

IDIOMS AND PHRASES

An idiom is a group of words with an established meaning that is not related to the individual meaning of the words. For example, let's look at an idiom, "raining cats and dogs".

Here, this phrase does not actually mean cats and dogs are falling from the sky. It refers to heavy rain.

Some common idioms

- A blessing in disguise: a good thing that seemed bad at first
- Beat around the bush: Avoid saying what you mean, usually because it is uncomfortable
- Better late than never: Better to arrive late than not to come at all
- Call it a day: Stop working on something
- Cutting corners: Doing something poorly in order to save time or money

Phrases are small collections or groups of words with some literal meaning. They are very easy to understand, and each word contributes to its meaning.

Some examples of phrases:

- My **small dog** barks at ducks.
- We ran out of there **at a breakneck speed**.
- The **space under the grey shed** is overgrown and needs to be cleared out.

In each of the following questions, an idiom/a phrase is given, followed by four alternatives. Choose the alternative that best expresses the meaning of the expression.

- Get cold feet
 - To run for life
 - To get cold
 - To be afraid
 - To become discourteous
- A storm in a teacup
 - Unexpected guest
 - A danger signal
 - Much excitement over something trivial
 - A great noise
- Pocket an insult
 - Bear insult without protest
 - Not to take any action
 - Sit over a resolution
 - Ignore a case
- Plough a lonely furrow
 - Work single-handedly
 - Plough the field
 - Plough the sands
 - Work in a furrow
- Rest on one's oars
 - Take rest after working long
 - Tired of working
 - Tired of boating
 - Test with oars
- Join the majority
 - On the side of the majority
 - To die
 - A turncoat
 - Have the majority
- An apple of discord
 - The cause of a contention
 - Sour apple
 - A quarrel
 - A fight for an apple

8. By the skin of one's teeth
 (a) Hardly (b) In time (c) Hurriedly (d) Only just
9. To lose face
 (a) To look angry (b) To be humiliated (c) To be helpless (d) To look vacant
10. Make the best of a bad bargain
 (a) To turn failure to the best advantage (b) To make a bad bargain
 (c) To make the best bargain (d) To make a bargain
11. Tread on one's toes
 (a) Walk on toes (b) To give offence (c) Tread with toes (d) Flatter someone
12. Carry the can
 (a) Accept the blame (b) Get into trouble (c) Face the repercussions (d) Share the responsibility
13. Take time by the forelock
 (a) Forecast on event (b) Forecast time
 (c) Talk one's own time (d) Prepare for action before time
14. All agog
 (a) All happy (b) Rife with rumours (c) Restless (d) Playful
15. Throw up one's cards
 (a) Accept defeat (b) Spoil the card's game (c) Throw cards in the air (d) Throw away the game
16. Birds of the same feather
 (a) Persons of the same caste (b) Persons of the same colour
 (c) Birds with the same type of feather (d) Persons of the same character
17. To call a spade a spade
 (a) To be frank (b) To be sly (c) To be rude (d) To be diplomatic
18. To miss the bus
 (a) To miss the bus that one regularly takes (b) To miss an opportunity
 (c) To have something to fall back upon (d) To find fault with others
19. To shed crocodile tears
 (a) To weep profusely (b) To pretend grief (c) To grieve seriously (d) To mock something
20. By putting two and two together
 (a) To mix several things (b) To make an arithmetical calculation
 (c) To keep people in pairs (d) To deduce from given facts
21. To hit the jackpot
 (a) To gamble (b) To get an unexpected victory
 (c) Win a lot of money (d) To make money quickly
22. At one's beck and call
 (a) To attend a call (b) To be helped by someone
 (c) To be useful to someone (d) To be dominated by someone
23. On the spur of the moment
 (a) To act at once (b) To ride a horse in a race
 (c) To act deliberately (d) To act at the appointed time
24. Build castles in the air
 (a) Waste time (b) Daydream (c) Build houses (d) Work hard
25. To hit below the belt
 (a) To punish (b) To tie with a belt (c) To hit with a belt (d) To attack unfairly

