

IDIOMS & PHRASES BASED GENERAL ENGLISH PRACTICE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS PDF WITH EXPLANATION

For All Competitive SSC, Bank, IBPS, UPSC, Railway, IT & Other Govt. Exams

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Directions:

In each of the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase in bold in the sentence. **Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase as your answer.**

Q1. Please be as brief as you can, I **have other fish to fry**.

- a) to take rest
- b) some important work to attend to
- c) to attend the friends
- d) to cook the food

Q2. The secretary's thoughtless remark **added fuel to the fire**.

- a) worsened the difficult situation
- b) helped in improving the situation
- c) prevented the situation
- d) added humour to the situation

Q3. I want to tell you **in a nut shell**, lust for money and power ruined her life.

- a) confidentially
- b) in detail
- c) in a brief manner
- d) as objectively as possible

Q4. I'll be able to do my job very well when I **know the ropes**.

- a) work in silence
- b) learn the procedures
- c) gain confidence
- d) become bolder

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Q5. Ask Mr. Das. He can give you all the news you need : he is always **in the swim**.

- a) at the swimming pool
- b) in search of news
- c) well informed and up to date
- d) giving news to others

Q6. The detective went abroad in search of a culprit but his journey proved to be **a wild goose chase**.

- a) full of difficulties
- b) unprofitable adventure
- c) ill advised
- d) expensive

Q7. a close shave.

- a) stubble
- b) very short hair
- c) hairless skin
- d) a narrow escape from danger

Q8. It was her **maiden speech** on the stage and she performed well.

- a) sudden speech
 - b) primary speech
 - c) first speech
 - d) unprepared speech
-

Q9. His argument does **not hold water**.

- a) to influence
 - b) to check the flow of water
 - c) sound logical fact
 - d) to have effect
-

Q10. He could not get money from his master because he **rubbed him up the wrong way**.

- a) asked him to speed up
 - b) suggested a wrong method
 - c) advised him to be strict
 - d) irked or irritated him
-

Q11. Our school is **within a stone's throw** of the railway station.

- a) very far off
 - b) at a short distance
 - c) within a definite distance
 - d) within a certain radius
-

Q12. a **close-fisted person**

- a) a miser

- b) a close friend
- c) a cowardly person
- d) a powerful person

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Q13. Deepak did not care for his family, he wanted **to gather roses only**.

- a) to paint a rosy picture of the past
- b) to seek all enjoyments of life
- c) to obtain fame by hard work
- d) to save money miserly

Q14. You have been trying to solve this puzzle for a long time, be careful so that you avoid **barking up the wrong tree**.

- a) trying to find something at a wrong place
- b) keep working constantly
- c) climbing the wrong tree
- d) trying to solve problems

Q15. to feather one's nest

- a) to build one's house
- b) to enrich oneself when opportunity occurs
- c) to get something in abundance
- d) to harbour ill feelings

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Answers to the above questions :

Q1. Answer: (b)

have other fish to fry : to have more important or more interesting things to do.

He declined to come along to the movie, saying he had other fish to fry.

The best option is some important work to attend to

Q2. Answer: (a)

add fuel to fire : to make an argument continue or get worse.

Shouting at a crying child is adding fuel to the fire.

The best option is worsened the difficult situation.

Q3. Answer: (c)

put something in a nutshell : to express something in a very clear way, using few words.

To put in a nutshell, we are bankrupt.

The best option is in a brief manner

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Q4. Answer: (b)

know the ropes : to show somebody/know/learn how a particular job should be done.

Don't worry about Suma's taking over that reporter's job; she already knows the ropes.

The best option is learn the procedures

Q5. Answer: (c)

in the swim : involved in things that are happening in society or in a particular situation.

Since leaving the company, he's no longer in the swim of things.

The best option is well-informed and up-to-date.

Q6. Answer: (b)

a wild goose chase : a search for something that is impossible for you to find or that does not exist, that makes you waste a lot of time.

After two hours spent wandering in the snow, I realized we were on a wild goose chase.

The best option is unprofitable adventure

Q7. Answer: (d)

a close shave/call : a situation in which you only just manage to avoid an accident.

The speeding car passed only a few inches from us - a real close shave.

The best option is a narrow escape from danger.

Q8. Answer: (c)

maiden speech : the first speech made by an MP in the parliaments of some countries.

She was terrified of making her maiden speech.

The best option is first speech

Q9. Answer: (c)

not hold water : If an argument, an excuse, a theory etc., does not hold water, you cannot believe it.

Hold water : to stand up to critical examination

Your explanation doesn't hold water.

The best option is sound logical fact

Q10. Answer: (d)

rub somebody the wrong way : to make somebody annoyed or angry, often without intending to.

She tends to rub people up the wrong way.

The best option is irked or irritated him.

Q11. Answer: (b)

within a stone's throw : a very short distance away.

We live just a stone's throw from here.

The best option is at a short distance

Q12. Answer: (a)

A close-fisted (person) : not willing to spend or give much money ; mean; stingy.

My uncle is a close-fisted person.

The best option is a miser

Q13. Answer: (b)

to gather roses only : to seek all the enjoyments of life

Gathering roses only, without taking care of parents is not a good quality in any child.

The best option is to seek all enjoyments of life.

Q14. Answer: (a)

barking up the wrong tree : to have the wrong idea about how to get or achieve it.

You're barking up the wrong tree if you're expecting us to lend you any money.

The best option is trying to find something at a wrong place

Q15. Answer: (b)

to feather one's nest : to make oneself richer, especially by spending money on oneself that should be spent on something else.

Bob's many profitable assignments enabled him to feather his nest comfortably.

The best option is to enrich one self when opportunity occurs.

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