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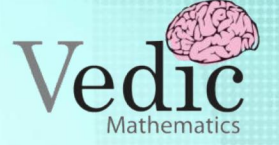
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In SBI Clerical Cadre (Phase-I) Examination 3-4 questions based on Idioms and Phrases may be asked.

Questions based on Idioms and Phrases are asked in two different ways. In the first type of questions, a sentence is given with an idiom or a phrase printed in bold, italics or underline. The candidate is required to choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the idiom/phrase. In the second type of questions, the idiom/phrase itself is given as the question.

Sometimes questions based on Sentence Improvement or Reading Comprehension also include questions relating to Idioms and Phrases.

- An idiom is a group of words whose meaning is different from the meanings of the individual words.
- A phrase is a group of words which have a particular meaning when used together.

The purpose of these questions is to test a candidate's knowledge of English language and his ability to express his views in an effective manner.

Rapid Clues

- First read the sentence and infer its meaning.
- If you have read or heard the given idiom/phrase, try to recall in what context you have read or heard it.
- If you don't know the meaning of the idiom/phrase, try to guess or sense its meaning in the context of the sentence.
- You can also get to the right answer by eliminating the options which are clearly wrong.
- Read all the alternatives carefully before choosing the meaning of the idiom/phrase.

- Learn as many idioms and phrases as you can and use them in your own sentences.

A bad egg (a worthless): He belongs to a noble family but he himself is a bad egg.

To mince matters (hide the truth and pretend): She tried to mince matters but she failed to do so.

To bury the hatchet (to make peace): The teacher asked us to bury the hatchet and be friends.

To grease the palm of (to bribe): If you want to get this job, you will have to grease the palm of the manager.

Through thick and thin (under favourable and unfavourable conditions; steadfastly): They will help her through thick and thin.

To give a thick ear to (to give a blow on the ear): The mother gave a thick ear to the naughty child.

A bed of roses (an easy, comfortable situation): Life is not a bed of roses.

To bear the lion in his den (to visit somebody powerful to challenge him): It is not wise for you to hear the lion in his den.

To touch the right chord (to appeal cleverly to somebody's feelings): She touched the right chord and made the disappointed children happy.

To beat about the bush (to talk in a round about manner): Mrs. Dixit always beats about the bush.

To fall flat (to have no effect): The principal's speech fell flat on the students.

A snake in the grass (a secret enemy): We should always be beware of the snakes in the grass.





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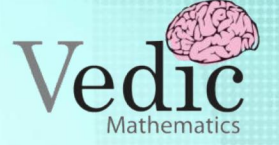
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To end in smoke/fiasco (come to nothing): All his efforts to get that job ended in smoke.

To bring to book (to punish): Dinesh was brought to book for his immoral act.

To pay off old scores (to take revenge): The way he is treating his colleague, it seems that he is paying off old scores.

To be out of sorts (to be unwell): I am out of sorts today and can't do it properly.

In the blues (depressed): After the marriage of his girl friend he is in the blues these days.

Palmy days (affluent days): I can never forget those palmy days of my life.

Heart and soul (devotedly): Mukul always does his work heart and soul.

At sixes and sevens (in disorder): When we entered his room everything was at sixes and sevens.

To call a spade a spade (to speak plainly): I like Ravi because he always calls a spade a spade.

Part and parcel (inseparable part): Kashmir is part and parcel of India.

Green horn (inexperienced): Though a green horn in this business, he appears to have a bright future.

Ivory tower (imaginary world): He who thinks of an honest and unselfish leader in today's politics live in ivory tower.

Oily tongue (flattering words): Arun often wins over the enemies by his oily tongue.

Pull one's socks up (work hard): You must pull your socks up to get good marks in the examination.

To and fro (forward and backward): The people were strolling in the park to and fro.

To have feet of clay (full of faults): There are a few in the party who don't have feet of clay.

A flash in the pan (sudden success): His selection in the university cricket team was a flash in the pan.

Close shave (a narrow escape): He had a close shave in an accident yesterday.

Cut and dried (readymade form): You can't get everything cut and dried.

To bite the dust (to be defeated): Pakistan had to bite the dust in the Kargil war.

Willy-nilly (whether one wishes or not) : She was forced willy-nilly to accept the proposal.

To have an axe to grind (to have a selfish interest): Ravi does not help anyone unless he has an axe to grind.

