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

Idioms n Phrases Quiz 17

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. Privatization goes **against the grain** of their principle of opposition to private ownership of industry

- A. Normal B. Abnormal C. In sync D. Disparaging E. None of the above

2. The government is **dragging its feet** on measures to reduce pollution.

- A. Prepone something B. Show enthusiasm C. Delay something
D. Deteriorating situation E. None of the above

3. After several disappointments, everything seems to be **coming up roses** for the tennis player this year.

- A. Successful B. Disappointment C. Negative D. Failure E. None of the above

4. Funny how you can get **a bee in your bonnet** about the most unlikely matters.

- A. Speak succinctly B. Stay up C. Go wild D. Obsessed with an idea
E. None of the above

5. It was hoped that the testimony of the witnesses would **shed light** on the causes of the accident.

- A. Question B. Justify C. Explain D. Illuminate E. None of the above

6. With spring **just around the corner**, the new collection should begin to sell.

- A. Within a mile B. Expected to be pre-poned C. Expected to be postponed
D. Expected to occur soon E. None of the above

7. As soon as the explosion was heard, people ran to **take cover**.

- A. Dangerous B. Freedom C. Safety D. Vulnerability E. None of the above

8. After the terrible accident, his recovery was an **uphill battle** all the way.

- A. sick B. Difficult C. Modest D. Easy E. None of the above

9. The passenger was **beaten black and blue** by a gang of thugs.

- A. Bruised B. Killed C. Executed D. Verbally abused E. None of the above

10. The growing **credibility gap** may lead to a serious loss of votes in the next elections.

- A. Disbelief B. Amazement C. Ratification D. Faith E. None of the above

Correct Answers:

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

Explanations :

1. **Against the grain:** If something goes against the grain, it is difficult to accept because it is very different from what is considered normal or natural.

Example: Having to import apples in an apple-growing region really goes against the grain!

Normal and *in-sync* are both opposite of the idiom's meaning.

Disparaging means *disapproving* and is irrelevant.

Only *abnormal* matches with the meaning stated above.

Hence, option B is correct.

2. **Dragging one's feet** If you drag your feet, you delay a decision or participate without any real enthusiasm.

Example: He knows he should see a doctor, but he's dragging his feet.

Option A- *Prepone*- means to bring (something) forward to an earlier date or time and means the opposite of the idiom.

Options B and D are irrelevant.

Only option C- *delay something*- is correct as per the meaning stated above.

Hence, option C is correct.

3. Coming up roses: If things come up roses, the end result *is successful or positive*, even if there were difficult times.

Example: Earlier this year, everything was coming up roses for them.

Clearly, the tone is positive.

If we look at the options, all of the options are negative except *successful*. Also, as per the meaning stated above, *successful* is correct.

Hence, option A is correct.

4. A bee in your bonnet: To talk incessantly about something one thinks is important.

Example: She never stops talking about dieting - she's got a real bee in her bonnet about it.

Option A means to *speak briefly* and is opposite of what the idiom means.

Options B and C are also irrelevant.

Obsessed with an idea neatly summarizes the meaning.

Hence, option D is correct.

5. Shed light: If you shed light on something, you help to explain it or make it easier to understand.

Question is opposite of what the idiom means.

Justify means to defend and is incorrect.

Illuminate takes the idiom in its literal sense and is absurd.

Only *explain* fits in well.

Hence, option C is correct.

6. Just around the corner: If something is just around the corner, it will happen very soon.

Within a mile refers to actual distance and is incorrect.

Prepone and postpone are both incorrect as per the meaning of the idiom.

Only *Expected to occur soon* conveys the correct meaning of the idiom.

Hence, option D is correct.

7. Take cover: When someone takes cover, they hide from a danger in a place where they find protection.

As per the meaning of the idiom, only *safety* fits in.

Dangerous describes the situation from which people ran to take cover.

Freedom is irrelevant.

Vulnerability is the state of being easily damaged or prone to danger.

Hence, option C is correct.

8. Uphill battle: A difficult or severe situation.

Easy is opposite of the meaning while *modest* means *humble* and is irrelevant.

Only *difficult* fits in well.

Hence, option B is correct.

9. Beat black and blue: If a person is covered with bruise marks caused by being hit, they have been beaten black and blue.

Killed is extreme while *executed* is meaningless. *Verbally abused* is incorrect as per the meaning above.

Only *bruised* conveys the correct meaning of the idiom.

Hence, option A is correct.

10. Credibility gap: The extent of disbelief, of the difference between what you are asked to believe and what you are able to believe, is called a credibility gap.

Amazement is positive in tone and does not go with the tone of the statement.

Ratification and *faith* are opposite to the correct meaning.

Only *disbelief* matches well with meaning stated above.

Hence, option A is correct.



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