26. To take to heart
 (a) To be encouraged (b) To grieve over (c) To like (d) To hate
27. To face the music
 (a) To enjoy a musical recital (b) To bear the consequences
 (c) To live in a pleasant atmosphere (d) To have a difficult time
28. In cold blood
 (a) Angrily (b) Deliberately (c) Excitedly (d) Slowly
29. To take someone for a ride
 (a) To give a ride to someone (b) To disclose a secret
 (c) To be indifferent (d) To deceive someone
30. To move heaven and earth
 (a) To cause an earthquake (b) To pray to all Gods
 (c) To try everything possible (d) To travel in a rocket
31. Be over the hill
 (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
32. Bite your tongue
 (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 you want
33. Turn a blind eye
 (a) To run away
 (b) To begin to behave in a more positive manner
 (c) To change a situation more positive manner
 (d) To choose to ignore behaviour that you know is wrong
34. Yellow journalism
 (a) Paid storytelling
 (b) Government reports publish
 (c) Writings in reports published on yellow coloured papers
 (d) Writings in newspapers that try to influence people's opinion by using strong language and false information
35. To be in seventh heaven
 (a) To fly in the air
 (b) To be extremely happy
 (c) To be completely alone
 (d) To visit a place which is on the list of the seven wonders of the world
36. A dark horse
 (a) A black coloured horse
 (b) A person who wins unexpectedly
 (c) A person who keeps secrets competition although no one expected him to
 (d) An ignorant person
37. A show-stopper
 (a) Someone who stops the show (b) Someone who organises the show
 (c) A performance that is extremely good (d) A fashionable person

38. A Jack of all trades
 (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
39. Fight tooth and nail
 (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 something
40. Fair and square
 (a) In an honest way (b) In a critical way
 (c) Neither very good nor very bad (d) In a foolish way
41. Fall in a heap
 (a) To be at the mercy of someone else (b) To be thinking about someone
 (c) To lose control of one's own feelings (d) To be in control of one's own feelings
42. Hand in glove
 (a) Working separately (b) Working together (c) Working for someone (d) Not willing to work
43. A match made in heaven
 (a) A marriage that is solemnised formally
 (b) A marriage that is unsuccessful
 (c) A marriage that is likely to be happy and successful
 (d) A marriage of convenience
44. A death blow
 (a) To be nearly dead
 (b) To be deeply afraid of death
 (c) To beat someone to death
 (d) An action or event which causes something to end or fail
45. The jewel in the crown
 (a) Someone who has many skills (b) Something that one wants
 (c) The most valuable thing in a group of things (d) The jewel in the crown of the king
46. A paper tiger
 (a) Person or organisation that appears powerful but actually is not
 (b) Person or organisation that acts like a tiger
 (c) People who campaign for the protection of tigers
 (d) A daredevil
47. Eat like a bird
 (a) Eat fast (b) Eat very little (c) Eat a lot (d) Pretending to be eating
48. The dog days
 (a) Days celebrating dogs (b) The bitter days
 (c) The hottest days (d) The coldest days
49. The pros and cons
 (a) The good and bad parts of a situation (b) Like and dislike of a situation
 (c) A bad experience in an event (d) A good moment of an event
50. The green-eyed monster
 (a) Feeling of being joyous (c) Feeling of being jealous
 (b) Feeling bad about happenings (d) Feelings lucky about something

51. To turn over a new leaf
 (a) To change completely one's course of action
 (b) To shift attention to new problems after having studied the old ones thoroughly
 (c) To cover up one's faults by wearing new masks
 (d) To change the old habits and adopt new ones
52. To hold something in leash
 (a) To restrain (b) To disappoint (c) To dismiss (d) To discourage
53. To wrangle over an ass's shadow
 (a) To act in a foolish way (b) To quarrel over trifles
 (c) To waste time on petty things (d) To do something funny
54. To give up the ghost
 (a) To suffer (b) To fight evil forces
 (c) To stop trying to do something (d) To become rational
55. Hobson's choice
 (a) Feeling of insecurity (b) Accept or leave the offer
 (c) Feeling of strength (d) Excellent choice
56. To take the bull by the horns
 (a) To punish a person severely for his arrogance
 (b) To grapple courageously with a difficulty that lies in our way
 (c) To handle it by a fierce attack
 (d) To bypass the legal process and take action according to one's own whims
57. To cast pearls before a swine
 (a) To spend recklessly
 (b) To spend a lot of money on the upkeep of domestic dogs
 (c) To waste money over trifles
 (d) To offer to a person a thing which he cannot appreciate
58. To take people by storm
 (a) To put people in utter surprise
 (b) To quickly become very successful
 (c) To exploit people's agitation
 (d) To bring out something sensational attracting people's attention
59. To bring one's eggs to a bad market
 (a) To face a humiliating situation
 (b) To bring one's commodities to a market where there is no demand for them
 (c) To show one's talents before an audience which is incapable of appreciating them
 (d) To fail in one's plans because one goes to the wrong people for help
60. To turn up one's nose at a thing
 (a) To show eagerness to have something (b) To show indifference
 (c) To treat it with contemptuous dislike or disgust (d) To start to grapple with it
61. To throw dust in one's eyes
 (a) To show false things (b) To make blind
 (c) To harm someone (d) To deceive
62. Will-o'-the-wisp
 (a) Anything which eludes or deceives (b) To act in a childish way
 (c) To act in a foolish way (d) To have desires unbacked by efforts

