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Idioms n Phrases Questions for IBPS PO Mains, SBI PO Mains and RBI Grade B Exams.

Idioms n Phrases Quiz 18

Directions: Each question has three set of statements. Each set contains a pair of sentences wherein the first statement consists of an idiom/phrase while the second statement talks about a situation which may or may not depict the meaning of the idiom/phrase. You are required to select the pairs which correctly show the meaning of the idioms in the second statement.

1. A. I. The music industry is constantly evolving and is cyclical so you always need to have your **fingers on the pulse** or risk being termed obsolete.
II. In a B-school interview, along with intelligence, an aspirant is also expected to be full of confidence and passion.
- B. I. His enthusiasm is not only unbelievable but contagious and he simply **does not let the grass grow under his feet**.
II. The much-delayed auction of Taj Mansingh is likely to be postponed yet again as the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) got less than the required number of bids for the iconic property to go under the hammer.
- C. I. The coach asked the player to either **shape up or ship out**.
II. After multiple incidents similar to this one, she was finally given an ultimatum to improve her efficiency or risk being axed.
- A. Only I B. Only III C. Only I and II D. Only II and III E. All of the above

2. A. I. The problem of traffic pointed out by the celebrities don't amount to **a hill of beans** compared to the real problems faced by a common man.
II. If you continue to make these trivial complaints about the management of the company, you could find yourself looking for another job
- B. I. The State Police Complaints Authority (SPCA), Kerala, is currently **hard pressed** to provide justice to citizens who feel their police have done them wrong, according to its chairman V.K. Mohan.
II. Force India technical director Andrew Green says the team is disappointed that rules changes for the 2019 F1 season means that they will not be able to carry over their VJM11 chassis to next year.
- C. I. A brewery opening in Lakeville, Indiana, this fall has decided to **jump on the bandwagon** by naming its beers after controversial topics like the Flint water crisis that happened nearly 200 miles away.
II. A large number of cricket fans started supporting CSK by the mid-season after it became clear that they will make it to the playoffs.
- A. Only I B. Only III C. Only I and II D. Only I and III E. All of the above

3. A. I. The guide was not able **to keep his hair** on when one of the passengers lost their ring somewhere and demanded to revisit all of the places to try and find it.
- II. I advised him to stay calm while talking to clients or else they may not make an investment.
- B. I. In a **knee jerk reaction** after the big defeat, the coach dropped many of the players and fielded a new look team for the next match
- II. The government's ordinance on Jallikattu was an instant reaction to the judgment of the Supreme Court made without examining causes or facts.
- C. I. Without testing the proposal against constitutional principles like democracy or federalism, the Law Commission **has put the cart before the horse** by suggesting amendments on the logistics of how to conduct simultaneous elections.
- II. The government is following the wrong sequence of steps as it is investing heavily in human capital without building up the essential infrastructure.

A. Only I B. Only III C. Only I and II D. Only II and III E. All of the above

4. A. I. He called me to his cabin to give me advice on the project even though he thought **that ship had sailed**.
- II. As soon as the schedule for the examination was issued, the students started planning in order to excel in the same.
- B. I. The district magistrate and the police commissioner **see eye to eye** on the proposal by the labour union.
- II. In reality, the struggle which they had carried on in defence of this principle for seventeen years, with a good faith which it is impossible to ignore, ended in a defeat.
- C. I. The upcoming elections would be **a cloud on the horizon** for the government employees as their leave applications are likely to be rejected.
- II. Procrastination may seem to be an immediate solution, but may land you up in trouble in the long run.

A. Only I B. Only II C. Only III D. Only II and III E. All of the above

5. A. I. She used to be a very passionate woman who **wore her heart on her sleeve**, but repeated rejections at the hands of the ones she trusted made her go into a shell.
- II. It is unwise be open or forthright about your emotions in an interview as it gives an impression of volatility.
- B. I. Matthew's inability to contribute to the topic at hand showed he was **wet behind the ears** when it comes to marketing.
- II. The new salesman's amateur techniques proved to everybody at the meeting that he was inexperienced.
- C. I. The politician said in his speech that he wanted to provide for a **level playing field** to the downtrodden and marginalized sections of the society.
- II. To make sure the election is fair and honest, every party was given fixed amount of funds to spend and run their campaign.
- A. Only I B. Only III C. Only I and II D. Only I and III E. All of the above

