

Chapter

5

Idioms and Phrases

Exercise

1. Zero tolerance
 - (a) Accuracy is paramount
 - (b) Non-acceptance of antisocial behaviour
 - (c) No return without risk
 - (d) No problem at all
2. Variety is the spice of life
 - (a) New experiences make life more interesting
 - (b) Experimentation may be risky
 - (c) Life is very beautiful
 - (d) There is no life without excitement
3. Scot-free
 - (a) To escape from captivity
 - (b) Be free of all responsibilities
 - (c) To Get something unexpected
 - (d) Without suffering any punishment or injury
4. Tongue-in-cheek
 - (a) In an insincere way
 - (b) To praise wholeheartedly
 - (c) A sensational news
 - (d) To say something hurtful
5. Wear your heart on your sleeve
 - (a) a very bold person
 - (b) a noble pure person
 - (c) make one's feelings apparent
 - (d) being overtly polite at all times
6. When it rains, it pours
 - (a) one getting much less than what one expected
 - (b) calamity always occurs in bad times
 - (c) you always fall into trouble when you are least prepared
 - (d) When something bad occurs, it usually occurs more than once
7. Add fuel to the fire
 - (a) Go from one bad situation to another
 - (b) A cause becomes stronger when more people join
 - (c) The flame will extinguish if it runs out of oil
 - (d) Cause a situation to become worse
8. A slap on the wrist
 - (a) A mild punishment
 - (b) Punishing the wrong person
 - (c) To hit someone where it hurts the most
 - (d) To threaten someone
9. Actions speak louder than words
 - (a) Achievers are better than those who talk big
 - (b) No action can compensate for saying bad words
 - (c) A pen is mightier than a sword
 - (d) What someone does mean more than what they say they will do
10. A blessing in disguise
 - (a) A misfortune that eventually has good results
 - (b) A person who has changed so much that he is now unrecognisable
 - (c) A prayer asking for God's favour
 - (d) A bad person hiding his face behind a mask
11. Against the clock
 - (a) To do a job fast to finish it before a deadline
 - (b) Time is money
 - (c) Man is a victim of time
 - (d) It is useless to fight destiny
12. Scapegoat
 - (a) Animal sacrifice as an offering to God
 - (b) The most useful animal or person
 - (c) A lucky person who is forgiven for his crimes
 - (d) A person who is blamed for the mistakes of others
13. A dime a dozen
 - (a) Strength is in numbers
 - (b) People who say bad things have no value
 - (c) Very common and of no particular value
 - (d) You save more if you buy in large numbers
14. A drop in the bucket
 - (a) So much silence that even a drop can be heard
 - (b) A very small amount compared with what is needed
 - (c) The final act before the task is done
 - (d) A small favour is worth a lot to a person in trouble



15. Practice makes a man perfect
 (a) Perfection demands patience
 (b) Any problem can be solved if you are willing to try many times
 (c) Regular activity is the way to become proficient in it
 (d) It takes a long time to form a good habit
16. Pull the plug
 (a) Make a firm refusal
 (b) Save a situation by acting in the nick of time
 (c) To waste away somebody's effort
 (d) Prevent something from continuing
17. A hot potato
 (a) A war like situation which could have been easily avoided
 (b) A common eatery but favoured by celebrities
 (c) A controversial situation which is awkward to deal with
 (d) A celebrity who keeps getting into some or the other controversy
18. New kid on the block
 (a) New rules which are bound to fail
 (b) A junior
 (c) A new social trend
 (d) A newcomer
19. Water under the bridge
 (a) To create solutions to overcome any problem
 (b) Past events are no longer important
 (c) Young days can never be brought back again
 (d) Time keeps flowing endlessly
20. Wag the dog
 (a) To divert attention from something of greater importance to something of lesser importance
 (b) To be nice to someone if you want that person's loyalty
 (c) To praise someone to get that person's love
 (d) A small favour to a person who loves you matters a lot to that person
21. Tie the knot
 (a) To put yourself into a problem
 (b) To make a fateful decision
 (c) To sign the deal
 (d) To get married
22. The ball is in your court
 (a) It is up to you to make the next move
 (b) You have got a fantastic opportunity
 (c) You will be blamed for crimes that you have not committed
 (d) You have been put into a dilemma.
23. A piece of cake
 (a) Everything tastes nice to a hungry person
 (b) Getting a smaller share than expected
 (c) It is difficult to forget tasty food
 (d) Something easily achieved
24. A picture paints a thousand words
 (a) An image of a subject conveys its meaning or essence more effectively than a description does
 (b) It is impossible to describe a beautiful sight
 (c) A painter can express his feelings better than a writer
 (d) A beautiful poem creates a mental picture
25. To bite off more than one can chew
 (a) To take on a commitment that one cannot fulfill
 (b) A task which has unexpectedly become very difficult
 (c) A greedy person will always suffer
 (d) To grab a share more than what is rightfully theirs
26. To bite the bullet
 (a) Hatred should be nipped in the bud
 (b) To do something difficult that one has been hesitating over
 (c) To punish someone who was later found to be not guilty
 (d) To prevent someone from getting killed
27. Bed of roses
 (a) What may look comfortable may have hidden thorns
 (b) A situation or activity that is comfortable or easy
 (c) A warm welcome to loved one
 (d) One needs to be extremely rich to live a luxurious life
28. Back to the drawing board
 (a) An idea has been unsuccessful and that a new one must be devised
 (b) A person decides his own fate
 (c) All efforts can be wasted because of one mistake
 (d) One always returns to his roots in times of crisis
29. To make a long story short
 (a) A very long boring narrative
 (b) One should always communicate with fewer words wherever possible