To give a wide berth (to avoid): One should always give a wide berth to the bad habits

To take to heels (to run away): The girls playing in the garden took to their heels on seeing a snake.

Black and blue (to beat mercilessly): Raju was beaten black and blue by the thieves.

To draw the long bow (exaggerate): In calling Rekha the most beautiful girl of the town, her mother drew the long bow.

To clip one's wings (to weaken the power): My brother wants to be a car racer but my father will clip his wings.





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To pull a long face (to look sad): Sonu pulled a long face when he was scolded by his father, for coming late.

To make the most of (to utilise): You should make the most of your time if you want to be successful.

To steal a march (to get ahead secretly): Renu stole a march on her friend in studies and got the first position.

To throw cold water (to discourage): Instead of encouraging me, my friend threw cold water on my scheme.

Hard and fast (strict): There is no hard and fast rule about being punctual in the college.

A bolt from the blue (sudden or unexpected shock): The news of Ankur's accident came to his wife as a bolt from the blue.

The ins and outs (secrets): He knows the ins and outs of our family.

At one's finger tips (complete knowledge): All the formulas of mathematics are at his finger tips.

To be nipped in the bud (to destroy in the very beginning): This problem should be nipped in the bud.

The halcyon days (peaceful days): The days I spent in my village were the halcyon days of my life.

Out of the woods (out of danger): The operation is over but he is not out of the woods yet.

Queer fish (strange person): Raju is such a queer fish that one cannot make anything out of his attitude.

Writing on the wall (signal, warning): He read the writing on the wall and decided not to invest in the property market.

Touch and go (risky): After the snow began to fall, the mountain climbers had a touch and go descent.

With bated breath (with restrained breath because of fear, respect awe): Seeing a road accident, he was left with bated breath

To go down the stream (to move down the river): The boat goes down the stream at a high speed.

The light of one's eyes (very dear): Every child is the light of its parents' eyes.

To see the light (to be born): Mr. Rohit saw the light in 1990.

Sadder but wiser (having learnt something important from a mistake or failure): His failures have made him sadder but wiser

To see eye to eye (to agree): He could never see eye to eye with his father.

To go to the dogs (to be ruined): Anuj will soon go to the dogs because of his bad habits.

To kick the bucket (to die): Mr. Verma kicked the bucket after a long illness.

To assume airs (to pretend superiority): Neelam is in the habit of assuming airs in the presence of her friends.

To smell a rat (to be suspicious): I smelt a rat in the bargain that Mr. Singh made with my brother.

To laugh in one's sleeves (to laugh secretly): The staff laughed in their sleeves at the Manager's pompous speech.

To bell the cat (to attempt something dangerous): They all boast of their bravery, but none can bell the cat.





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Safe and sound (secure and unharmed): The bus fell into a ditch but all the passengers were safe and sound.

With a high hand (in an arrogant manner or dictatorial manner): She runs her industry with a high hand.

To try one's hand (to test one's skill or aptitude for): He tried his hand at business.

To wash one's hands of (to disclaim any responsibility for; to renounce interest in or support of): She washed her hands of the entire affair.

The golden rule (a very important rule of conduct): Hospitality is the golden rule of life.

A good time girl (a girl whose chief aim is enjoyment): Sweta is a good time girl.

To give loose rein to (to allow to act without restraint): The government should not give loose rein to the government employees.

To give somebody the cold shoulder (to treat coldly): He gives his guests the cold shoulder.

One's own flesh and blood (one's near relatives): His own flesh and blood will cause his destruction.

To play fast and loose with (to act in an irresponsible or inconsiderate manner): My Principal played fast and loose with the teachers.

To cry over spilt milk (to lament over what cannot be changed): Crying over spilt milk is useless.

From the cradle (since childhood): He has been lucky from the cradle.

Cream of the crop (the best): Puja is the cream of the crop in this college.

A dog in the manger (a person who prevents others from enjoying something that is useless to him): This miser is like a dog in the manger.

To sit on one's hands (to do nothing): You cannot earn your livelihood sitting on your hands.

A sitting duck (a person or thing that is an easy target to attack): The poor villagers are the sitting ducks for the terrorists.

At the top of the tree (in the highest position or rank in a profession, career, etc): He has been promoted at the top of the tree in administration.

Bark up the wrong tree (be mistaken about something): I barked up the wrong tree about you.