6. A. I. Jane said that she has to **play it by ear** because she is not sure where to go tomorrow morning.
- II. The comic was asked to perform though he was not prepared so he decided to improvise.
- B.I. If you are a **high roller**, casinos will often let you stay in their hotels for free in the hopes that you will lose big amounts of money.
- II. The bank had a unique clientele as they targeted people who are willing to spend huge amount of money on extravagances.
- C.I. Life is actually a **learning curve** and the process of achieving excellence should always continue.
- II. I need to find the review of this book before I start working on the paper as I need to know what I am writing about.
- A. Only I B. Only III C. Only I and II D. Only I and III E. All of the above

7. A. I. In most of the movies the actresses play the role of a **damsel in distress** only to be saved by the lead actor.
- II. She is a strong willed woman and she would not accept any deal which would adversely affect the prospect of her company.
- B. I. I try to stay well informed so I don't end up **skating on thin ice** when the teacher asks me a question.
- II. Ethan has taken a lot of risk by investing all his savings in blue-chip stocks as the market is volatile.
- C. I. Sheila was determined to be the star of the show and she was not going to **play second fiddle to anyone**.
- II. Congress has decided to play the role of a junior ally in the upcoming elections in Uttar Pradesh.
- A. Only I B. Only III C. Only I and II D. Only II and III E. All of the above

8. A. I. It's was a long journey from Delhi to Australia so I thought I would **make a virtue of necessity** and write some articles that had to be submitted to the magazines.
- II. After the car accident, emergency technicians rushed to extract a heavy piece of metal from the patient's leg.
- B. I. I don't think **rubbing** the director of the company **in a wrong way** was a good move for your career.
- II. We had a rude awakening when the waiter brought us the bill and we saw how much we had spent on dinner and drinks.
- C. I. I tell my husband to **prick up his ears** when taking down the grocery details for the month else he tends to forget to buy certain important things.
- II. The teacher asked her students to start paying attention as the topic she was about to discuss was an important one.
- A. Only I B. Only III C. Only I and II D. Only I and III E. All of the above

9. A. I. The captain failed to prepare his team for a counter attack and this made them **sitting ducks** as the enemy bore down on them.
- II. In his school years he suffered from occasional bullying because he was known as the "nice guy", therefore making him an easy target for the bullies in school.
- B. I. I know you're anxious about this midterm exam, but just remember what we've gone over and try to **keep a level head**.
- II. The father advised his son to keep calm in the face of adversity and try again because failure is not permanent.
- C. I. We have just been bought over by a new company and it seems as if **a sea change** is in store for our marketing department.
- II. The transition from using desktop computers to mobile devices represents the transformation in data management within the field of information technology.
- A. Only I B. Only III C. Only I and II D. Only I and III E. All of the above

10. A. I. When training a new employee, I **make no bones about** my expectations, so that they're not surprised by anything down the road.
- II. Expecting the banker to be frank with him, the business owner asked for his exact chances on getting loan approval.
- B. I. My younger brother got far more stuff from my parents when we were kids because the **squeaky wheel gets the grease**.
- II. All adults should be calm around children because any stress that they detect, will fuel their attention-seeking behaviour.
- C. I. **There is no time like the present** to start this venture because the government is fully supportive of the sustainable energy and its related reforms.
- II. After a tiring day at work it is a relief for me to go back to my wife and kids and I have realized that a home is like an oasis in a desert.
- A. Only I B. Only III C. Only I and II D. Only I and III E. All of the above

Correct Answers:

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

Explanations :

1. **Keep your fingers on the pulse** - Being constantly aware of the most recent developments.

The statement talks about passion, confidence and intelligence but does not portray the meaning above and is incorrect.

Not let grass grow under feet - Don't delay in getting something done.

The statement is incorrect as it conveys the opposite meaning than the idiom.

Shape up or ship out - This expression is used to warn someone that if they do not improve their ways, they will have to leave their job.

The second statement is correct and conveys the same meaning as the idiom above.

Hence, option B is correct.

2. *A hill of beans: Something of low importance or value or worth.*

The first statement is correct and it portrays the same meaning as the idiom above.