- (c) Used to end an account of events quickly
(d) When you want the complete details and not just the summary
30. To steal someone's thunder
(a) To share the secret of a person just before that person was supposed to receive praise
(b) To defuse the ego of an egoistic person
(c) To plagiarize work done by others
(d) To do a job before another person can do it and take away the credit
31. Rise and shine
(a) Work hard and succeed in life
(b) An expression used when waking someone up
(c) Try harder to overcome life's problems
(d) Be of spotless character
32. Raining cats and dogs
(a) It is raining unusually hard
(b) To win a big lottery
(c) To get wealth beyond what one deserves
(d) To become filthy rich by honest means
33. Run out of steam
(a) To lose impetus or enthusiasm
(b) To work quickly like a machine
(c) To give up easily
(d) no more money to spend
34. saved by the bell
(a) when time is in your favour
(b) saved at the last moment
(c) the bell rings at the most opportune time
(d) prayers are answered when the church bell rings
35. Smell a rat
(a) To sense that events will not be in one's favour
(b) To begin to suspect trickery or deception
(c) To be forewarned of danger to oneself
(d) To prevent calamity by chance
36. Sixth sense
(a) An intuitive power of perception
(b) A strong power of sense
(c) An ability to perceive when something will go wrong
(d) The false feeling that you know the truth
37. Rome was not built in a day
(a) It takes time to create great things
(b) You have to win many wars to build an empire
- (b) A task done hurriedly fails completely
(d) Building anything worth while requires skill
38. Rule of thumb
(a) A rough unit of measure for small lengths
(b) A broadly accurate guide based on practice
(c) To force someone to work against his wish
(d) To use your power to ensure discipline
39. Turn a blind eye
(a) Not able to see the obvious truth
(b) Hide the ugly truth from someone
(c) Pretend not to notice
(d) Stay away from bad habits
40. Up a blind alley
(a) hiding something intentionally from another person
(b) not warning a person who is in danger
(c) one can enjoy thrills only if one takes risk
(d) following a course of action that is certain to lead to an undesirable outcome
41. Familiarity breeds contempt
(a) close association with someone leads to a loss of respect for them
(b) if you do an undesirable thing daily then it becomes acceptable
(c) too many people living closely will eventually cause bitterness
(d) routine has to be broken to bring excitement to life
42. Don't put all your eggs in one basket
(a) avoid risky ventures if you want to be successful in life
(b) don't risk everything on the success of one venture
(c) one should try multiple things, at least one will succeed
(d) those who are blessed with more children are happier
43. Through thick and thin
(a) To be together under all circumstances, no matter how difficult
(b) None of the days are alike. Some are good and some are bad
(c) To pass through various types of obstacles
(d) An obese person suddenly losing weight
44. Thumb one's nose
(a) an illmannered person
(b) to show affection
(c) to scold a naughty person
(d) to express scorn



45. Wild goose chase
 (a) A hopeless search for something unattainable
 (b) An adventurous trip full of surprises
 (c) To waste a lot of time and effort for small returns
 (d) To have fun doing a certain task
46. You bet
 (a) Contradicting someone
 (b) Certainly
 (c) Gamble
 (d) Letting others lead
47. To put the cat among the pigeons
 (a) To hunt easy prey
 (b) To be different in a group where everybody is alike
 (c) To do something that is likely to cause controversy
 (d) When the entire group feels trapped in a bad situation
48. to shoot the breeze
 (a) To do random acts hoping one will be successful
 (b) To have a casual conversation
 (c) To release stomach gases
 (d) To brag about some mild achievement
49. The best of both worlds
 (a) To live like a saint so that you are the best in the living world as well as the heavens
 (b) To be lucky in life as well as in death
 (c) The benefits of widely differing situations, enjoyed at the same time
 (d) To be popular amongst both the opposing groups
50. To take the cake
 (a) To have something unexpectedly good to eat
 (b) To get a lovely gift
 (c) To grab the prize before others
 (d) To be especially good; outstanding
51. Shoot ing fish in a barrel
 (a) To do random acts of stupidity
 (b) To behave in a cruel manner
 (c) Ridiculously easy
 (d) To escape through a narrow opening
52. To sleep with the fishes
 (a) Always be in a dream world
 (b) To make absurd excuses
 (c) To sleep peacefully
 (d) To be dead
53. Ignorance is bliss
 (a) Lack of knowledge is a curse
 (b) Sometimes it is better for you if you do not know all the facts
 (c) Fools believe they know more than the wise
 (d) To be truly happy one should ignore everything else
54. Have a blast
 (a) A party with very loud music
 (b) To have peace amidst noise
 (c) To have a lot of fun
 (d) An explosion of happiness
55. There is no such thing as a free lunch.
 (a) It isn't possible to get something for nothing
 (b) There is no genuine kindness in this world
 (c) Even a mother will expect something for her love
 (d) Those who are tempted by free things, end up spending more
56. By the skin of one's teeth
 (a) to hurt someone
 (b) Teeth show health of an animal or a person
 (c) Dental hygiene is critical for good health
 (d) A very narrow margin
57. Crocodile tears
 (a) To feel sad for another person's misfortunes
 (b) To laugh so much that your eyes start to water
 (c) A person whose sadness is never noticed
 (d) Expressions of sorrow that are insincere
58. Chink in one's armour
 (a) A spotless shield tells that the person has not yet fought any war
 (b) A small crack if not repaired will break the shield
 (c) An area of vulnerability
 (d) One's primary defence system against loss or injury
59. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder
 (a) The world is beautiful if one can see it that way
 (b) To see only beautiful things if one wants to make his life beautiful
 (c) That which one person finds beautiful or admirable may not appeal to another
 (d) For an infatuated person even bad qualities of the beloved appear good
60. Necessity is the mother of invention
 (a) solution to a problem is easy if one is sufficiently desperate



