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English

Idioms / Phrases

Questions with Explanation



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1. The idiom 'break the ice' means :
  - (a) removing the initial hesitation
  - (b) removing the dust
  - (c) clearing the dew
  - (d) insulting someone

[RPSC II Grade (English), 2017]
2. 'To smell a rat' means :
  - (a) to detect bad smell
  - (b) to misunderstand
  - (c) to suspect a trick
  - (d) to see hidden meaning

[RPSC II Grade (English) 2017]
3. 'Achilles heel' means :
  - (a) the strongest point
  - (b) a fatal weakness
  - (c) a big hill
  - (d) a folk dance

[RPSC II Grade (English), 2017]
4. "Salad days" means :
  - (a) days of one's youthful inexperience.
  - (b) days of one's old age experiences
  - (c) days of abstaining from vices
  - (d) days full of hatred for all

[RPSC II Grade (English), 2017]



5. The idioms 'At one's fingertips' means :

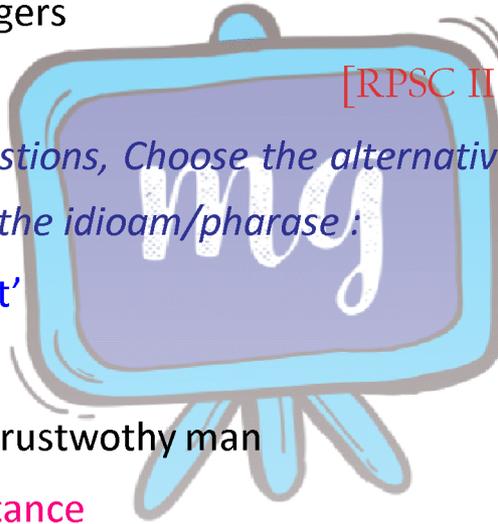
- (a) to take revenge
- (b) matter of shame
- (c) readily available knowledge
- (d) balancing on fingers

[RPSC II Grade (English), 2017]

In next two questions, Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the idiom/pharase :

6. 'A man of weight'

- (a) A fat person
- (b) To truthful and trustwothy man
- (c) A man of importance
- (d) A notorious man



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[RJS, 2015]

7. 'A fool's paradise'

- (a) Paradise of idiots
- (b) A state of happiness for foolish reasons
- (c) To live in the past
- (d) To remain in the state of day dreaming

[RJS, 2015]

8. A wild goose chase

- (a) A foolish and fruitless search
- (b) A foolish but fruitful search
- (c) A foolish but pleasant search
- (d) A comprehensive search

[RPSC II Grade (English), 2012]



9. A Wolf in Sheep's Clothing

- (a) A hypocrite
- (b) An honest man
- (c) A sincere man
- (d) An honest and sincere man

[RPSC II Grade (English), 2012]

10. A dead letter

- (a) No longer liked
- (b) No longer in force
- (c) No longer in control
- (d) No longer dead

[RPSC II Grade (English), 2012]

11. In a jiffy

- (a) very soon
- (b) later
- (c) a little later
- (d) after a long time

[RPSC II Grade (English), 2012]

12. There is no smoke without fire

- (a) There is no effect without a background
- (b) There is no effect without a cause
- (c) There is no cause without an effect
- (d) There must be a cause for a happening

[RPSC II Grade (English), 2012]

13. 'To weather the storm' means-

- (a) to be out in bad weather
- (b) to survive in difficult times
- (c) to make a fuss over something
- (d) to feel happy

[RPSC II Grade (English), 2013]



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14. 'To pull through' means :

- (a) to pull with strength
- (b) to use a lot of energy
- (c) to recover
- (d) to control

[RPSC II Grade (English), 2013]

15. 'A fish out of water' means :

- (a) face to face with death
- (b) in want of a house
- (c) determined to live
- (d) in a strange situation

[RPSC II Grade (English), 2013]

16. A mother looks after her children with selfless devotion. The underlined phrase means.

- (a) takes care of
- (b) searches for
- (c) searches about
- (d) none of these

[REET (Level-II), 2021]

17. 'Make hay while the sunshines' means :

- (a) use the sunshine for harvesting
- (b) be active during the day
- (c) be merry during the summer
- (d) make maximum use of a given opportunity

[RPSC II Grade (English), 2013]

18. 'To back upon' means :

- (a) to hope
- (b) to invest
- (c) to harness
- (d) to depend

[RPSC II Grade (English), 2013]

19. 'Need of the hour' means :
- (a) the most essential requirement
  - (b) the requirement at a given time
  - (c) a dire necessity
  - (d) timely remedy

[RPSC II Grade (English), 2013]

20. 'As the enemy was closing in, we decided to stay away.' The phrase 'close in' means :
- (a) Shoot out
  - (b) Go away
  - (c) Come nearer
  - (d) Win



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[RJS, 2017-18]

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