63. To fly off the handle
 (a) To take off (b) To be indifferent (c) To dislocate (d) To lose one's temper
64. Hush money
 (a) Money overdue (b) Easy money
 (c) Money earned by wrong means (d) Bribe paid to secure silence
65. To turn the tables
 (a) To defeat (b) To oppose
 (c) To create chaos (d) To change the sorry scheme
 (e) To change the situation completely
66. To keep the ball rolling
 (a) To earn more and more (b) To work constantly
 (c) To keep the conversation going (d) To make the best use of
67. To have a brush with
 (a) To start painting (b) To have good and pleasing terms
 (c) To be impressed (d) To have a slight encounter
68. To pull one's socks up
 (a) To prepare (b) To try hard (c) To get ready (d) To depart
69. Dog in the manger
 (a) An undersized bull almost the shape of a dog
 (b) A dog that has no kennel of its own
 (c) A person who puts himself in difficulties on account of other people
 (d) A person who prevents others from enjoying something useless to himself
70. To set the people by ears
 (a) To box the people (b) To insult and disgrace the people
 (c) To punish heavily (d) To excite people to a quarrel
71. To beggars' description
 (a) A poor statement (b) To describe things without care
 (c) Beyond one's power to describe adequately (d) None of these
72. Something up one's sleeve
 (a) A grand idea (b) A secret plan (c) A profitable plan (d) Something important
73. Adam's ale
 (a) Grace (b) Pleasure (c) Water (d) Wine
74. A red-letter day
 (a) An important day (b) An auspicious day (c) A dangerous day (d) An unimportant day
75. Queer somebody's pitch
 (a) Upset one's plan (b) Reprimand him (c) Check him (d) Work him up
76. Leave one to sink or swim
 (a) To be in a dilemma (b) To leave to one's fate (c) To put one in difficulty (d) Not to help one
77. To carry off the bell
 (a) To call others for help (b) To achieve something
 (c) To steal all wealth and flee (d) To trouble others
78. To keep the wolf away from the door
 (a) To keep away from extreme poverty (b) To keep off an unwanted and undesirable person
 (c) To keep alive (d) To hold the difficulties and dangers in check
79. Spick and span
 (a) Neat and clean (b) Outspoken (c) A ready-made thing (d) Garrulous

80. To take the wind out of another's sails
 (a) To manoeuvre to mislead another on the high seas
 (b) To cause harm to another
 (c) To defeat the motives of another
 (d) To anticipate another and to gain an advantage over him
81. In double-quick time
 (a) Steadily (b) Very quickly (c) Gradually (d) Much time
82. To give one a long rope
 (a) To speak ill of (b) To get into trouble
 (c) To dismiss (d) To allow a man to continue his mistakes or crimes
83. A bull in a china shop
 (a) A person who is very ugly but loves the beautiful things of life
 (b) A person who takes a sadistic delight in harming innocent people
 (c) A person who becomes too excited where no excitement is Warranted
 (d) A person who is rough and clumsy where skill and care are required
84. To look down one's nose at
 (a) To backbite (b) To regard with half-hidden displeasure or contempt
 (c) To insult in the presence of others (d) To show anger
85. To pull strings
 (a) To exert hidden influence (b) To tease someone
 (c) To speed up (d) To start something
86. To pour oil into troubled water
 (a) To foment trouble (b) To add to the trouble
 (c) To instigate (d) To calm a quarrel with soothing words
87. To play to the gallery
 (a) To work hard to achieve the best
 (b) Trying to get appreciation from the least intelligent people
 (c) Use wrong means to achieve success
 (d) To be able to do work easily
88. To break the ice
 (a) To start quarrelling (b) To end the hostility
 (c) To start a conversation (d) To end up a partnership
89. To cool one's heels
 (a) To rest for some time (b) To give no importance to someone
 (c) To remain in a comfortable position (d) To be kept waiting for sometime
90. By the rule of thumb
 (a) By the use of force (b) By the use of trickery
 (c) By cheating and deception (d) By practical experience, which is rather rough
91. To hold somebody to ransom
 (a) To keep captive and demand concession (b) To humiliate somebody
 (c) To offer bribe (d) To blackmail and extract money
92. To payoff old scores
 (a) To have one's revenge (b) To settle a dispute
 (c) To repay the old loan (d) None of these