To ruffle somebody's feather (to annoy somebody): The son ruffled the father's feathers by marrying a Muslim girl.

To burn one's finger (to suffer injury by acting rashly): He burnt his finger by slapping a criminal.

To turn the corner (to pass through a crisis safely): When the doctor's report came, I knew he had turned the corner.

To catch a tartar (to deal with a very troublesome or powerful person): Having quarrelled with his neighbour, he caught a tartar.

To raise one's voice against (to speak firmly and boldly against somebody/ something): The son raised his voice against the wrong decision of his father.

To shout at the top of one's voice (to shout as loudly as one can): The drowning boy shouted at the top of his voice.





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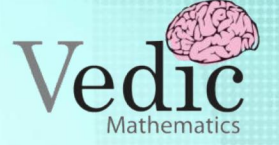
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To split hairs (to find fault with): He splits hairs of my every achievement.

The swing of the pendulum (the movement of public opinion from one extreme to the other): Candidates have to face the swing of the pendulum in the election.

To eat humble pie (to be very apologetic): When you exposed her wrong doings, she ate humble pie.

With open arms (with great affection): They welcomed the guests with open arms.

To come into the open (to come into public view): The leader's statements came into the open.

Good for nothing (worthless): His old coat is good for nothing.

To throw good money after bad (to lose money in trying to gain lost money): The gambler threw good money after bad.

To grind to one's mill (to turn something to one's own profit or advantage): A cunning man always grinds to his mill.

To stand one's ground (to be firm): Our pleader stood his ground in this case.

To move heaven and earth (to make maximum efforts): He moved heaven and earth to win the gold medal.

To come down/back to earth (to stop daydreaming; return to practical realities): Julie was dreaming of becoming an actress but now she has come down/back to earth.

To foam at the mouth (to be extremely angry): The headmaster foamed at the mouth when he saw Mohan teasing a girl.

To act/play the fool (to behave stupidly): It is not expected from a professor to act play the fool.

To live in a fool's paradise (to live in a state of carefree happiness that cannot last): She is living in a fool's paradise these days.

To be nobody's fool (to be wise): Ram's father is sure that he is nobody's fool.

Blue blood (alleged superiority by reason of birth): Jawaharlal Nehru was a man of blue blood.

To pipe one's eye (to weep bitterly): He is piping his eye at his father's death.

Fit as a fiddle (in very good physical condition): This child is fit as a fiddle.

A fish out of water (a person out of accustomed environment): I feel like a fish out of water among politicians.

To have the edge on somebody (to be better than others): Ramesh has the edge on his neighbours.

To tread upon eggs (to walk or behave cautiously): The wise tread upon eggs to lead a peaceful life.

To fight fire with fire (return like for like): The policy of fighting fire with fire should be avoided.

To fall on one's feet (to be fortunate; to get out of a difficulty successfully): Some people always seem to fall on their feet.

Under the wire (just within the limit or deadline): The application reached the convenor under the wire."





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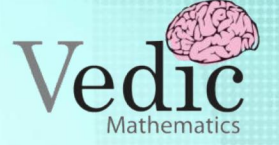
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To turn up like a bad penny (to appear when one is unwelcome or unwanted): He turns up like a bad penny in every meeting.

Over head and ears (deeply immersed): She is in love with him over head and ears.

To turn a deaf ear (to refuse to help; to refuse to listen and consider): He turned a deaf ear to my request.

To keep out of the way (to avoid facing somebody): She keeps out of the way when she sees me.

To come into effect (to reach the stage of being operative): The new regulations came into effect last month.

Deadlock (a state in which progress is impossible: complete standstill): The family dispute proved to be a deadlock in his life.

Dead sure (definite): His success in this examination is dead sure.

Hue and cry (noise; commotion): There was much hue and cry over her elopement.

Practice Questions

Directions (Q. Nos. 1 - 50) In each of the following questions, five alternatives are suggested for the idiom /phrase given in Underline in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the idiom /phrase.

