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The Question Bank

Idioms n Phrases Questions for SBI Clerk Mains, IBPS Clerk Mains, SBI PO Pre and IBPS PO Pre Exams.

Idioms n Phrases Quiz 26

Directions: In the question below, a statement has been given with a blank. In the options are some idioms/phrases, which may or may not fit in meaningfully in the blank. You are required to choose from the options, the one that provides the correct combination of the idioms/phrases which fit in the blanks grammatically and contextually.

Questions:

1. Both the Centre and States must _____ on ending the special treatment for sugar by letting market signals dictate crop prospects and prices.

- I. Bark up the wrong tree
- II. Burn the bridges
- III. Bite the bullet

A. Only II B. Only III C. Only I and II D. Only II and III E. None of the above

2. In the race to garner a larger share of the pie, the airlines seem to be _____ in training, supervision and safety – adopting a grow-now-fix-later attitude.

- I. cutting corners
- II. All ears
- III. Call a spade a spade

A. Only I B. Only II C. Only I and III D. Only III E. Only II and III

3. In this generally upbeat environment, hardly any analyst wants to _____ and state in a research report that the excitement about the rupee depreciation is overdone as far as IT stocks are concerned.

- I. Put their necks on the line
- II. Go out on a limb
- III. Stick their necks out

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



4. We're taught that evolution is all about "survival of the fittest" but sometimes evolution can be the result of a lucky animal _____.

- I. Cherry picking
- II. Arguing the toss
- III. Finding any port in a storm

A. Only I B. Only I and III C. Only II D. Only II and III E. Only III

5. Pakistan was _____ with Mr. Trump tweeting about Pakistan's duplicity in being "a non-NATO ally" and providing safe haven to insurgent groups.

- I. Put on notice
- II. Burying the hatchet
- III. Splitting hairs

A. Only I B. Only I and II C. Only II and III D. Only II E. None of the above

6. The company _____ that the project will take at least another six months to conclude given that none of the managers have a better grip on the work.

- I. took on
- II. stands to reason
- III. came down with

A. Only I B. Only II C. Only I and III D. Only II and III E. All I, II and III

7. Within 24 hours of announcing a meeting between the External Affairs Ministers' of the two nations, India _____ citing the recent attacks in Jammu and Kashmir by Pakistan-based groups.

- I. Hit pay dirt
- II. Drew a blank
- III. Called it off

A. Only II B. Only III C. Only I and II D. Only II and III E. None of the above

8. In the race to garner a larger share of the pie, the airlines seem to be _____ in training, supervision and safety – adopting a grow-now-fix-later attitude.

- I. cutting corners
- II. All ears
- III. Call a spade a spade

A. Only I B. Only II C. Only I and III D. Only III E. Only II and III



9. Both the Centre and States must _____ on ending the special treatment for sugar by letting market signals dictate crop prospects and prices.

- I. Bark up the wrong tree
- II. Burn the bridges
- III. Bite the bullet

A. Only II B. Only III C. Only I and II D. Only II and III E. None of the above

10. The shrewd scheme was about to _____ when unfortunately the authorities wouldn't allow him to fly his planes over the planned route.

- I. work like a charm
- II. Mean business
- III. Get the axe

A. Only II B. Only I C. Only I and III D. Only II and III E. None of the above



Correct Answers:

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



Explanations:

1. I. **Bark up wrong tree:** A person who is barking up the wrong tree is doing the wrong thing, because their beliefs or ideas are incorrect or mistaken.

Eg: The police are barking up the wrong tree if they think she stole the car as she can't drive.

II. **Burn bridges:** If you burn your bridges, you do something that will be impossible to rectify in the future.

Eg: If you refuse the offer, be careful not to burn your bridges by insulting them."

III. **Bite the bullet:** to force yourself to do something unpleasant or difficult, or to be brave in a difficult situation.

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

Clearly, I and II do not fit in at all. Only III fits in as it shows the government needs to let markets decide sugar prices.

Hence, option B is correct.

2. I. **Cut corners:** do something perfunctorily so as to save time or money.

Eg: There is always a temptation to cut corners when time is short.