93. To beat the air
 (a) To make frantic efforts (b) To act foolishly
 (c) To make efforts that are useless or vain (d) To make every possible effort
94. To take a leaf out of somebody's book
 (a) To take him as a model (b) To steal something valuable
 (c) To follow the dictates of someone (d) To conform to other's standard
95. To change colour
 (a) To change appearance (b) To shift allegiance to
 (c) To favour the wrong person (d) None of these
96. To strike one's colours
 (a) To fight vigorously (b) To work hard
 (c) To surrender (d) To make a rude gesture
97. To cry wolf
 (a) To grieve over something which cannot be recovered
 (b) To cry from grief, inconsolably
 (c) To raise a false alarm
 (d) To announce to one and all
98. To make a shot
 (a) To retaliate (b) To hit someone
 (c) To make a guess (d) To achieve one's objective
99. A man of weight
 (a) A fat person (b) To a truthful and trustworthy man
 (c) A man of importance (d) A notorious man
100. To put one on one's mettle
 (a) To rouse one to do one's best (b) To ruin somebody
 (c) To discourage a person (d) To incite a person to fight

In each of the following questions, four alternatives are given for the idiom/phrase underlined in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the idiom/phrase.

101. My sincere advice to my maidservant fell on stony ground.
 (a) Was counter productive (b) Had a strong impact
 (c) Made on stubborn (d) Had little success
102. A critic's work is to read between the lines.
 (a) To comprehend the meaning (b) To appreciate the inner beauty
 (c) To understand the inner meaning (d) To read carefully
103. Her grandmother had a hell of a time trying to connect to the internet.
 (a) A very enjoyable time (b) A difficult experience
 (c) A fearful experience (d) Finish something before the deadline
104. Ram is very calculative and always has an axe to grind.
 (a) Has no result (b) Works for both sides (c) Has a private agenda (d) Fails to arouse interest
105. The police looked all over for him but drew a blank.
 (a) Did not find him (b) Put him in prison (c) Arrested him (d) Took him to court
106. I jumped out of my skin when the explosion happened.
 (a) Was in panic (b) Was excited (c) Was nervous (d) Was angry
107. She didn't realise that the clever salesman was taking her for a ride.
 (a) Trying to trick her (b) Taking her in a car
 (c) Pulling her a long (d) Forcing her to go with him

108. I am so hungry, I could eat a horse.
 (a) Die (b) To be extremely hungry
 (c) To run fast (d) To eat anything
109. We don't see eye to eye when it comes to politics, but I do like her as a person.
 (a) To fight (b) To have no idea at all
 (c) To talk (d) To agree with someone
110. He made my day by telling me how important I was to him.
 (a) Gave me great pleasure (b) Displeased me
 (c) Spoiled my day (d) Made me resentful
111. My parents want me to study science, but I will stick to my guns and graduate in Economics.
 (a) Prefer to disobey them (b) Hold on to my decision
 (c) Refuse to listen to them (d) Show them that they are wrong
112. He accused her of talking through her hat and refused to accept a word of what she said.
 (a) Talking straight (b) Talking nonsense (c) Talking tough (d) Talking sense
113. Marty broke a dining-room window and had to face the music when her father got home.
 (a) Accept the punishment (b) Listen carefully
 (c) Ask a lot of questions (d) Listen to music
114. I am out of my wits and, therefore, cannot find a way to solve the problem immediately.
 (a) Not intelligent enough (b) Greatly confused
 (c) Helpless without power (d) Totally ignorant
115. He found her dream house and has now landed an amazing job. He really does have the best of both worlds.
 (a) To have lots of money to make the things done
 (b) To enjoy two different opportunities at the same time
 (c) To play tricks in order to achieve targets
 (d) To bribe someone
116. She might not be the most attractive, but you can't judge a book by its cover. I'm sure she is a sweetheart.
 (a) To prove someone innocent
 (b) To make someone a cheater
 (c) To not judge someone or something based solely on appearance
 (d) To select a book by seeing its contents
117. John is just never on time to work; it's really irritating. Oh: wow, speaking of the devil; here she comes.
 (a) The person you're talking about actually turns out to be angry
 (b) The person you're talking about actually turns out to be happy
 (c) The person you're just talking about actually turns up at that moment
 (d) The person you're talking about actually turns out to be celebrating
118. We missed our flight to Paris because the connecting flight was late and to add insult to injury, they made us pay for a new ticket as if it was our fault.
 (a) To be compensated (b) To make a situation worse
 (c) To be reprimanded (d) To be praised
119. I could have continued my higher studies if I wanted but, that's water under the bridge.
 (a) Something I cannot change (b) The time I met with an accident near the bridge
 (c) Something my family did not want (d) The time I went on a cruise
120. My parents want me to study science, but I will stick to my guns and graduate in Economics.
 (a) Prefer to disobey them (b) Hold on to my decision
 (c) Refuse to listen to them (d) Show them that they are wrong