1. Things are progressing well-don't do anything to rock the boat.

- (1) create difficulties (2) conspire against
(3) upset the balance (4) agitate against
(5) put stones somewhere

2. It goes to his heart to see so much misery.

- (1) influences him (2) touches him deeply
(3) makes him yield (4) annoys him
(5) encourages him

3. Rahul fought tooth and nail to save his company.

- (1) with weapons (2) as best as he could
(3) using unfair means (4) with strength and fury
(5) without any help

4. In everything that he does he has an eye to the main chance.

- (1) he organises it well
(2) he evinces interest only in big things
(3) he does not leave things to chance
(4) his object is to make money
(5) he works very hard

5. The sight of the accident made my flesh creep.

- (1) worried me (2) frightened me
(3) confused me (4) drew my attention
(5) made me angry

6. Manoj always keeps himself to himself.

- (1) is selfish (2) does not take sides
(3) is unsociable (4) is too busy
(5) is doubtful

7. He is a plain, simple and sincere man. He will always call a spade a spade.

- (1) say something to be taken seriously
(2) desist from making controversial statement
(3) find meaning or purpose in your action
(4) avoid controversial situations
(5) be outspoken in language

8. He is at loggerheads with his assistants about the management of the concern.

- (1) differing strongly (2) in agreement
(3) in confusion (4) undecided
(5) not sincere





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9. I am afraid the two brothers are at cross purposes.

- (1) quarrel with each other
- (2) dislike each other
- (3) are working against each other
- (4) are misunderstanding each other
- (5) are working for different companies

10. The doctor says the patient has turned the corner.

- (1) completely recovered
- (2) become worse
- (3) passed the crisis
- (4) died
- (5) got another disease

11. He is in the habit of fishing in troubled waters.

- (1) putting others in trouble
- (2) indulging in evil conspiracies
- (3) aggravating the situation
- (4) taking advantage of troubled conditions for personal profit
- (5) None of the above

12. At a party, he is always in high spirits.

- (1) talkative
- (2) cheerful
- (3) drunk
- (4) uncontrollable
- (5) pensive

13. I am sure he means business.

- (1) is earnest
- (2) is inquisitive
- (3) is a trader
- (4) is anxious to make profit
- (5) wants to do business

14. I just paid him a left-handed compliment.

- (1) an honest
- (2) a well deserved
- (3) an insincere
- (4) a flattering
- (5) a sincere

15. Once in a while he might gamble a little.

- (1) frequently
- (2) continually
- (3) seldom
- (4) occasionally
- (5) hurriedly

16. Our school is within a stone's throw of the railway station.

- (1) within a certain radius
- (2) at a short distance
- (3) within a definite circumference
- (4) very far off
- (5) None of the above

17. My mother is in raptures over her new stove.

- (1) very enthusiastic
- (2) working vigorously
- (3) completely dissatisfied with
- (4) extremely angry
- (5) very complaining

18. It was out of place for him to talk on politics when the seminar was arranged to discuss recent trends in literature.

- (1) foolish
- (2) strange
- (3) inappropriate
- (4) odd
- (5) innovative

19. I stood my ground in spite of many pressures.

- (1) remained firm
- (2) was obstinate
- (3) was prejudiced
- (4) felt shaky
- (5) didn't react

20. The train was late and we had to kick our heels.

- (1) run fast
- (2) wait eagerly
- (3) waste time
- (4) play some game
- (5) None of these





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21. The party stalwarts have advised the President to take it lying down for a while.

- (1) to show no reaction
- (2) to take rest
- (3) to be on the defensive
- (4) to be cautious
- (5) to take it seriously

22. The casting vote of the chairman clinched the issue.

- (1) closed
- (2) decided
- (3) finished
- (4) started
- (5) heated

23. It was such a messy affair but Manish somehow managed to wash his hands of the entire affair.

- (1) subdue
- (2) twist the facts of
- (3) prove himself innocent in
- (4) disclaim responsibility
- (5) None of these

24. He threw cold water over the project that the secretary had prepared.

- (1) encouraged
- (2) discouraged
- (3) cleared
- (4) rejected
- (5) refined

25. The boy turned a deaf ear to the pleadings of all his well-wishers.

- (1) listened carefully
- (2) was deadly opposed
- (3) posed indifference
- (4) did not pay any attention
- (5) tried to listen

26. The mealy-mouthed politician succeeded in influencing the voters.

- (1) ill – tempered
- (2) soft – tongued
- (3) cunning
- (4) ambitious
- (5) handsome face

27. It is a moot point whether we should stop work or struggle on.

- (1) all too clear
- (2) a fixed belief
- (3) a burning question
- (4) a debatable point
- (5) already known

28. We should give a wide berth to bad characters.

- (1) keep away from
- (2) publicly condemn
- (3) give publicly to
- (4) not give our seat to
- (5) None of these