- (b) great inventions happen only if you are desperate
- (c) there is always a mother behind every great scientist who has invented something
- (d) when the need for something becomes essential, you are forced to find ways of getting it
61. By the seat of one's pants
- (a) When one is saved in the nick of time
- (b) Your future depends on what choices you make now
- (c) To do it using only one's own experience and judgment
- (d) Nothing worthwhile can be achieved if you sit in one place
62. Discretion is the greater part of valour
- (a) To be brave in any situation
- (b) Caution is preferable to rash bravery
- (c) A genuinely brave person is always humble
- (d) If you are over-cautious then you cannot achieve great things
63. Too many cooks spoil the broth
- (a) it is always better to do a job independently
- (b) asking many people for advice will cause confusion, and the decision will never be made
- (c) if too many people are involved in a task or activity, it will not be done well
- (d) food is always cooked better if one person cooks it
64. Easy come, easy go
- (a) if you forcibly tie up a person in a relationship that person will run away
- (b) no matter what, one should never lose temper
- (c) every task is easy for a talented person
- (d) something acquired without effort may be lost without regret
65. To spill the beans
- (a) To reveal secret information unintentionally
- (b) To lose inherited wealth
- (c) To spread rumours to intentionally harm someone
- (d) To spend away hard-earned savings
66. To spin one's wheels
- (a) to take a chance
- (b) to do a job quickly
- (c) to narrate someone a confusing story
- (d) to waste one's time
67. No horse in this race
- (a) A rigged contest
- (b) A very easily won contest where there are no strong contestants
- (c) To have no vested interest in the outcome of a contest
- (d) To have no chance of winning
68. To be pushing up daisies
- (a) To get up feeling fresh
- (b) To be dead and buried
- (c) To smell like flowers
- (d) Once beautiful but now ugly
69. To jump ship
- (a) Climbing the career ladder
- (b) To jump to grab an opportunity
- (c) To leave an organization
- (d) To renounce great wealth
70. To kick the bucket
- (a) to get angry (b) to die
- (c) to fall ill (d) to get hurt
71. X marks the spot
- (a) A very popular place
- (b) Not to tell others of a fantastic discovery
- (c) The exact location
- (d) A secret hideout
72. You can say that again
- (a) To challenge someone
- (b) To express agreement
- (c) To politely ask someone to repeat
- (d) A favourite story
73. The elephant in the room
- (a) A very fat man
- (b) When a big person is finally trapped
- (c) An obvious problem that no one wants to discuss
- (d) One person who is strong enough to defeat everybody else
74. to make from scratch
- (a) The universe was created out of nothing
- (b) To do something from the beginning
- (c) To build something out of nothing
- (d) One scratch if neglected will destroy the structure eventually
75. If you can't beat 'them, join 'them
- (a) Many times those who fight eventually become best of friends
- (b) If one has to give up fighting with some group because one can't win, band together with them



- (c) Not to hurt others. Instead, be friends with them.
 (d) To fight till you get acceptance to a group which does not initially accept you as a member
76. All good things must come to an end
 (a) Even enjoyable experiences cannot last for ever
 (b) A good story should always have a happy ending
 (c) The world will be destroyed one day
 (d) Only bad things can continue forever. Life of good things feel short.
77. barking up the wrong tree
 (a) One should ignore those who keep harassing them
 (b) To say something wrong to a person who has always been kind to you
 (c) Scolding a thick-skinned person will cause no improvement
 (d) To be pursuing a misguided line of course of action
78. Back to the drawing board
 (a) To solve a problem one has to go back to the root cause
 (b) An inventive person will find fresh ways to solve a problem
 (c) An idea has been unsuccessful and that a new one must be devised
 (d) An artist is always happy if he gets a chance to go back to painting
79. blood is thicker than water
 (a) relations are more important than merit
 (b) all crimes are not equal so punishment for murder is not same as that of theft
 (c) family relationships and loyalties are the strongest and most important ones
 (d) deceit from a family member hurts more than being cheated by strangers
80. once in a blue moon
 (a) an imaginary situation
 (b) feeling sad
 (c) a beautiful sight
 (d) to happen very rarely
81. A fool and his money are easily parted
 (a) a foolish person spends money carelessly and will soon be penniless
 (b) a miser will eventually lose all his money due to one foolish mistake
- (c) a foolish person will never be able to get rich
 (d) a rich person should be smart enough to avoid people who will fool him for his wealth
82. All bark and no bite
 (a) Children should only be scolded but never beaten
 (b) To be full of big talk but lacking action
 (c) The person who appears most scary will help you the most
 (d) A person who talks a lot will never harm you
83. backseat driver
 (a) A person who keeps giving advice to others for things that they are not responsible
 (b) The one who is sitting in the back seat behaves like a boss
 (c) The real power lies in the hands of those who control the strings
 (d) The puppet dances to the actions of the puppeteer
84. Back to square one
 (a) Remembering one's past makes one humble
 (b) To be back to where one started, with no progress having been made
 (c) To become friends once again with a person with whom you had a fight
 (d) To apologize for one's past actions
85. an arm and a leg
 (a) a large, possibly exorbitant, amount of money
 (b) a highly motivated person can succeed even with few resources
 (c) one loves a person so much that one is willing to sacrifice his most precious things for them
 (d) all children are equal for a mother. She can't sacrifice anyone.
86. an axe to grind
 (a) preparing for a fight
 (b) to have a problem with something or someone
 (c) some important task to do
 (d) one's skill should always be practiced or their edge becomes blunt
87. All in the same boat.
 (a) staying together is the secret to successfully navigating the ups and downs of life
 (b) In a group, one's situation is tied up with the situation of the rest.
 (c) There is false sense of safety in a large group
 (d) To be in the same unpleasant situation as other people



88. All Greek to me
- The new person in a group gets the most attention
 - Learning a new language is very difficult
 - Saying that one does not understand something that is said or written
 - Everything is new when one is in a new country
89. to bend over backwards
- to accommodate every unreasonable request usually without getting anything back
 - stepping away from an unpleasant situation
 - to make every effort to achieve something, especially to be fair or helpful
 - submitting oneself completely to a higher authority
90. The dilemma
- life is always choosing between two options
 - challenges are hidden opportunities
 - escaping one difficulty but falling into another
 - faced with two equally undesirable alternatives
91. at the drop of a hat
- to challenge someone
 - to give up very easily
 - to pick a fight for small reasons
 - without hesitation or good reason
92. apple of my eye
- every thing looks enticing to a hungry person
 - a very pleasant thing to watch
 - someone that one cherishes above all others
 - the ugliest child is still pretty for a mother
93. No man is an island
- a man is self-sufficient only when he gets married
 - no one is self-sufficient; everyone relies on others
 - nobody prefers to live alone
 - to not marry is like living on an island
94. The squeaky wheel gets the grease
- the most noticeable problems are the ones most likely to get attention
 - one unfortunate child always keep getting punished
 - the person who complains the most is hated the most
 - the favourite child or student gets the most attention
95. To beat a dead horse
- To revive interest in a hopeless issue
 - A cruel master will expect a slave to work even after his death
 - To extract everything from a resource till it fails
 - Doing a cruel act
96. beating around the bush
- Not accepting the real issue and solving minor problems
 - To avoid getting to the point of an issue
 - To run around in circles and never accomplishing results
 - Avoiding coming face to face with a problem, escaping
97. to bite off more than you can chew
- to take on a commitment one cannot fulfil
 - to grab a share more than what one rightfully deserves
 - to hog more than what one needs
 - a greedy person can easily be identified from the way one eats
98. to bite your tongue
- to cause self-inflicting harm
 - to make a desperate effort to avoid saying something
 - harsh words once spoken can never come back
 - to be astonished
99. Two heads are better than one
- having a partner reduces risk in a business
 - to be lonely is a curse
 - it's helpful to have the advice of a second person
 - a married life is better than living as a bachelor
100. Don't count your chickens before they hatch
- Not to live in a fancy imaginary world, where everything happens as per your wish
 - Counting your wealth repeatedly will not make it grow
 - One should be optimistic but be ready for failures
 - Not to be too sure that something good you hope for will really happen It might not happen after all
101. whole nine yards
- love someone blindly
 - euphemism for an Indian dress called sari