121. The manager dismissed the proposal out of hand and said that it was not at all practical.
 (a) Completely (b) Directly (c) Simply (d) Quickly
122. The manager hesitated to assign the job to the newcomer as he was wet behind the ears.
 (a) Stupid and slow-witted (b) Young and inexperienced
 (c) Drenched in the rain (d) Unpunctual and lethargic
123. Mrs. Roy keeps an open house on Saturday evening parties—you'll find all kinds of people there.
 (a) Keeps the doors of the house open (b) Keeps the gates open for a few persons
 (c) Welcomes all members (d) Welcomes a selected group of people
124. You cannot throw dust into my eyes.
 (a) Terrify me (b) Cheat me (c) Hurt me (d) Abuse me
125. He spoke well though it was his maiden speech.
 (a) Long speech (b) First speech (c) Brief speech (d) Emotional speech
126. The invigilator did not know that the boys were exchanging notes under his nose.
 (a) Written in small letters (b) Rolled into small pellets
 (c) Wrapped in handkerchiefs (d) Right in front of him
127. Let us have all the regulations in black and white.
 (a) Painted in colour (b) Printed in coloured ink
 (c) Written on the blackboard (d) In writing
128. Unless you make amends for the loss, nobody is prepared to excuse you.
 (a) Improve (b) Pay debt (c) Confess (d) Compensate
129. Instead of keeping his promise to help me with office work, he just left me high and dry.
 (a) Left me feeling like a fool (b) Left me in a state of anger
 (c) left me without a drop of water (d) left me alone to do the work
130. Amit said to Rekha, "Don't make a mountain out of a molehill".
 (a) Attempt an impossible task (b) Start looking for molehills in the mountain
 (c) Create problems (d) Exaggerate a minor problem
131. Before the report reached the authority, the media spilled the beans.
 (a) Dropped the charges (b) Hinted at the consequences
 (c) Revealed the secret information (d) Spilled the content of the package
132. His friend turned out to be a snake in the grass.
 (a) Cowardly and brutal (b) Low and mean
 (c) A hidden enemy (d) An unreliable and deceitful person
133. The shopping mall is a beehive of activity.
 (a) A secure place (b) A sweet place (c) A busy place (d) A costly place
134. The officer was in the soup when there was a raid in his office.
 (a) Preparing soup (b) Distributing soup (c) Being in trouble (d) Drinking soup
135. To ensure a successful product launch, we must get our ducks in a row.
 (a) To ensure a successful product launch, we must engage more customers.
 (b) To ensure a successful product launch, we must keep the price less.
 (c) To ensure a successful product launch, we must get things well-organised.
 (d) To ensure a successful product launch, we must book a big hall.
 (e) To ensure a successful product launch, we must hire good employees.

136. She hit the nail on the head when she laid out a list of justifiable grievances she had with the company.
- She committed a mistake when she laid out a list of justifiable grievances she had with the company.
 - She did the correct thing when she laid out a list of justifiable grievances she had with the company.
 - She was fired when she laid out a list of justifiable grievances she had with the company.
 - She was promoted when she laid out a list of justifiable grievances she had with the company.
 - She was perplexed when she laid out a list of justifiable grievances she had with the company.
137. An entrepreneur must keep his fingers on the pulse of the market to be successful.
- An entrepreneur must work day and night to be successful.
 - An entrepreneur must keep a check on his funds to be successful.
 - An entrepreneur must keep an eye on the stock market to be successful.
 - An entrepreneur must be aware of his competitors in the market to be successful.
 - An entrepreneur must be constantly aware of the most recent developments to be successful.
138. The stunt that I recently attempted was a piece of cake.
- The stunt that I recently attempted was enjoyable to watch.
 - The stunt that I recently attempted was very challenging.
 - The stunt that I recently attempted was celebrated by all.
 - The stunt that I recently attempted turned out to be a failure.
 - The stunt that I recently attempted was a simple task.
139. The boy broke the window and took to his heels.
- The boy ran into the window.
 - The boy broke the window and ran away.
 - The boy broke the window and fell on his heels.
 - The boy broke the window with his heels.
 - The boy broke the window and robbed a pair of heels.
140. In an old bookshop, I happened to light upon a volume that belonged to my grandfather.
- In an old bookshop, I happened to discard a volume that belonged to my grandfather.
 - In an old bookshop, I happened to purchase a volume that belonged to my grandfather.
 - In an old bookshop, I happened to discover by chance a volume that belonged to my grandfather.
 - In an old bookshop, I happened to look for a volume that belonged to my grandfather.
 - In an old bookshop, I happened to reveal a volume that belonged to my grandfather.
141. At a party, he is always in high spirits.
- Talkative
 - Cheerful
 - Drunk
 - Uncontrollable
142. We should guard against our green-eyed friends.
- Rich
 - Jealous
 - Handsome
 - Enthusiastic
143. He is a queer fish. I have failed to understand him.
- Funny person
 - Sensitive person
 - Strange person
 - Quarrelsome person
144. The present undergraduate syllabus leaves very little elbow room for teachers to be innovative.
- Room for elbow
 - Space
 - Freedom
 - Ground
145. I tried to feel his pulse on the issue, but in vain.
- Find his views
 - Enlighten him
 - Argue with him
 - Guide him
146. The speaker gave a bird's eye view of the political conditions in the country.
- A detailed presentation
 - A biased view
 - A general view
 - A personal view