29. His voice gets on my nerves.

- (1) makes me sad
- (2) irritates me
- (3) makes me ill
- (4) pierces my eardrums
- (5) makes me happy

30. The police are used to seeing the seamy side of life.

- (1) an adventurous life
- (2) a life full of risks
- (3) criminal society
- (4) immoral aspects of society
- (5) hidden dangers

31. Do not add fuel to the fire.

- (1) create problem
- (2) harass
- (3) aggravate trouble
- (4) calm down
- (5) encourage them

32. Don't stick your neck out.

- (1) interfere
- (2) look outside
- (3) invite trouble unnecessarily
- (4) move
- (5) give response

33. The aroma from the kitchen makes my mouth water.

- (1) makes me sick
- (2) makes me giddy
- (3) makes me vomit
- (4) stimulates my appetite
- (5) makes me dizzy





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34. We should guard against our green – eyed friends.

- | | |
|--------------|------------------|
| (1) rich | (2) jealous |
| (3) handsome | (4) enthusiastic |
| (5) unique | |

35. This place affords a bird's eye view of the green valley below.

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| (1) beautiful view | (2) general view |
| (3) narrow view | (4) ugly view |
| (5) None of these | |

36. I won't mind even if he goes to dogs.

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| (1) goes mad | (2) is insulted |
| (3) is runed | (4) becomes brutal |
| (5) behaves like a dog | |

37. She was received by her friends with open arms.

- | | |
|-------------------|------------|
| (1) indifferently | (2) warmly |
| (3) casually | (4) coldly |
| (5) hesitatingly | |

38. Kamal was left high and dry by his friends when he lost all his money.

- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| (1) isolated | (2) rejected |
| (3) wounded | (4) depressed |
| (5) blessed | |

39. This report calls in question all previous research on the subject.

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| (1) recalls | (2) criticises |
| (3) challenges | (4) takes note of |
| (5) None of these | |

40. Mr. Roy is known as a shop – lifter in the city commercial centre.

- | |
|----------------------------------|
| (1) daily visitor |
| (2) buyer of all new things |
| (3) smuggler |
| (4) a thief in guise of customer |
| (5) buyer of shops |

41. The robbery was committed in the wee hours of the day.

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| (1) after midnight | (2) at dawn |
| (3) at noontime | (4) in the evening |
| (5) at dusk | |

42. Harassed by repeated acts of injustice, he decided to put his foot down.

- | |
|---|
| (1) resign |
| (2) not to yield |
| (3) withdraw |
| (4) accept the proposal unconditionally |
| (5) not to fight |

43. Mrs. Khanna has been in the blues for the last several weeks.

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| (1) unwell | (2) lonely |
| (3) penniless | (4) depressed |
| (5) cheerful | |

44. The parliamentary inquiry into the Bofors deal has not brought to light any startling facts.

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| (1) proved | (2) highlighted |
| (3) disclosed | (4) probed |
| (5) known | |

45. He works by fits and starts.

- | |
|------------------------------|
| (1) consistently |
| (2) irregularly |
| (3) in high spirits |
| (4) enthusiastically |
| (5) with great determination |

46. Sumit had to look high and low before he could find his scooter key.

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| (1) nowhere | (2) always |
| (3) everywhere | (4) somewhere |
| (5) on the roof | |





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47. To all intents and purposes he is a good man.

- (1) Finally
- (2) Practically
- (3) Above all
- (4) In practice
- (5) None of these

48. Some people have a habit of wearing their heart on their sleeve.

- (1) avoiding being friendly with others
- (2) saying something which is not to be taken seriously
- (3) exposing their innermost feelings to others
- (4) wasting their time on unnecessary
- (5) frightening others

49. When I saw him in the morning, he looked like a duck in a thunderstorm.

- (1) timid
- (2) peaceful
- (3) distressed
- (4) indomitable
- (5) enthralling

50. It was a Herculean task for me.

- (1) work requiring great effort
- (2) impossible task
- (3) easy work
- (4) an entirely new task
- (5) interesting task

Directions (Q. Nos. 51 - 100) In each of the following questions, choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the given idiom /phrase.