- (c) a small area but sufficient
(d) everything possible
102. under the weather
(a) changing moods like weather
(b) a situation changes so fast that it leaves one unprepared
(c) slightly unwell
(d) raining heavily
103. Birds of a feather flock together
(a) even a small similarity is enough to become friends and stay together
(b) there is always more safety in a crowd
(c) people with the same tastes and interests will be found together
(d) people with bad intentions always form a gang
104. Beggars can't be choosers
(a) those who have nothing have no hope
(b) all your options close when you are going through a bad time
(c) a poor person is forced to kill all his desires
(d) people with no other options must be content with what is offered
105. to chew someone out
(a) to bore someone by talking ceaselessly
(b) to discourage someone who is going to start a new venture
(c) reprimand someone severely
(d) to save someone
106. to chip on his shoulder
(a) to have huge responsibilities on one's shoulders
(b) uniform decorated with stars and medals
(c) wearing your battle scars like medals
(d) holding a grudge or grievance that readily provokes a fight
107. feeding frenzy
(a) a mad rush to complete a big project before deadline
(b) an episode of frantic competition for something
(c) a party where people hog on food
(d) a craze which rapidly spreads all over the world
108. excuse my French
(a) to apologize for swearing
(b) to speak in a language that others can't understand
(c) being excessively polite
(d) lack of foreign language skills
109. to cry over spilt milk
(a) to dwell pointlessly on past misfortunes
(b) to feel sorry for others' misfortunes
(c) to immediately start crying after making a mistake to avoid punishment
(d) to acknowledge one's mistake and move ahead
110. to cry wolf
(a) to keep complaining over small issues
(b) to raise a false alarm
(c) to act as if one feels sorry for the other person
(d) to report to a higher authority the mistakes committed by others
111. to cut to the chase
(a) to chase your dreams
(b) to explain a very long story in brief
(c) to remove all negative thoughts from one's mind
(d) to come to the point
112. curiosity killed the cat
(a) a person who constantly keeps asking questions is avoided by everybody
(b) everybody has a fatal weakness
(c) being inquisitive about other people's affairs may get you into trouble
(d) everyone feels like killing a nagging person
113. to drive someone up the wall
(a) to make someone very irritated
(b) to break the barriers of misunderstanding between two persons
(c) to encourage someone
(d) to be the cause of someone's success
114. dry run
(a) a party without drinks
(b) a rehearsal of a performance before the real one
(c) doing a fruitless task
(d) escaping from an unpleasant situation
115. Finding your feet
(a) to search and find for something which was with you all the time
(b) to get up fast after taking a fall
(c) to become independent
(d) adjusting to a new place or a new situation



116. To have a field day
- a job that has to be done outside the office
 - a day when everything is going wrong
 - to be able to do something you enjoy a great deal, especially criticizing someone
 - a day for outdoor sports and fun activities as a group
117. To crack someone up
- to cheat on someone
 - to make someone cry
 - to make someone laugh
 - to beat someone
118. to cross your fingers
- to get extremely confused over trivial decisions
 - to secretly wish bad for someone
 - to refuse someone's request politely
 - to hope that things will happen in the way that one wants them to happen
119. to drink like a fish
- a person who spends a lot
 - a person who keeps cheating for a very long time without getting noticed
 - a person who needs to relive himself very frequently
 - to drink excessive amounts of alcohol
120. down to the wire
- removing the bondage that is keeping one down
 - the last second before the bomb explodes
 - to denote a situation whose outcome is not decided until the very last minute
 - finishing all of one's resources to the last penny
121. to buy a lemon
- to purchase a vehicle that constantly gives problems
 - buying only half the recipe will not help you prepare the full dish
 - to purchase an insignificant thing which eventually becomes very useful
 - to buy stuff which you don't need
122. to cast iron stomach
- a very greedy person
 - to be able to eat or drink anything without any problems
 - to be indifferent to harsh words
123. cock and bull story
- an implausible story used as an excuse
 - a story which sounds unbelievable but it is true
 - a story with a predictable ending
 - a very boring narrative
124. To come hell or high water
- to easily lose motivation
 - whatever difficulties may occur
 - to accomplish a very difficult task
 - wanting revenge very badly
125. ethnic cleansing
- a social revolution where negative aspects of a culture are removed
 - to perform mass religious conversions
 - the mass killing of members of one ethnic group
 - removal of all signs of culture from a society
126. every cloud has a silver lining
- no bad situation is permanent
 - if one wants rain then one has to bear with dark clouds
 - every blessing comes with a hidden curse
 - every bad situation has some good aspects to it
127. dead ringer
- a competition whose outcome is already decided (by unfair means)
 - a candidate fraudulently substituted for another in a competition
 - a person who was in a situation to warn others is now missing
 - a warning which comes too late, after the damage is done
128. dark horse
- a candidate about whom little is known but who unexpectedly wins
 - a good person who has been unfairly maligned
 - a person despised by everybody wins
 - a very unpredictable contestant, sometimes wins sometimes loses
129. flea market
- a market for semi-precious stones and jewellery
 - a market where stolen goods are sold
 - a street market selling second-hand goods
 - a small but crowded and noisy place