147. He was a king who ruled his subjects with a high hand.
 (a) Oppressively (b) Kindly (c) Conveniently (d) Sympathetically
148. It was such a strange affair that I would not make head or tail of it.
 (a) Lace it (b) Tolerate it (c) Remember it (d) Understand it
149. He does not like to be friendly with Sarla. He always gives her the cold shoulder.
 (a) Pushes her with his shoulder wherever they meet
 (b) Insult her in the presence of others
 (c) Tries to be unfriendly by taking no notice of her
 (d) Argues with her on any issue.
150. It was he who put a spoke in my wheel.
 (a) Tried to cause an accident (b) Helped in the execution of the plan
 (c) Thwarted the execution of the plan (d) Destroyed the plan
151. He put across his ideas to the minister.
 (a) Made available (b) Effectively conveyed
 (c) Strongly expressed (d) Laid aside
152. People were dropping like flies in the intense heat.
 (a) Collapsing in large numbers (b) Getting infected with many diseases
 (c) Taking leave in large numbers (d) Sitting down in the shade
153. His speech fell short on the audience.
 (a) Had no effect (b) Moved the audience
 (c) Impressed the audience (d) Was quite short
154. The project advanced by leaps and bounds.
 (a) Sharply (b) Slowly (c) Rapidly (d) Simply
155. You can easily overcome this situation if you keep your head clear.
 (a) Keep faith in (b) Remain calm (c) Believe in (d) Trust the others
156. There was a job for me to cut my teeth on.
 (a) To gain experience (b) To try
 (c) To sharpen my wits (d) To earn a decent salary
157. He has the habit of getting into a row over trivial matters.
 (a) Getting the right path (b) Giving unwanted advice
 (c) Seeking the help (d) Picking up a fight
158. Just keep your wig on. Everything will be alright.
 (a) Hold on to your wig, so it won't fall off (b) Get another haircut
 (c) Calm down (d) Take off your wig
159. Parents pay through their noses for their children's education.
 (a) By taking loans (b) An extremely high price
 (c) Grudgingly (d) Willingly
160. It's getting late so, I am going to hit the road.
 (a) Act immediately (b) To leave for somewhere
 (c) Run on the road (d) Leave the plan
161. His speech has taken the wind out of my sails.
 (a) Made my words or actions ineffective (b) Made me remember my past
 (c) Made me depressed (d) Made me think of the future
162. Many politicians in India are not fit to hold a candle to Mahatma Gandhi.
 (a) Superior (b) Equal (c) Inferior (d) Indifferent