Hard pressed: having a lot of difficulties doing something, especially because there is not enough time or money

The second statement talks about *disappointment* and not *difficulties* and does not portray the meaning in the idiom above.

Jump on the bandwagon: To join or follow something once it is successful or popular.

The third statement is correct and it portrays the same meaning as the idiom above.

Hence, option D is the correct choice.

3. *Keep your hair on: to ask someone to stay calm and compose.*

The first statement is correct and conveys the same meaning as the idiom above.

Knee jerk reaction: An immediate reaction to something without thinking or examining the facts, causes etc..

The second statement is correct and conveys the same meaning as the idiom above.

Put the cart before the horse: : Do the things in the wrong sequence or order.

The third statement is correct and conveys the same meaning as the idiom above.

Hence, option B is correct.

4. **The ship has sailed:** *An opportunity that has already been missed.*
The statement opposes the idea conveyed by the idiom and hence is incorrect.

See eye to eye: *To agree*

The sentence contradicts the idea conveyed by the idiom. Here, *mistrust* is the key word whereas the idiom talks of *trust and agreement*.

A cloud on the horizon: *Something that threatens to cause problems in future*

The second statement is correct and conveys the same meaning as the idiom above.

Hence, option C is correct.

5. **Wear heart on the sleeve:** *display your emotions openly*

The statement talks about the same thing as it talks about being open about your emotions.

Wet behind the years: *to be new at something or somewhere and so lack the necessary experience*

The statement talks about the same thing as it talks of the inexperience of the salesman.

Level playing field: *a situation where everyone has an equal and fair chance of succeeding*

The statement talks about the same thing as it talks of a fair election.

Hence, option E is correct.

6. **Play it by ear:** *improvise, act without preparation, to let things go as they may.*

The statement talks about the same thing it talks about improvising.

High Roller: *often someone who gambles with large amounts of money, someone who spends their money on extravagances.*

The statement talks about the same thing as it mentions spending on extravagances.

Learning Curve: *a process of learning something through one's own mistakes and experiences.*

The statement talks of summary to decide the contents of the book. Hence, it is not the same as the idiom.

Hence, option C is correct.

7. **Damsel in distress:** *a young woman in trouble.*

The statement talks of a strong willed woman who is adept at handling herself. Hence, it is not the same as the idiom.

Skating on thin ice: *to do something considered quite dangerous or risky, to be in a situation that can get quite dangerous or risky.*

The statement talks about the same thing as it talks about a risky situation.

Play Second Fiddle: *to play a secondary or minor role with regards to someone else.*

The statement talks about the same thing as the Congress has taken on a minor role in the alliance.

Hence, option D is correct.

8. Make a virtue of necessity: *extract something beneficial from an unwelcome obligation*
The statement talks about rescue after an accident. Hence, it is not the same as the idiom.

Rub the wrong way: *to be rude to someone and cause a tiff or a fight, to be impolite or irritate someone*

The statement talks about a rude awakening which is not what the idiom means. Hence, it is not the same as the idiom.

Prick up his ears: *to start paying attention, to begin the process of listening (to someone) intently*
In the statement the teacher asks the students to pay attention, hence it conveys the same meaning as the idiom.

Hence, option B is the correct answer.

9. Sitting duck: *to be an easy target, to be in a vulnerable position to be attacked.*
The statement talks about the boy being an easy target, hence it conveys the same meaning as the idiom.

Keep a level head: *To maintain a calm demeanor and think clearly in a difficult, stressful, or troubling situation.*

The statement talks about keeping calm, hence it conveys the same meaning as the idiom.

Sea change: *to have a big change in perspective, to undergo a complete transformation, a striking change in appearance.*

The statement talks about transformation, hence it conveys the same meaning as the idiom.

Hence, option E is the correct answer.

10. Make no bones about: *have no hesitation in stating or dealing with (something), however unpleasant or awkward it is.*

The statement talks about the same thing as the business owner expects the banker to be frank.

Squeaky wheel gets the grease: *to get something fixed, it is required to make a noise to get attention, the one who complains gets their issues fixed*

The statement talks about attention seeking. Hence, it is not the same as the idiom.

There is no time like the present: *an action should be done now rather than later.*
The statement talks about home and family. Hence, it is not the same as the idiom.

Hence, option A is the correct answer.



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