130. flesh and blood
 (a) a very gory murder scene
 (b) a lot of hard work
 (c) loss of lives in battle
 (d) A person's physical body and their needs.
131. to go for broke
 (a) to risk everything in an all-out effort
 (b) failure in relationship or partnership
 (c) losing all money in an effort to revive a failing business
 (d) to start again after failing in a business
132. to go the extra mile
 (a) to get an unexpected bonus
 (b) to make a special effort to achieve something
 (c) to lose one's way and walk aimlessly
 (d) a vehicle which is very fuel efficient
133. fixed in one's ways
 (a) not wanting to change how one does things
 (b) one will succeed if one does not change their path
 (c) trapped in a particular unpleasant situation
 (d) a dilemma of two different paths
134. flash in the pan
 (a) a trick one learn which makes thier work easier
 (b) a thing or person whose sudden but brief success is not repeated
 (c) to build something good but it gets destroyed
 (d) to find something unpleasant in food
135. to foam at the mouth
 (a) to be very angry
 (b) to shout loudly
 (c) to get very weak, dizzy
 (d) to die of poisoning
136. fuddy-duddy
 (a) An ill mannered person that one accepts willingly because he/she is a very dear friend
 (b) a person who is very old-fashioned and pompous
 (c) a shoddy work
 (d) a very confusing situation
137. to have an axe to grind
 (a) sharpening your skills in anticipation of future challenges
 (b) to have a private reason for doing something
 (c) preparing for a fight
 (d) getting ready for work or a new project
138. great minds think alike
 (a) it is said when two people have the same opinion
 (b) it is said when clever people think rationally
 (c) since there is only one truth, the great philosophers think that.
 (d) To think immaturely
139. To go down like a lead balloon
 (a) losing all the money while gambling
 (b) an idea on which one has a lot of hope, but it falls
 (c) failure in business or venture
 (d) a speech, proposal, or joke that is poorly received
140. To get one's walking papers
 (a) One has the right to entry within a country or community
 (b) One is discharged from a hospital or mental asylum
 (c) One can leave
 (d) One is free of imprisonment
141. graveyard shift
 (a) to work in a very scary place
 (b) a place where one is forced to work so hard that it almost kills you
 (c) to work with a team where everybody else is very lazy
 (d) a work shift that runs through the early morning hours
142. good Samaritan
 (a) a very rich but humble person
 (b) a person who helps others but with a hidden cause
 (c) a charitable or helpful person
 (d) a person who accepts defeat sportingly
143. to get over it
 (a) to accept something that happened in the past and move on
 (b) to complete a project or task
 (c) to control one's anger
 (d) to achieve something seemingly easy, but with a lot of difficulty
144. to get up on the wrong side of the bed
 (a) to find oneself in a strange place when one wakes up especially after drinking a lot previous night
 (b) to start the day in a bad mood which continues all day long
 (c) to argue with your spouse
 (d) to roll a lot in bed while sleeping

145. To bite the dust
 (a) To be killed (b) To fall down
 (c) To be dirt poor (d) To get dirty
146. To burn the midnight oil
 (a) When resources get finished half way
 (b) To read or work late into the night
 (c) Value of a small lamp is most when it is the darkest
 (d) To save some resources for the future
147. to lose one's head
 (a) to lose respect within your community
 (b) to become complacent and gradually worsen your performance
 (c) to become confused, panic or overly emotional about someone or something
 (d) became mentally ill
148. head over heels
 (a) to think with head instead of heart
 (b) to run away from an unpleasant situation
 (c) to take a nasty fall
 (d) to be madly in love
149. To keep the wolf from the door
 (a) Avoid starvation (b) Crack the deal
 (c) Entry prohibited
 (d) Have a pleasant tour
150. Teething problems
 (a) Oral problems
 (b) Problems at the start of a new project
 (c) Problems for quite a long time in adjusting in the new place
 (d) Problem of having good dentist
151. Mealy-mouthed
 (a) Ill-tempered (b) Soft-spoken
 (c) Enthusiastic (d) Depressed
152. By fits and starts
 (a) Occasionally (b) Totally
 (c) Finally (d) Irregularly
153. Rat race
 (a) Make others fight for scraps and get sadistic pleasure out of it
 (b) Be an oppressive boss and treat employees like animals
 (c) A way of life in which people are caught up in a fiercely competitive struggle for wealth or power
 (d) Play games with the lives of other people and see them run aimlessly
154. Spin one's wheels
 (a) Keep bragging about oneself
 (b) Try your luck
 (c) Expel much effort for little or no gain
 (d) Start a long journey
155. Put one's foot down
 (a) Give up easily without a fight
 (b) Learn to dance inspite of being clumsy
 (c) Adopt a firm policy when faced with position or disobedience
 (d) Take the first step of a very long difficult journey
156. Whistle in the dark
 (a) Pretend to be unafraid
 (b) A ray of hope in the worst of times
 (c) See a ghost while dreaming
 (d) Be blind and fall into a trap
157. The alpha and the omega
 (a) Happy and sad
 (b) The beginning and the end
 (c) The love and the hatred
 (d) Truth and dare
158. Throw up the sponge
 (a) To attack (b) To laugh at someone
 (c) To surrender (d) To talk loudly
159. To put a spoke in one's wheel
 (a) To be advantageous at the time of difficulty
 (b) To maintain under all circumstances
 (c) To blame the other party
 (d) To put a difficulty in the way of progress
160. At loggerheads
 (a) To suffer
 (b) In conflict with someone
 (c) To face tough competition
 (d) To be in do or die situation
161. A wild goose chase
 (a) Fruitful search (b) Timely search
 (c) Useless search (d) Wrong decision
162. A moot point
 (a) Agreeable (b) Disputed
 (c) Unclear (d) Unknown
163. Spick and Span
 (a) High and low (b) Dark and light
 (c) Neat and clean (d) Happy and sad