51. To cut the Gordian knot

- (1) To solve a difficult problem
- (2) To be victorious
- (3) To break ties with someone
- (4) To defeat a powerful person
- (5) To end a relationship

52. To wrangle over an ass's shadow

- (1) To act in a foolish way
- (2) To do something funny
- (3) To quarrel over trifles
- (4) To quarrel over the possession of an ass

(5) To dance awkwardly

53. Hard – pressed

- (1) Bewildered
- (2) Insulted
- (3) Hard discipline
- (4) In difficulties
- (5) Working very hard

54. To be at one's finger's end

- (1) To be hopeless
- (2) To be highly perplexed
- (3) To be completely conversant with
- (4) To count things
- (5) To be at the mercy of others

55. To beat the air

- (1) To make frantic efforts
- (2) To act foolishly
- (3) To make efforts that are useless or vain
- (4) To make every possible effort
- (5) To beat someone badly

56. To be a good Samaritan

- (1) To be law-abiding
- (2) A wise person
- (3) A religious person
- (4) A genuinely charitable person
- (5) A brave soldier

57. By the rule of thumb

- (1) By the use of force
- (2) By the use of trickery
- (3) By cheating and deception.
- (4) By practical experience which is rather rough
- (5) None of the above

58. A fool's errand

- (1) A blunder
- (2) An impossible task
- (3) A useless undertaking
- (4) An easy task
- (5) None of these





59. To put somebody in his place

- (1) To turn him out
- (2) To honour him
- (3) To give him due respect
- (4) To make him humble
- (5) To give him responsibility

60. To talk shop

- (1) To talk nonsense
- (2) To talk reasonably
- (3) To talk about business or professional affairs
- (4) To abuse someone
- (5) To talk bluntly

61. To change colour

- (1) To change appearance
- (2) To shift allegiance to
- (3) To favour the wrong person
- (4) To change your residence
- (5) None of these

62. At one's beck and call

- (1) Enjoying oneself without caring for others
- (2) To be always at one's service
- (3) To be under one's subjugation
- (4) To be in an advantageous position
- (5) To call someone back

63. Swan – song

- (1) Music as sweet as a song of birds
- (2) A melodious song in praise of someone
- (3) Praise of a woman by her lover
- (4) Last work of a poet or musician before death
- (5) A song in praise of nature

64. To cry wolf

- (1) To grieve over something which cannot be recovered
- (2) To cry from grief, inconsolably
- (3) To raise a false alarm
- (4) To announce to one and all
- (5) To scream like a wolf

65. To give one's ears

- (1) To make almost any sacrifice
- (2) To listen carefully
- (3) To refuse to listen
- (4) To incite someone
- (5) To punish someone

66. To live fast

- (1) To lead a life of dissipation
- (2) To accomplish a purpose
- (3) To do a task hurriedly
- (4) To use up one's income as fast as it comes in
- (5) None of the above

67. Once in a blue moon

- (1) Once in a month
- (2) Bi – weekly
- (3) On rare occasions
- (4) Every now and then
- (5) Half-yearly

68. A green horn

- (1) An envious lady
- (2) A trainee
- (3) An inexperienced man
- (4) A soft-hearted man
- (5) A handsome man

69. To be old as the hills

- (1) To be very ancient
- (2) To be wise and learned
- (3) To be old but foolish
- (4) Not being worth the age
- (5) None of these

70. To play on fiddle

- (1) To play upon a musical instrument
- (2) To play an important role
- (3) To be busy over trifles
- (4) To be busy over important matter
- (5) To play in a recognised team





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71. To mind one's P's and Q's

- (1) To be cautious
- (2) To be accurate and precise
- (3) To be careful of one's accounts
- (4) To be careful of one's personality
- (5) To look after your wealth

72. To take a leaf out of somebody's book

- (1) To take him as a model
- (2) To steal something valuable
- (3) To follow the dictates of someone
- (4) To conform to other's standard
- (5) To pick something secretly

73. To set the thames on fire

- (1) To do something remarkable
- (2) To try to do the impossible
- (3) To burn something to ashes
- (4) To fling ironical remarks
- (5) To be foolish

74. To keep one's head above water

- (1) To be cautious
- (2) To keep out of debt
- (3) To remain aloof
- (4) To fight bravely
- (5) None of these

75. To go at each other hammer and tongs

- (1) To fight with weapons
- (2) To argue noisily
- (3) To hug each other
- (4) To go crazy about meeting each other
- (5) To help each other

76. To speak daggers

- (1) To abuse someone
- (2) To indulge in voracious talks
- (3) To speak to a person with hostility
- (4) To speak politely
- (5) None of the above

