the alternatives given below.

She played a cat and mouse game with all her boyfriends.

- A. She played a game

- B. She had a cat
- C. Her boyfriends gave her cats and mice
- D. She played like a cat with her boyfriends who were all mice

13. In the following question, an idiom or proverb has been underlined. Choose its correct meaning in the given context from the alternatives given below.

She knew that the best way to get into hot water was to anger her boss.

- A. to enter water heated by the sun
- B. to have hot water
- C. to be confused
- D. to get into trouble

14. In the following question, an idiom or proverb has been underlined. Choose its correct meaning in the given context from the alternatives given below.

She knew that it took two to tango and if he objected, she would not be able to pass the test.

- A. two people to agree
- B. two people to disagree
- C. two people to be angry
- D. None of the above

15. In the following question, an idiom or proverb has been underlined. Choose its correct meaning in the given context from the alternatives given below.

i was hoping against hope that she would agree to my proposal.

- A. Hoping for something
- B. Hoping against something
- C. Hoping without any/little chance of success
- D. None of the above

16. In the following question, an idiom or proverb has been underlined. Choose its correct meaning in the given context from the alternatives given below.

**She was scared to death when she realised she had selected the wrong slide for the company presentation.**

- A. She actually died from fear
- B. She suffered extreme death-like fear
- C. She felt death was frightening
- D. None of the above

**17. In the following question, an idiom or proverb has been highlighted. Choose its correct meaning in the given context from the alternatives given below.**

**She was the shining star in the office when it came to efficiency and punctuality.**

- A. She was shiny like a star
- B. She was as luminescent as a shining star when it came to performance
- C. Stars were shining in the office
- D. None of the above

**18. Four alternatives are given for the idioms/ phrases underlined in the sentence. Choose the one that best expresses the meaning of the idiom**

**The demolition of the Babri Masjid had been a political hot potato for years.**

- A. a hotly debated delicate issue
- B. a helping agent
- C. forbidden issue
- D. something that has been for long in the newspapers

**19. A situation is provided below, followed by an idiom or proverb. Choose the one which fits the situation best.**

**The written word carries more weight and can influence more minds into submission than brute force.**

- A. Cunning can win more bets than power.
- B. The pen is mightier than the sword.
- C. Achieve with words what you cannot achieve by action.

D. The written word weigheth more than the sword.

20. A situation is provided below, followed by a idiom or proverb. Choose the one which fits the situation best.

**You cannot live totally on your own. You will need the help of someone at one point or another.**

A. Keep your friends close and your enemies closer.

B. Too many cooks spoil the broth.

C. No man is an island.

D. Good fences make good neighbors.

### Answers – Practice – I

1. A    2. C    3. D    4. B    5. B    6. C    7. B    8. A    9. B    10. E    11. A    12. A  
13. D    14. A    15. C    16. B    17. B    18. A    19. B    20. C

### Practice - II

Fill in the blanks with the correct option.

1. **Whenever we went out to dinner, I had to foot the bill.**

A. finds favour with

B. beyond control

C. pay for it

2. **You have hit the nail on the head.**

A. said/ done the right thing

B. scolded him for

C. ran away fast

3. **When the politician raised hate slogans, the crowd got out of hand.**

A. pay for it

B. beyond control

- C. finds favour with
4. **She is in the good books of the teacher.**
- A. finds favour with
- B. said/ done the right thing
- C. ran away fast
5. **He is working against time on this project.**
- A. finds favour with
- B. at great speed
- C. beyond control
6. **The headmaster took him to task for his unpunctuality.**
- A. beyond control
- B. finds favour with
- C. scolded him for
7. **They wanted the agreement in black and white.**
- A. finds favour with
- B. in writing
- C. beyond control
8. **The boys took to their heels on seeing the hive.**
- A. scolded him for
- B. ran away fast
- C. beyond control