164. To draw the longbow
 (a) To nullify (b) To exaggerate
 (c) To underrate (d) To demarcate
165. All agog
 (a) Avoid (b) Contentment
 (c) Amazed (d) Unsystematically
166. Not to mince matters
 (a) To be at ease
 (b) To not confuse others
 (c) To not interfere in others affairs
 (d) To speak out politely
167. Kick the bucket
 (a) Loose temper
 (b) To delay a little longer
 (c) To die
 (d) To meet with an accident
168. An axe to grind
 (a) To act bravely
 (b) To act like a fool
 (c) To have a selfish motive
 (d) To take risk
169. Will-o-the wisp
 (a) Something that is impossible to get or achieve.
 (b) To keep off an unwanted and undesirable person.
 (c) To spend recklessly.
 (d) Accept or leave the offer.
170. To go through fire and water
 (a) To scold someone
 (b) To experience many dangers in order to achieve something
 (c) To act without restraints
 (d) Something which hurts
171. Chicken-hearted
 (a) Coward (b) Short tempered
 (c) Composed (d) Bold
172. Red letter day
 (a) Starting day (b) Holiday
 (c) Significant day (d) Ending day
173. Ended in a fiasco
 (a) A complete failure
 (b) A successful event
 (c) Changed one completely
 (d) Twisted around
174. Sow wild oats
 (a) To make someone fool
 (b) To make space to red
 (c) To take revenge
 (d) To waste time by doing foolish things
175. Live from hand to mouth
 (a) Filthy rich people
 (b) To be dependent on others
 (c) To have enough money to live on and nothing extra
 (d) Living in miserable conditions.
176. To face the music
 (a) To bear the consequenc
 (b) To disparage someone
 (c) To be hard of hearing
 (d) To enjoy a musical concert
177. Pillar to post
 (a) Main support of an object
 (b) One place to another
 (c) To be reluctant
 (d) To incite others
178. Hobson's choice
 (a) To choose first in row
 (b) To make a careful choice
 (c) No real choice at all
 (d) To seek all favourable alternatives to choose from
179. Adam's ale
 (a) Gift (b) Food
 (c) Water (d) Belongings
180. At one's wits end
 (a) A man of ability
 (b) At the last moment
 (c) To get puzzled
 (d) Undecided controversy
181. To steal a march
 (a) To act in a foolish way
 (b) To break something
 (c) To outshine
 (d) To see a hidden meaning
182. In a jiffy
 (a) Fail to win appreciation
 (b) In an appropriate manner
 (c) Something that is done very quickly
 (d) To fall in love



183. Herculean task
 (a) Important task
 (b) Motivating
 (c) Optional to do
 (d) Very difficult task
184. On tenterhooks
 (a) Flattery
 (b) In a disorganized manner
 (c) In anxious suspense
 (d) Speak quickly
185. The thin end of the wedge
 (a) In strict vigilance
 (b) Start of harmful development
 (c) Be aware of the trick
 (d) Not a worthy possession
186. To accept the gauntlet
 (a) To accept challenge
 (b) To accept defeat
 (c) To accept what is written in fate
 (d) To be able to grasp the hidden meaning
187. To wrangle over an ass's shadow
 (a) To waste money over trifles
 (b) To punish a person severely for his arrogance
 (c) To quarrel over trifles
 (d) To keep away from extreme poverty
188. Make one's flesh creep
 (a) To confuse someone
 (b) To flatter someone
 (c) To abuse someone
 (d) To frighten someone
189. Damp squib
 (a) Complete failure
 (b) Complete knowledge
 (c) To motivate
 (d) To squander money
190. Rise like a phoenix
 (a) Something memorable
 (b) Time to answer for one's action
 (c) To become successful again
 (d) To make people happy
191. Bear the palm
 (a) To face the consequences
 (b) To meet death
 (c) To be able to predict future
 (d) To win
192. To give the devil his due
 (a) To punish the wrong person
 (b) To give credit to even a notorious person
 (c) To let the enemy learn the lesson on his own
 (d) To stand in the way of the devil
193. To have a finger in every pie
 (a) To Fight with everybody
 (b) To be involved in a large and varied number of activities or enterprises
 (c) To make fun of everybody
 (d) To leave every job unfinished
194. To make up one's mind
 (a) To be prepared for unfavourable outcomes
 (b) To make a decision; decide
 (c) To overcome intense grief
 (d) To psyche oneself into believing that the task at hand is not impossible
195. To Have bitten off more than you can chew
 (a) To eat voraciously and then fall sick
 (b) To behave disrespectfully towards elders and then repent the act
 (c) To have tried to do something which is too difficult
 (d) To have missed a golden opportunity and after that willing to put twice the effort to recover the loss
196. Out of print
 (a) Not able to print due to being short on paper
 (b) A book no longer available from the publisher
 (c) Intentionally not mention some items in the article or book
 (d) All publishers refuse to publish your book
197. To hit the nail on the head
 (a) To take out frustration by beating a person
 (b) To make a wrong decision
 (c) To find exactly the right answer
 (d) To unwittingly fall into a trap
198. On thin ice
 (a) To keep failing after repeated efforts
 (b) To endure a harsh winter
 (c) To keep one's cool even in a tough situation



- (d) In a precarious or risky situation
199. To heave a sigh of relief
- (a) To become very tired with routine or boring work
- (b) To suddenly feel very happy because something unpleasant has not happened or has ended
- (c) To feel extremely sad over someone else's misfortune
- (d) To feel silent anger over real or perceived injustice
200. To be on cloud nine
- (a) To be extremely happy
- (b) To feel lucky
- (c) To experience the feeling of being intoxicated
- (d) To make one last attempt

Solutions

1. (b); **Zero tolerance** means absolutely no toleration of even the smallest infraction of a rule. Tolerance cannot be related with accuracy.
2. (a); **Variety is the spice of life** means new and exciting experiences make life more interesting.
3. (d); **Scot-free** means to escape punishment for a crime or wrongdoing; to be acquitted of charges for a crime.
4. (a); **Tongue-in-cheek** means Jocular or humorous, though seeming or appearing to be serious.
5. (c); **Wear your heart on your sleeve** means to display one's feelings openly and habitually, rather than keep them private.
6. (d); **When it rains, it pours** means something good or bad occurring multiple times within a short span of time.
7. (d); **Add fuel to the fire** means to do or say something to make an argument, problem, or bad situation worse; to further incense an already angry person or group of people.
8. (a); **A slap on the wrist** means a mild reprimand or punishment.
9. (d); **Actions speak louder than words** mean actions are more revealing of one's true character since it is easy to say things or make promises, but it takes effort to do things and follow through.
10. (a); **A blessing in disguise** means an unfortunate event or situation that results in an unforeseen positive outcome.
11. (a); **Against the clock** means in a very limited amount of time; with a shortage of time being the main problem.
12. (d); **Scapegoat** means to make someone take the blame for something.
13. (c); very common and of no particular value.
14. (b); **A drop in the bucket** means a tiny amount, especially when compared to a much larger one.
15. (c); **Practice makes a man perfect** means Only by practicing or repeatedly doing something can one become proficient or skillful at it.
16. (d); **Pull the plug** means to remove, turn off, or discontinue someone's life-support system, resulting in their death.
17. (c); **A hot potato** means a sensitive situation or controversial issue that is difficult to handle and thus gets passed from one person to the next.
18. (d); **New kid on the block** means a newcomer to a particular place or sphere of activity.
19. (b); **Water under the bridge** means a prior issue that is now resolved or considered resolved.
20. (a); **Wag the dog** means to change the topic from something that is more important to something that is not.
21. (d); **Tie the knot** means to marry a mate.
22. (a); **The ball is in your court** means one needs to take some action to keep something going.
23. (d); **A piece of cake**: something easily achieved.
24. (a); **A picture paints a thousand words**: It refers to the notion that a complex idea can be



conveyed with just a single still image or that an image of a subject conveys its meaning or essence more effectively than a description does.

