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Idioms and Phrases Quiz 7

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

1. If we don't offer a good price for the house now, we'll probably miss the boat.

- A. Acted quickly B. Acted late C. Unpleasant situation
D. Historical theme E. None of the above

2. "I expect you to do the job well but don't try to boil the ocean!"

- A. Increase competition B. Complete essentials C. Waste time
D. Unexpectedly lucky E. None of the above

3. I made no bones about it and directly told him his offer was unacceptable.

- A. Be rude B. Warm behaviour C. Be blunt
D. Have a strong opinion E. None of the above

4. I don't know how he puts up with their constant complaining.

- A. Tolerate B. Finished C. Adjust
D. Plan E. None of the above

5. We just need to iron out a few things before the new software ready for release.

- A. Use an iron B. Too many activities C. Suspicious behavior
D. Tackle minor issues E. None of the above

6. If you really want to become a comic book artist, you have to keep at it.

- A. Nagging B. Hard work C. Persevere
D. Smart work E. None of the above

7. Let's put our heads together and come up with a solution to this problem.

- A. Confer B. Debate C. Argue
D. Both A and C E. None of the above

8. Our brother and sister really put themselves out to make your party special, so it would be nice if you showed a little appreciation.

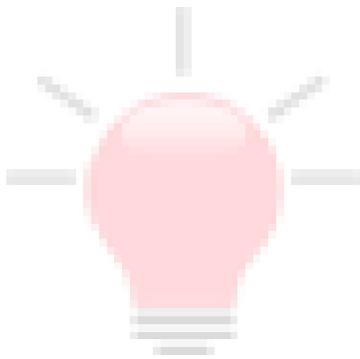
- A. Arranged
- B. Considerable effort
- C. Troubled past
- D. Shabby treatment
- E. None of the above

9. The library dispenses with its normal operating hours during the exam week.

- A. Reduces
- B. Stops
- C. Increases
- D. Engage
- E. None of the above

10. After months of writer's block, I'm still surprised that I just reeled off three short stories in a week.

- A. Get something done easily
- B. Get things done after a lot of hard work
- C. To realize something
- D. Both A and B
- E. None of the above



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Correct Answers:

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

Explanations:

1.

Miss the boat: If you miss the boat, you fail to take advantage of an opportunity because you don't act quickly enough.

Ex: I managed to get my order through before the end of the special offer - but I nearly missed the boat!

As per the meaning above, acted quickly is opposite to the correct meaning.

Options C and D are irrelevant.

Only acted late matches with the context.

Hence, option B is correct.

2.

Boil the ocean: To “boil the ocean” means to waste time on a task or project that is unnecessary and not worth doing.

Ex: You're wasting my time. You might as well be boiling the ocean.

The closest option matching the correct meaning is waste time.

Hence, option C is correct.

3.

Make no bones about something: If you make no bones about something, you don't hesitate to say something in a frank and open way.

Ex: Tom made no bones about wanting to be promoted.

This eliminates warm behavior.

Out of the rest, only being blunt fits in. Rude and discourteous do not match with the meaning conveyed above.

Hence, option C is correct.

4.

Put up with something: To endure someone or something that one finds unpleasant or annoying.

Ex: I don't know how you put up with John—he's such a loudmouth!

The only option that fits in is tolerate meaning to endure.

Hence, option A is correct.

5.

Iron out: To ease, solve, or remove minor difficulties, troubles.

Ex: Your friends and family are great means of support when you need to iron out the wrinkles of your life.

Use an iron takes the phrase literally which is incorrect.

Of the rest, only option D- Tackle minor issues- fits in.

Hence, option D is correct.

6.

Keep at it: To continue trying to do or achieve something, especially after initial failures or setbacks.

Ex: The crossword puzzle was difficult, but she kept at it and finally solved it.

As per the meaning stated, nagging is incorrect while hard work and smart work also do not convey the meaning properly.

Only persevere, meaning to continue to put effort into something, fits in.

Hence, option C is correct.

7.

Put our heads together: Consult/discuss/confer and work together.

Ex: They forced the major banks to put their heads together to sort it out.

Debate and argue are both clearly incorrect as the tone of the statement given is positive while these convey a negative tone.

Only confer which means to discuss is correct.

Hence, option A is correct.

8.

Put themselves out: To put in a great deal of effort; to inconvenience oneself or go through a lot of trouble.

Ex: I don't know why I always put myself out to impress your parents—they never appreciate what I do anyway.

Option B is the only meaning that fits in well.

Hence, option B is correct.

9.

Dispense with: Manage without or get rid of. To waive/ omit/ drop.

Ex: Let's dispense with the formalities, shall we?

As per the meaning, stops fits in well here.

Increases is opposite to the correct meaning while the others are incorrect.

Hence, option B is correct.

10.

Reel off: To do several things quickly and seemingly with little effort.

Ex: She reeled off the titles of a dozen or so of the novels.

As per the meaning above, option B is opposite of the correct meaning while option C is irrelevant.

Only option A fits in well.

Hence, option A is correct.



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