77. Be in the mire

- (1) Be under debt
- (2) Be in love
- (3) Be in difficulties
- (4) Be uneasy
- (5) Be merry

78. To oil the knocker

- (1) To instigate a person to do a job
- (2) To do a work with increased pace
- (3) To tip the office-boy
- (4) To revive old enmity
- (5) To move freely

79. To cut the crackle

- (1) To humiliate
- (2) To annoy someone
- (3) To act in a friendly way
- (4) To stop talking and start
- (5) To laugh loudly

80. To have one's heart in one's boots

- (1) To be deeply depressed
- (2) To be frightened
- (3) To get angry
- (4) To keep a secret
- (5) To be small

81. To strike one's colours

- (1) To fight vigorously
- (2) To work hard
- (3) To surrender
- (4) To make a rude gesture
- (5) To tease someone

82. To hold a brief for

- (1) To help someone
- (2) To do someone a favour
- (3) To stay on for a brief period
- (4) To defend someone
- (5) To tell a short story





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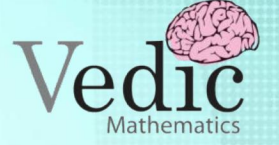
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83. To hold somebody to ransom

- (1) To keep captive and demand concession
- (2) To humiliate somebody
- (3) To offer bribe
- (4) To blackmail and extract money
- (5) To protect someone

84. A man of weight

- (1) A fat person
- (2) A truthful and trustworthy man
- (3) A man of importance
- (4) A notorious man
- (5) A useless person

85. Pell – mell

- (1) In hurried disorder
- (2) Gaiety and excitement
- (3) Extremely worried
- (4) Absolutely calm
- (5) None of these

86. To show one's teeth

- (1) To ridicule
- (2) To face difficulties
- (3) To adopt a threatening attitude
- (4) To be humble
- (5) To be afraid

87. To pour oil in troubled water

- (1) To foment trouble
- (2) To add to the trouble
- (3) To instigate
- (4) To calm a quarrel with soothing words
- (5) To enjoy while others suffer

88. To put one on one's mettle

- (1) To rouse one to do one's best
- (2) To ruin somebody
- (3) To discourage a person
- (4) To incite a person to fight
- (5) To defeat someone badly

89. To ride hell for leather

- (1) To ride with furious speed
- (2) To adopt false means to succeed
- (3) To work hard for a small accomplishment
- (4) To earn money by all means
- (5) To destroy an opportunity

90. To left the cat out of the bag

- (1) To give latitude
- (2) To show compassion
- (3) To miss a golden opportunity
- (4) To tell a secret without intending to do so
- (5) To be friendly

91. To pay off old scores

- (1) To have one's share
- (2) To settle a dispute
- (3) To repay the old loan
- (4) To win a match
- (5) None of these

92. To get the hang of a thing

- (1) To know a secret
- (2) To understand the meaning of it
- (3) To find the cause of something
- (4) To control an enemy
- (5) None of the above

93. To make a shot

- (1) To retaliate
- (2) To hit someone
- (3) To make a guess
- (4) To achieve one's objective
- (5) To take a picture

94. To break the ice

- (1) To start quarreling
- (2) To end the hostility
- (3) To start a conversation
- (4) To end a partnership
- (5) To enter with force





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95. To hit the jackpot

- (1) To gamble
- (2) To get an unexpected victory
- (3) To be wealthy
- (4) To make money unexpectedly
- (5) To achieve your target

96. To give a rap on the knuckles

- (1) To eulogies
- (2) To chat
- (3) To condemn
- (4) To rebuke
- (5) To welcome warmly

97. A cock-and-bull story

- (1) A true story
- (2) A children's story
- (3) A story of animals
- (4) A foolish and concocted story
- (5) An inspiring incident

98. To take somebody for a ride

- (1) To provide entertainment
- (2) To keep company
- (3) To deceive or humiliate him
- (4) To exploit a person
- (5) To give him lift

99. To cool one's heels

- (1) To rest for sometime
- (2) To give no importance to someone
- (3) To remain in a comfortable position
- (4) To be kept waiting for sometime
- (5) To soothe your suffering

100. To pull strings

- (1) To exert hidden influence
- (2) To tease someone
- (3) To speed up
- (5) To stop a vehicle suddenly
- (4) To start something