25. (a); **To bite off more than one can chew** means to take (on) more than one can deal with; to be overconfident.
26. (b); **To bite the bullet** means decide to do something difficult or unpleasant that one has been putting off or hesitating over.
27. (b); **Bed of roses** means an easy, comfortable situation.
28. (a); **Back to the drawing board** means used to indicate that an idea, scheme, or proposal has been unsuccessful and that a new one must be devised.
29. (c); **To make a long story short** : used to end an account of events quickly.
30. (d); **To steal someone's thunder** : win praise for oneself by pre-empting someone else's attempt to impress
31. (b); **Rise and shine**: Wake up and get out of bed promptly.
32. (a); **Raining cats and dogs**: something that we say when it is raining heavily
33. (a); **Run out of steam** means to lose one's energy or vitality for something.
34. (b); **Saved by the bell** means saved or spared from difficulty or misfortune by some intervention at the very last moment.
35. (b); **Smell a rat** suspect that means to is something wrong; to sense that someone has caused something wrong.
36. (a); **Sixth sense** means a supposed power to know or feel things that are not perceptible by the five senses of sight, hearing, smell, taste, and touch.
37. (a); **Rome was not built in a day**: Important work takes time
38. (b); **Rule of thumb**: a broadly accurate guide or principle, based on practice rather than theory.
39. (c); **turn a blind eye**: pretend not to notice.
40. (d); **Up a blind alley**: you mean that someone is following a course of action that is certain to lead to an undesirable outcome.
41. (a); **Familiarity breeds contempt**: extensive knowledge of or close association with someone or something leads to a loss of respect for them or it.
42. (b); **Don't put all your eggs in one basket**: a piece of advice which means that one should not concentrate all efforts and resources in one area.
43. (a); **Through thick and thin**: under all circumstances, no matter how difficult.
44. (d); **Thumb one's nose**: a gesture of disrespect
45. (a); **Wild goose chase**: a foolish and hopeless search for or pursuit of something unattainable.
46. (b); **You bet**: sure or certainty.
47. (c); **To put the cat among the pigeons**: it is used to describe a disturbance caused by an undesirable person.
48. (b); **to shoot the breeze**: to spend time talking about things that are not important.
49. (c); **The best of both worlds**: the benefits of widely differing situations, enjoyed at the same time.
50. (d); **to take the cake**: be the most remarkable or foolish of its kind.
51. (c); **Shoot ing fish in a barrel** :Ridiculously easy
52. (d); **To sleep with the fishes**: Killed and thrown in a river .
53. (b); **Ignorance is bliss**: if one is unaware of an unpleasant fact or situation one cannot be troubled by it.
54. (c); **have a blast**: to have a lot of fun"
55. (a); **There is no such thing as a free lunch.**: the idea that it is impossible to get something for nothing.
56. (d); **By the skin of one's teeth**: narrowly' or 'barely.
57. (d); **Crocodile tears**: tears or expressions of sorrow that are insincere.
58. (c); **Chink in one's armour**: an area of vulnerability
59. (c); **Beauty is in the eye of the beholder**: that which one person finds beautiful or admirable may not appeal to another.



60. (d);Necessity is the mother of invention: when the need for something becomes essential, you are forced to find ways of getting it
61. (c);By the seat of one's pants: Decide a course of action as you go along by your skill or judgement.
62. (b);discretion is the greater part of valour: Caution is preferable to rash bravery.
63. (c);Too many cooks spoil the broth: if too many people are involved in a task or activity, it will not be done well.
64. (d);easy come, easy go: said when something, especially money, is easily got and then soon spent or lost.
65. (a); To spill the beans: to reveal secret information unintentionally or indiscreetly.
66. (d);To spin one's wheels: waste one's time or efforts.
67. (c);No horse in this race: no vested interest in the outcome of a contest or debate.
68. (b);To be pushing up daisies: dead and buried.
69. (c); To jump ship: a sailor leave the ship on which one is serving without having obtained permission to do so.
70. (b);To kick the bucket: to die
71. (c); X marks the spot means the exact spot. (Sometimes the speaker will draw an X in the spot while saying this.)
72. (b);You can say that again means to express strong agreement with what someone has just said.
73. (c);The elephant in the room means a major problem or controversial issue which is obviously present but is avoided as a subject for discussion.
74. (b);to make from scratch means from the very beginning, from the outset; from nothing.
75. (b);If you can't beat 'them, join 'them means if you have to give up fighting some group because you can't win, band together with them.
76. (a); **All good things must come to an end** means everything that one is fond of comes to an end, eventually
77. (d);**barking up the wrong tree** means to attempt or pursue a futile course of action, often by making some kind of suggestion or request.
78. (c); **Back to the drawing board** means used to indicate that an idea, scheme, or proposal has been unsuccessful and that a new one must be devised.
79. (c); **Blood is thicker than water** means family relationships and loyalties are the strongest and most important ones
80. (d);**once in a blue moon** means very rarely.
81. (a); A fool and his money are easily parted: a foolish person spends money carelessly and will soon be penniless.
82. (b);All bark and no bite: threatening, aggressive, but not willing to engage in a fight;
83. (a);backseat driver: a person who interferes in affairs without having knowledge, responsibility, or authority for doing so.
84. (b);Back to square one: back to where one started, with no progress having been made.
85. (a);an arm and a leg: If you say that something costs an arm and a leg, you mean that it is very expensive.
86. (b);an axe to grind: To have a complaint or dispute that one feels compelled to discuss.
87. (d);All in the same boat: in the same situation; having the same problem
88. (c); All Greek to me: expressing that something is not understandable.
89. (c); to bend over backwards: to work very hard to accomplish something for someone.
90. (d);the dilemma: faced with two equally undesirable alternatives
91. (d);at the drop of a hat: without hesitation or good reason.
92. (c);apple of my eye: to something or someone that one cherishes above all others.
93. (b);"No man is an island" means to require help from other every now and then because of one's limitations
94. (a);The squeaky wheel gets the grease: the most noticeable (or loudest) problems are the ones most likely to get attention.



