

Test: Idioms and Phrases

Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the idiom/phrase given in bold.

1. **A close shave**
 - (a) A lucky escape
 - (b) A well guarded secret
 - (c) A clean shave
 - (d) A narrow escape
2. **To smell a rat**
 - (a) To misunderstand
 - (b) A bad smell
 - (c) To see hidden meaning
 - (d) None of above
3. The passing of anti-defection law **struck a chill to the heart** of every opportunistic legislator
 - (a) Caused anger
 - (b) Caused relief
 - (c) Aroused fear
 - (d) Awakened bitterness
4. **In this day and age**
 - (a) In old age of a person
 - (b) Logically concluded time
 - (c) To be suddenly aware of
 - (d) In modern time
5. **To show the white feathers**
 - (a) To be peaceful
 - (b) To show signs of cowardice
 - (c) To be fashionable
 - (d) To become polite
6. Our house is within a **stone's throw** from the Red Building.
 - (a) Far off
 - (b) Far away
 - (c) Very near to
 - (d) Beside
7. **To strike a bargain**
 - (a) To criticize one
 - (b) To interrupt one
 - (c) To face facts
 - (d) Come to an agreement
8. The deceits **took to their heels** when the police party arrived
 - (a) Took shelter in some one's house
 - (b) Took to flight
 - (c) Renewed their resolve to fight.
 - (d) Surrendered unconditionally
9. **To beat the air**
 - (a) To act foolishly
 - (b) To make efforts that are useless
 - (c) To pollute air
 - (d) None of above
10. The day I graduated was a **red-letter day** for me
 - (a) A dangerous day
 - (b) An important day
 - (c) An eventful day
 - (d) A formidable day
11. **To have an axe to grind**
 - (a) To have punishment.
 - (b) A private end to serve
 - (c) To have difficult job
 - (d) To escape from the danger
12. I am reasonably sure that all his schemes will **end in smoke**
 - (a) Bear no fruits
 - (b) Will produce good results
 - (c) Do not motivate the poor
 - (d) To face problem
13. Many young artists were **dropping names** at the party to impress the gathering
 - (a) Talking proudly about their family members
 - (b) Using pet names
 - (c) Hinting at high connections
 - (d) Talking informally

14. These days prices have risen so much it is better to **go Dutch** while having a party.
- Go to Holland
 - Bear all the expense
 - Bear the cost of an outing
 - Each person pays his own share of the expenses
15. **To keep one's shirt on**
- To be in trouble
 - To praise oneself
 - To explore every alternative
 - To control one's temper
16. The **bare bones** of the one hour conversation was that he hated my guts.
- The main point
 - Just the bones
 - With the flesh removed
 - The naked truth
17. The teacher announced that she had no **blue-eyed boys** in the class
- Royal children
 - Young boys
 - Foreigners
 - Favourites
18. Rohan has made a **laughing stock** of the braggart.
- Look ridiculous
 - Laughing storehouse
 - Foolish
 - Laugh.
19. He was confident that all his present sufferings will soon **blow over**.
- Increase
 - Pass off
 - Be looked into
 - Be taken care of
20. To **stamp away**
- To go out for a walk
 - In a benevolent mood
 - To relies suddenly
 - To go away in anger
21. The teacher advised the students **to take into account** the advice given by the elders
- To obey
 - To neglect
 - To consider
 - To reject
22. It was clearly a case of the **pot calling the kettle black** when Mohan said that Sonu was a liar.
- Someone criticizing another for a fault which he has himself.
 - Both are guilty of the same mistake
 - Someone blaming someone else for something he has himself done.
 - Someone accusing another of being black.
23. **To be in name only**
- To live with joy without popularity
 - A powerful person
 - In theory only
 - To be held in high esteem
24. The lawyer asked his assistant to collect the details regarding the **pros and cons** of the case
- Ups and downs
 - In and out
 - Weak and strong
 - For and against
25. The incident was **blown up** and people were made to believe that there was a large-scale violence
- Exploded
 - Flown up
 - Made huge
 - Exaggerated

Answers

1. d 2. a 3. c 4. d 5. b 6. C
7. D 8. b 9. b 10. b 11. b 12. a
13. c 14. d 15. d 16. a 17. d 18. a
19. b 20. d 21. c 22. a 23. c 24. d
25. d

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