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# Idioms n Phrases Questions for IBPS Clerk Pre, SBI Clerk Pre and RRB Asst. Pre Exams.

## Idioms n Phrases Quiz 15

Directions: Identify the words that are similar in meaning to the phrase in bold. If none of the options conveys the correct meaning, mark (E) as your answer. The options do not necessarily need to be grammatically correct.

1. The GST is **the elephant in the room** in the sense that nobody knows which way it is going.

- A. The topic in vogue                      B. The issue being avoided                      C. More than one issue  
D. Something that causes confusion    E. An urgent appeal

2. I hate to **rain on your parade**, but lots of people have tried that strategy and it hasn't worked yet.

- A. To get emotional                      B. To motivate someone                      C. To discourage someone  
D. To make a mistake                      E. None of the above

3. Her much awaited return to the game last weekend was **put on ice** for the time being.

- A. Preserve something                      B. Behave in a cold manner                      C. Failure  
D. Postpone something                      E. Pre-pone something

4. He was upset to find his previously friendly colleagues **giving him the cold shoulder**.

- A. Disappointed                      B. Best behaviour                      C. Shun someone  
D. Blind anger                      E. Deliberate denial

5. Comparing America's economic growth to that of India's is like **comparing apples to oranges**.

- A. Find differences between two similar things.  
B. Find similarities between two different things.  
C. Compare notes and statistics.  
D. Identical in nature  
E. None of the above

6. The judge told her that she was being spared prison **by the skin of her teeth**.

- A. Escaped                      B. Just barely                      C. By a small margin  
D. Only A and B                      E. Only B and C

7. The budget presented by the Finance Minister was **the last straw** that broke the back of the regional party, as there was nothing in it for the state.

- A. to reach the heights of tolerance  
C. the only fruitful deed  
E. A small problem
- B. the only intolerable act  
D. the final hope

8. The accused man **bit the bullet** as the judge handed down his sentence.

- A. Imprisonment  
D. Become heartless
- B. Avoid anger  
E. Feel remorse
- C. Show fortitude

9. When I asked her if she knew who had taken my files, she started fumbling and **beating around the bush**.

- A. Get nervous  
D. Avoid relevant point
- B. Beat yourself  
E. A crisp answer
- C. Tell a lie

10. Fake jobs scams in India are **a dime a dozen**.

- A. Very serious  
D. More than twelve for every hundred people
- B. Very common  
E. None of the above
- C. Very few

Correct Answers:

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| B | C | D | C | B | E | A | C | D | B  |

Explanations :

1. **The elephant in the room:** The big issue, the problem people are avoiding.

*Example: The ever-growing debt burden on graduates' is the elephant in the room.*

Option A means *the latest topic of discussion* but is incorrect as can be seen from the correct meaning above.

Options C, D and E are also incorrect.

Only Option B is a good match.

Hence, option B is correct.

**2. Rain on someone's parade:** To disappoint or discourage someone by ruining or criticising their plans or aspirations.

*Example: Not to rain on your parade, but Will is not feeling well today and so he won't be able to join us for dinner.*

Option B is the opposite of what the idiom means.

Only option C fits in well here.  
Hence, option C is correct.

**3. Put something on ice:** to put a project on hold.

*Example: That journalist has been persistent in getting a comment from us for his story, but we'll just have to put him on ice until the trial is over.*

'Preserve something' is the literal meaning and is incorrect here.

Options B and C are both irrelevant.

'Pre-pone something' is the opposite of what the idiom means.

'Postpone something' is the correct answer.  
Hence, option D is correct.

**4. Give someone the cold shoulder:** Ignore someone

*Example: I thought she really liked me, but the next day she gave me the cold shoulder.*

As per the meaning above, the only option that fits in is 'Shun someone' i.e. to ignore somebody.  
Hence, option C is correct.

**5. Comparing apples to oranges:** Comparing two things that cannot be compared.

*Example: You can't compare your job as a nurse to mine as an engineer—that's comparing apples and oranges!*

Option A is opposite of what the idiom means.

Options C and D are both irrelevant.

Option B correctly conveys the actual meaning of the idiom.

Hence, option B is the answer.

**6. By the skin of your teeth:** Just barely

*Example: He made it to the final list of the university by the skin of his teeth.*  
*Just barely* and *by a small margin* are both correct.  
*Escape* means to *avoid* but does not convey the correct meaning.  
Hence, option E is correct.

**7. The last straw:** latest in a series of unpleasant or undesirable events, and makes you feel that you cannot tolerate a situation any longer.

*Example: The last straw in their relationship was when he physically abused her.*

*the only intolerable act* refers to the only unpleasant act, which is opposite to the meaning of the idiom which talks about a series of such acts.

*the only fruitful deed* and *the final hope* are irrelevant to the context.

*Small problem* is opposite of what the idiom means.

Only left option *to reach the heights of tolerance* conveys the correct meaning of the idiom.

Hence, option A is correct.

**8. Bite the bullet:** To get something over with because it is inevitable; to be brave and face a difficult situation.

*Example: "I hate going to the dentist, but I'll just have to bite the bullet."*

The only option that fits in is '*Show fortitude*', which means to be brave and face troubles.

The other options do not fit in.

Hence, option C is correct.

**9. Beat around the bush:** Avoid saying what you mean, usually because it is uncomfortable

*Example: "If you want to ask me, just ask; don't beat around the bush."*

'Get nervous' and 'tell a lie' are incorrect.

*Crisp* is the opposite of what the idiom entails.

*To Beat yourself* means to hold yourself responsible for something and is incorrect.

Only *Avoid relevant point* makes sense here.

Hence, option D is correct.

**10. A dime a dozen:** Something common

*Example: Guys like that are a dime a dozen.*

The only option that matches with the meaning given is 'very common'.

*Very few* is opposite of what the idiom means.

The rest are simply out of context.

Hence, option B is correct.



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