95. (a); To beat a dead horse: to continue a particular endeavour is a waste of time as the outcome is already decided.
96. (b); beating around the bush: to avoid talking about what is important.
97. (a); to bite off more than you can chew: to try to do something that is too difficult for you.
98. (b); to bite your tongue: to stop yourself from saying something that you would really like to say
99. (c); Two heads are better than one: it's helpful to have the advice or opinion of a second person.
100. (d); Don't count your chickens before they hatch: you should not make plans that depend on something good happening before you know that it has actually happened.
101. (d); whole nine yards: everything possible or available.
102. (c); under the weather: slightly unwell or in low spirits.
103. (c); Birds of a feather flock together: people of the same sort or with the same tastes and interests will be found together.
104. (d); Beggars can't be choosers: people with no other options must be content with what is offered.
105. (c); to chew someone out means to scold someone.
106. (d); to chip on his shoulder means an attitude that leads one to become combative or easily angered.
107. (b); 108. (a); 109. (a);
110. (b); 111. (d); 112. (c);
113. (a); 114. (b); 115. (d);
116. (c); 117. (c); 118. (d);
119. (d); 120. (c); 121. (a);
122. (b); 123. (a); 124. (b);
125. (c); 126. (d); 127. (b);
128. (a); 129. (c); 130. (d);
131. (a); 132. (b); 133. (a);
134. (b); 135. (a); 136. (b);
137. (b); 138. (a); 139. (d);
140. (c); 141. (d); 142. (c);
143. (a); 144. (b); 145. (a);
146. (b); 147. (c); 148. (d);
149. (a); **To keep the wolf from the door** means have enough money to avert hunger or starvation (used hyperbolically).
150. (b); **Teething problems** means problems in the early stages of something.
151. (b); **Mealy-mouthed** means hesitant or unwilling to state something bluntly and directly, especially facts or opinions that are considered divisive or controversial.
152. (d); **By fits and starts** means in short, inconsistent, and irregular intervals, as of motion or progress.
153. (c); **Rat race** means a fierce competition for success, wealth, or power.
154. (c); **Spin one's wheels** means to waste time; to remain in a neutral position, neither advancing nor falling back.
155. (c); **Put one's foot down** means to be unyielding or inflexible in one's position or decision.
156. (a); **Whistle in the dark** means to guess aimlessly; to speculate as to a fact.
157. (b); **The alpha and the omega**: the beginning and the end
158. (c); **Throw up the sponge**: to give up a contest; to acknowledge defeat
159. (d); **To put a spoke in one's wheel** means to disrupt, foil, or cause problems to someone's plan, activity, or project
160. (b); **At loggerheads** means to be in conflict. A "logger" is a 16th-century term for a block of wood, so a "loggerhead" is a blockhead or fool.
161. (c); **A wild goose chase**: a foolish and hopeless search for or pursuit of something unattainable.
162. (b); **A moot point**: A debatable question, an issue open to argument
163. (c); **Spick and Span**: fresh, brand-new; spotlessly clean. Thus option (c) is correct.
164. (b); **To draw the longbow**: to lie; to exaggerate.
165. (c); **All agog** means **Amazed** or impressed.



166. (d); **Not to mince matters** means to speak frankly
167. (c); **Kick the bucket**: to die
168. (c); **An axe to grind**: to have a strong personal opinion about something.
169. (a); **Will-o-the wisp**: a person or thing that is difficult or impossible to reach or catch.
170. (b); **to go through fire and water**: To face many challenges in the process of doing.
171. (a); **Chicken-hearted**: easily frightened or coward.
172. (c); **a red-letter day**: a day that is pleasantly noteworthy or memorable.
173. (a); **Ended in a fiasco**: to end with a failure.
Thus option (a) is complete.
174. (d); **Sow wild oats**: To engage in a rebelliousness thing.
175. (c); **Live from hand to mouth**: to have just enough money to live.
176. (a); **To face the music**: be confronted with the unpleasant consequences of one's actions.
177. (b); **pillar to post**: From one place or thing to another in rapid succession.
178. (c); **Hobson's choice**: a choice of taking what is available or nothing at all.
179. (c); **Adam's ale**: water.
180. (c); **At one's wits end**: to be so worried, confused, or annoyed that you do not know what to do next.
181. (c); **To steal a march**: to get an advantage over the person or anything by acting before they do.
182. (c); **in a jiffy**: very fast and very soon.
183. (d); **Herculean task**: requiring the great strength of a Hercules
184. (c); **On tenterhooks**: in a state of suspense or agitation because of uncertainty about a future event.
185. (b); **The thin end of the wedge**: an action or procedure of little importance that is likely to lead to more serious developments.
186. (a); **To accept the gauntlet**: To accept or attempt a challenge or invitation.
187. (c); **To wrangle over an ass's shadow**: To fight or quarrel over trivial and insignificant matters.
188. (d); **Make one's flesh creep**: to frighten and horrify one
189. (a); **Damp squib**: a situation or event which is much less impressive than expected.
190. (c); **Rise like a phoenix**:
become successful or powerful again after defeat or destruction
191. (d); **Bear the palm**: to win
192. (b); **To give the devil his due**: if someone or something generally considered bad or undeserving has any redeeming features these should be acknowledged.
193. (b); **To have a finger in every pie**: be involved in a large and varied number of activities or enterprises.
194. (b); **To make up one's mind**: to make a decision
195. (c); **To Have bitten off more than you can chew**:
To take on more responsibility than one can handle
196. (b); **out of print**: no longer available from the publisher.
197. (c); **To hit the nail on the head**: to find exactly the right answer.
198. (d); **On thin ice**: in a precarious or risky situation.
199. (b); **To heave a sigh of relief**: to suddenly feel very happy because something unpleasant has not happened or has ended
200. (a); **To be on cloud nine**: a state of perfect happiness.