II. **All ears:** To say that you are all ears means that you are listening very attentively.

Eg: Of course I want to know - I'm all ears!

III. **Call a spade a spade:** A person who calls a spade a spade speaks openly and truthfully about something, especially difficult matters.

Eg: What I like about the new manager is that he calls a spade a spade - it makes things so much easier for everyone.

As per the meanings of the idioms above, it is clear that the only one fitting meaningfully is the first idioms- **cut corners**. It talks about how airlines have been taking the short cut route in terms of quality.

Hence, option A is correct.



3. All of the idioms refer to doing something they strongly believe in even though it is risky or extreme, and is likely to fail or be criticized by other people. All of these idioms mean the same and fit in well in the present context.

Hence, option E is correct.

4. **Cherry pick:** When you cherry pick, you choose something with great care and select only the best.

Eg: Top university graduates are often cherry-picked by large companies.

Argue the toss: If you argue the toss, you dispute a decision or choice which has already been made.

Eg: One person argued the toss for four hours before he agreed to pay

Finding any port in a storm: Any solution to a difficult situation (is better than none). This clearly fits in.

Only III fits in meaningfully and is correct.

Hence, option E is correct.

5. The statement talks about President Trump warning Pakistan of action due to its terrorist activities.

Put on notice: Warn someone of something about or likely to occur, often in a formal or threatening way.

Bury the hatchet: When people who have had a disagreement decide to forget their quarrel and become friends again, they bury the hatchet.

Eg: I didn't agree with my colleague's decision, but for the sake of peace, I decided to bury the hatchet.

Split hairs: If you split hairs, you pay too much attention to differences that are very small or unimportant.

Eg: If we start splitting hairs, we'll never reach an agreement.

Clearly, only I fits in well while the others are meaningless.

Hence, option A is correct.

6. **Take on:** *to acquire something.* This does not fit in contextually.

Stands to reason: *to come to a reasonable deduction.*

Come down with: *start to suffer from a particular sickness.* This does not fit in contextually.

Hence, B is the correct answer.

7. **Hit pay dirt:** If you hit pay dirt, you are lucky and suddenly find yourself in a successful money-making situation.

Eg: He finally hit pay dirt with his latent invention.

Draw a blank: If you look for or try to remember something, and draw a blank, you fail to find it.

Eg: I nearly won the quiz; unfortunately I drew a blank at the last question!

Called it off: Cancelled it. This phrase fits in well and is correct.

Only III is correct.

Hence, option B is correct.

8. I. **Cut corners:** do something perfunctorily so as to save time or money.

Eg: There is always a temptation to cut corners when time is short.

II. **All ears:** To say that you are all ears means that you are listening very attentively.

Eg: Of course I want to know - I'm all ears!

III. **Call a spade a spade:** A person who calls a spade a spade speaks openly and truthfully about something, especially difficult matters.

Eg: What I like about the new manager is that he calls a spade a spade - it makes things so much easier for everyone.

As per the meanings of the idioms above, it is clear that the only one fitting meaningfully is the first idioms- **cut corners**. It talks about how airlines have been taking the short cut route in terms of quality.

Hence, option A is correct.

9. I. **Bark up wrong tree:** A person who is barking up the wrong tree is doing the wrong thing, because their beliefs or ideas are incorrect or mistaken.

Eg: The police are barking up the wrong tree if they think she stole the car as she can't drive.

II. **Burn bridges:** If you burn your bridges, you do something that will be impossible to rectify in the future.

Eg: If you refuse the offer, be careful not to burn your bridges by insulting them."

III. **Bite the bullet:** to force yourself to do something unpleasant or difficult, or to be brave in a difficult situation.

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

Clearly, I and II do not fit in at all. Only III fits in as it shows the government needs to let markets decide sugar prices.

Hence, option B is correct.

10. work like a charm: Works very well or has the desired effect.

Option I fills the sentence correctly as it implies that the scheme was about to work perfectly but the authorities restricted the flight.

Mean business: Being serious about what you announce.

Eg : *Now people are starting to realise that he means business.*

Get the axe: Lose the job.

Eg: He got the axe at the end of the first week.

Clearly only I fit in the sentence correctly.

Hence, option B is correct.



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