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

Idioms n Phrases Quiz 14

Directions: Identify the words that are similar in meaning to the word/idiom/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. Delhi and Mumbai are **tinderbox** cities and therefore must strengthen their respective fire and safety regulations.

- A. Full of inflammable waste B. Extremely crowded C. Dangerously uncontrollable
D. Readily ignited E. None of the above

2. The company tried to **keep a lid** on the lawsuit but word got out to the media.

- A. Control B. Conform C. Recover D. Defeat E. None of the above

3. Whether the temperature rise was mainly due to the greenhouse effect was **a moot point**.

- A. Certain B. Scheme C. Regular D. Disputed E. None of the above

4. When the new intern walked in dressed casually in jeans, there were a lot of **raised eyebrows**.

- A. Regret B. Enthusiasm C. Disapproval D. Questions E. None of the above

5. The customer **gave a mouthful** when asked the reason for his dissatisfaction.

- A. Angry B. Verbose C. Succinct D. Loud E. None of the above

6. The situation was already tense, but **the fat hit the fire** when she was accused of embezzling funds as well.

- A. Disapprove B. Deteriorate C. Troubled D. Widen E. None of the above

7. He **got a lot of flak** for his inability to stop the continuous plummeting of profits.

- A. Anger B. Severely C. Convenient D. Criticism E. None of the above

8. The event is one of many to ensure both children and adults in the area **are kept in stitches**.

- A. Excited B. Chained C. Disciplined D. Amused E. None of the above

9. He is **no spring chicken** himself, and knows the rules of the game very well.

- A. Young B. Old C. Amateur D. Professional E. None of the above

10. He's a versatile player, but under the new Coach, he was **neither fish nor fowl**, unable to assert himself on the pitch.

- A. Clear B. Useless C. Ambiguous D. Closed E. None of the above

Correct Answers:

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

Explanations :

1. The fragment '*must **strengthen their respective fire and safety regulations***' seems to imply that the two cities have parts/areas that are *likely* to catch fire and cause loss of lives and property.

Looking at the various options:

Extremely crowded and *Dangerously uncontrollable* are clearly incorrect as *population* has no relevance to *being a tinderbox*. Also, *dangerously uncontrollable* is too vague an option.

Out of *Full of inflammable waste* and *Readily ignited*, *Readily ignited* is the most suitable fit as it conveys the meaning which is most similar to the word *tinderbox* in the present context.

Hence, option D is the correct answer.

2. **To keep a lid on:** To control the level of something in order to stop it increasing.

Example: *The administration has intervened to keep a lid on inflation.*

Out of the given options, the most suitable fit is *control* as per the explanation given above.

Hence, option A is correct.

3. **A moot point:** Something that is subject to debate, dispute, or uncertainty.

Example: *Whether Shakespeare actually wrote the poem remains a moot point among critics.*

The meaning conveyed by the explanation is depicted by option D- *disputed*.

Hence, option D is correct.

4. **To raise eyebrows:** To elicit shock or offense, typically through unconventional actions or words.
Example: His outspoken comments raised quite a few eyebrows at the meeting.

The most suitable word that conveys the meaning is *disapproval*.

Hence, option C is correct.

5. **Gave a mouthful:** Talk to or shout at someone in an angry or critical way.

Example: When I asked her politely to move, she gave me a mouthful.

Clearly, option A- *Angry* conveys the correct meaning here.

Hence, option A is correct.

6. **Fat hits the fire:** When trouble breaks out, or a situation deteriorates as a result of something said or done, it is said that the fat hits the fire.

Example: Things were looking bad in the stock market, then the fat hit the fire and I lost everything.

Going by the explanation above, the only word that fits in is **deteriorate** which means *to worsen*.

Hence, option B is correct.

7. **Get flak:** To receive a lot of criticism or judgment. If you get a lot of flak from someone, they criticize you severely. If you take the flak, you get the blame for something.

Example: Why do I always get the flak when something goes wrong around here?

Going by the explanation above, the appropriate word here is **criticism** which means *disapproval*.

Hence, option D is correct.

8. **Keep somebody in stitches:** to keep somebody laughing hard or amused.

Example: The show kept me in stitches the whole time.

Excited means eager while the idiom means entertained.

Chained and *disciplined* are opposite to the context.

Amused is the correct fit here.

Hence, option D is correct.

9. No spring chicken: Said of a person who is no longer particularly young.

Example: Although he's no spring chicken, he runs fast.

Young is completely opposite of what the idiom refers to.

Amateur and *professional* are both irrelevant.

Only *old* fits in well.

Hence, option B is correct.

10. Neither fish nor fowl: Of doubtful character and difficult to identify or classify/ unclear.

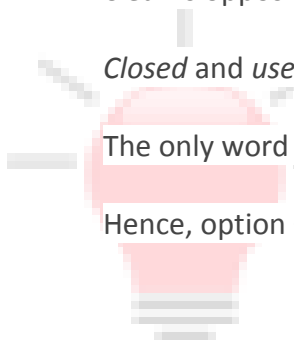
Example: We require a solution that directly deals with the issue at hand, but the proposal that has been put forward is, to my mind, neither fish nor fowl.

Clear is opposite to what the idiom means.

Closed and *useless* are both irrelevant.

The only word that fits in is *ambiguous* which means *doubtful/uncertain/unclear*.

Hence, option C is correct.



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