### **Answers – Practice – II**

1. C    2. A    3. B    4. A    5. B    6. C    7. B    8. B

## Practice - III

- **Directions:** In each of the following question, some alternatives are suggested for the idiom/phrase in bold in the sentence. Choose the one which best expresses the meaning of the idiom/phrase in bold.
1. Rajesh and Vikas have remained friends **through thick and thin**
    - a. Under all conditions, undaunted by anything
    - b. Through happy days
    - c. In spite of all difficulties
    - d. Always
  2. He resigned the post of **his own accord**
    - a. Voluntarily and willingly
    - b. According to his convenience
    - c. According to his judgement
    - d. Which he liked
  3. He believes in the policy of **making hay while the sun shines**
    - a. Helping those who help him
    - b. Seeking advice from one and all
    - c. Giving bribes to get his work done
    - d. Making the best use of a favourable situation
  4. Those persons who are ready **to sail close to the wind** can be successful in life
    - a. To work hard
    - b. To be regular
    - c. To take risk
    - d. To manage his situation
  5. He is always **picking holes** in every project

- a. Finding fault with
  - b. Creating problems in
  - c. Asking irrelevant questions on
  - d. Suggesting improvement in
6. The Cricket match proved to be **a big draw**
- a. A lovely spectacle
  - b. A huge attraction
  - c. A game without any result
  - d. A keen contest
7. He is a strange fellow. It is very difficult to deal with him; it seems that he has **a bee in his bonnet**
- a. To face problems as a result of his senseless actions
  - b. Peculiar habit of confusing others
  - c. An achievement to be proud of
  - d. An obsession about something
8. He is temporarily in charge of the company and trying **to feather his nest**
- A. Act for his own future benefits
  - B. Practice his own brand of management philosophy
  - C. Raise the image of the company
  - D. Bring order and discipline in the company
9. The soldiers **laid down their arms**
- A. Refused to obey orders
  - B. Put the arms in their place
  - C. Put their arms on the ground

D. Surrendered

10. Some people now wonder whether we just pay **lip service** or genuinely subscribe to democracy

A. Remain indifferent

B. Show only outward respect

C. Pay oral tribute

D. Attach no value

11. He was a king who ruled his subjects **with a high hand**

A. Conveniently

B. Sympathetically

C. Oppressively

D. Kindly

12. Harassed by repeated acts of injustice, he decided to **put his foot down**.

A. Withdraw

B. Accept the proposal unconditionally

C. Resign

D. Not to yield

13. Being an introvert, he will only eat his **heart out**

A. Invite trouble

B. Suffer silently

C. Eat too much

D. Keep brooding

14. Not caring for the family, Devender wanted **to gather roses only**.

A. Wanted to make safe investment

- B. Wanted to seek all the enjoyments of life
- C. Wanted to paint a rosy picture of the past
- D. Wanted to start business of roses

15. During Christmas, even the elderly fathers **paint the town red**.

- A. Spill red wine
- B. Have a lively time
- C. Indulge in rioting
- D. Paint the house red

16. Tell me plainly who broke the mirror, **do not beat around the bush**

- A. Approach the matter in a round about way
- B. Try to impress me with your arguments
- C. Put any blame on others
- D. Pretend to be unaware of the matter

17. When he tells stories about himself, he is inclined **to draw the long bone**

- A. Get emotional
- B. Understate
- C. Get excited
- D. Exaggerate

18. It is difficult to **keep a level head** in these days of mounting prices

- A. Make both ends meet
- B. Maintain standard of living
- C. Remain cool and composed
- D. Eek out existence

19. His voice **gets on my nerves**

- A. Makes me ill
- B. Pierces my eardrums
- C. Makes me sad
- D. Irritates me

20. Caesar was **done to death** by the conspirators

- A. Eliminated
- B. Murdered
- C. Attacked
- D. Removed

21. In the armed forces, it is considered a great privilege to **die in harness**

- A. Die while still working
- B. Die in the battle field
- C. Die with honour
- D. Die on the horse back

22. The teacher was **as good as his word**

- A. Highly pretentious
- B. Ready to fulfil his promise
- C. Incapable of action
- D. Better than expected

23. She rejected his proposal of marriage **point-blank**

- A. Abruptly
- B. Briefly
- C. Directly
- D. Pointedly

### Answers – Practice – III

1. A    2. A    3. D    4. C    5. A    6. B    7. C    8. A    9. D    10. B    11. C    12. D  
13. B    14. B    15. B    16. A    17. D    18. C    19. D    20. B    21. A    22. B    23. C