163. The boy turned a deaf ear to the pleadings of all his well-wishers.
 (a) Listened carefully (b) Was deadly opposed
 (c) Posed indifference (d) Did not pay any attention
164. We should give a wide berth to bad characters.
 (a) Keep away from (b) Publicly condemn (c) Give publicly to (d) Not sympathise with
165. Sumit had to look high and low before he could find his scooter key.
 (a) Nowhere (b) Always (c) Everywhere (d) Somewhere
166. He is a plain, simple and sincere man. He will always call a spade a spade.
 (a) Say something to be taken seriously (b) Desist from making a controversial statement
 (c) Find meaning or purpose in your action (d) Avoid controversial situations
 (e) Be outspoken in language
167. She rejected his proposal of marriage point-blank.
 (a) Directly (b) Pointedly (c) Directly (d) Briefly
168. Let's buckle down and finish the assignments.
 (a) Get down (b) Be quiet (c) Work hard (d) Cry a lot
169. It is difficult to keep a level head in these days of mounting prices.
 (a) Remain cool and composed (b) Eke out an existence
 (c) Make both ends meet (d) Maintain a standard of living
170. Rahul fought tooth and nail to save his company.
 (a) With weapons (c) Using unfair means (b) As best as he could (d) with strength and fury
171. Harassed by repeated acts of injustice, he decided to put his foot down.
 (a) Resign (b) Not to yield
 (c) Withdraw (d) Accept the proposal unconditionally
172. The popularity of the yesteryears' superstar is on the wane.
 (a) Growing more (b) At its peak (c) Growing less (d) At rock-bottom
173. At Christmas, even the elderly fathers paint the town red.
 (a) Indulge in rioting (b) Paint the houses red (c) Spill red wine (d) Have a lively time
174. The members of the group were at odds over the selection procedure.
 (a) Acting foolishly (b) In dispute (c) Unanimous (d) Behaving childishly
175. There is no love lost between the two neighbours.
 (a) Close friendship (b) Intense dislike (c) A love-hate relationship (d) Cools indifference
176. I did not mind what he was saying; he was only talking through his hat.
 (a) Talking insultingly (b) Talking irresponsibly (c) Talking ignorantly (d) Talking nonsense
177. If you pass this difficult examination; it will be a feather in your cap.
 (a) You will get a very good job. (b) An achievement you will feel proud of
 (c) Your parents will be very happy. (d) You will get a scholarship for higher studies.
178. There was opposition to the new policy by the rank and file of the government.
 (a) The majority (b) The ordinary members (c) The cabinet members (d) The official machinery
179. Dowry is a burning question of the day.
 (a) A relevant problem (b) A dying issue (c) An irrelevant problem (d) A widely debated issue
180. The hero of Naipaul's novel 'A House for Biswas', like modern young men, wishes to paddle his own canoe.
 (a) Lead an independent life (b) Depend on himself
 (c) Make the best of his life (d) Have his own means of livelihood

181. His voice gets on my nerves.
 (a) Makes me sad (b) Irritates me (c) Makes me ill (d) Pierces my eardrums
182. Kamal was left high and dry by his friends when he lost all his money.
 (a) Isolated (b) Rejected (c) Wounded (d) Depressed
183. I just paid him a left-handed compliment.
 (a) An honest (b) A well deserved (c) An insincere (d) A flattering
184. The party stalwarts have advised the President to take it lying down for a while.
 (a) To show no reaction (b) To take rest (c) To be on the defensive (d) To be cautious
185. Not caring for the family, Devender wanted to gather roses only.
 (a) Wanted to paint a rosy picture of the past (b) Wanted to start the business of roses
 (c) Wanted to make a safe investment (d) Wanted to seek all the enjoyments of life
 (e) Desired to attain fame by hard work
186. The new C.M. stuck his neck out today and promised 10 kgs free wheat a month for all rural families.
 (a) Extended help (b) Took an oath (c) Caused embarrassment (d) Took a risk
187. The involvement of teachers in the scheme of education proves to be a mare's nest.
 (a) A false invention (b) A noble thing (c) A successful idea (d) A timely step
188. He burnt his fingers by interfering in his neighbour's affairs.
 (a) Got rebuked (b) Got himself insulted (c) Burnt himself (d) Got himself into trouble
189. When the police came, the thieves took to their heels.
 (a) Were taken by surprise (b) To begin to run away
 (c) Took shelter in a tall building (d) Unconditionally surrendered
 (e) Opened indiscriminate fire
190. The politician was able to sway the mob with his gift of the gab.
 (a) Fluency of speech (b) Flattering words (c) Abundance of promises (d) Political foresight
191. The detective left no stone unturned to trace the culprit.
 (a) Did very irrelevant things (b) Used all available means
 (c) Took no pains (d) Resorted to illegitimate practices
192. They sold their house because it was a real white elephant.
 (a) An expensive one (b) A big one (c) A useless one (d) A rare find
193. It will be wise on your part to let the bygones be bygones.
 (a) Resist the past (b) Ignore the past (c) Recollect the past (d) Revive the past
194. When he tells stories about himself, he is inclined to draw the long bone.
 (a) Get excited (b) Exaggerate (c) Get emotional (d) Understate
195. The great warrior, Baji-Prabhu, held the enemy at bay but was killed in the end.
 (a) Prevented the enemy from coming too near
 (b) Did not allow the enemy to attack his position
 (c) Launched a counter attack after initial success
 (d) Retreated initially but launched a heavy attack afterwards
 (e) Made the enemy to run away
196. He has reached his present position in his job through elbow grease.
 (a) His persistent fighting (b) His good connections
 (c) Flattering his superiors (d) His hard work
197. There is no gain saying the fact that the country is in difficulties.
 (a) Ignoring (b) Hiding (c) Forgetting (d) Denying

198. Discipline is on the wane in schools and colleges these days.
 (a) Increasing (b) Declining (c) Spreading (d) Spiralling
199. Eloquent lamentations regarding the fate of flora and fauna are certain to be rendered a cry in the wilderness.
 (a) A cry in vain (b) An unpleasant situation
 (c) A cry with a laughter (d) A laughter having no end
200. In the organised society of today, no individual or nation can plough a lonely furrow.
 (a) Remain unaffected (b) Do without the help of others
 (c) Survive in isolation (d) Remain non-aligned

ANSWERS

- | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 1. (c) | 2. (c) | 3. (a) | 4. (a) | 5. (a) | 6. (b) | 7. (a) | 8. (d) | 9. (b) | 10. (a) |
| 11. (b) | 12. (a) | 13. (d) | 14. (c) | 15. (a) | 16. (d) | 17. (a) | 18. (b) | 19. (b) | 20. (d) |
| 21. (b) | 22. (d) | 23. (a) | 24. (b) | 25. (d) | 26. (b) | 27. (b) | 28. (b) | 29. (d) | 30. (c) |
| 31. (c) | 32. (a) | 33. (d) | 34. (d) | 35. (b) | 36. (b) | 37. (c) | 38. (a) | 39. (d) | 40. (a) |
| 41. (c) | 42. (b) | 43. (c) | 44. (d) | 45. (c) | 46. (a) | 47. (b) | 48. (c) | 49. (a) | 50. (b) |
| 51. (d) | 52. (a) | 53. (b) | 54. (c) | 55. (b) | 56. (b) | 57. (d) | 58. (b) | 59. (d) | 60. (c) |
| 61. (d) | 62. (a) | 63. (d) | 64. (d) | 65. (d) | 66. (c) | 67. (d) | 68. (b) | 69. (d) | 70. (d) |
| 71. (c) | 72. (b) | 73. (c) | 74. (a) | 75. (a) | 76. (d) | 77. (b) | 78. (a) | 79. (a) | 80. (d) |
| 81. (b) | 82. (d) | 83. (d) | 84. (b) | 85. (a) | 86. (d) | 87. (b) | 88. (c) | 89. (d) | 90. (d) |
| 91. (a) | 92. (b) | 93. (c) | 94. (a) | 95. (b) | 96. (c) | 97. (c) | 98. (c) | 99. (c) | 100. (a) |
| 101. (d) | 102. (c) | 103. (b) | 104. (c) | 105. (a) | 106. (a) | 107. (a) | 108. (b) | 109. (d) | 110. (a) |
| 111. (b) | 112. (b) | 113. (a) | 114. (b) | 115. (b) | 116. (c) | 117. (c) | 118. (b) | 119. (a) | 120. (b) |
| 121. (d) | 122. (b) | 123. (c) | 124. (b) | 125. (b) | 126. (d) | 127. (d) | 128. (d) | 129. (d) | 130. (d) |
| 131. (c) | 132. (c) | 133. (c) | 134. (c) | 135. (c) | 136. (b) | 137. (e) | 138. (e) | 139. (b) | 140. (c) |
| 141. (b) | 142. (b) | 143. (c) | 144. (c) | 145. (a) | 146. (c) | 147. (a) | 148. (d) | 149. (c) | 150. (c) |
| 151. (b) | 152. (a) | 153. (a) | 154. (c) | 155. (b) | 156. (a) | 157. (d) | 158. (c) | 159. (b) | 160. (b) |
| 161. (a) | 162. (c) | 163. (d) | 164. (a) | 165. (c) | 166. (e) | 167. (b) | 168. (c) | 169. (a) | 170. (d) |
| 171. (b) | 172. (c) | 173. (d) | 174. (b) | 175. (b) | 176. (d) | 177. (b) | 178. (b) | 179. (d) | 180. (a) |
| 181. (b) | 182. (b) | 183. (c) | 184. (a) | 185. (d) | 186. (d) | 187. (a) | 188. (d) | 189. (b) | 190. (a) |
| 191. (b) | 192. (a) | 193. (b) | 194. (b) | 195. (a) | 196. (d) | 197. (d) | 198. (b) | 199. (a) | 200. (b) |