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Directions:

In the following questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase in bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

1) Students must learn to keep their belongings in **apple-pie order**.

- a) in perfect order
- b) ordering for apple pie
- c) arranging apples neatly
- d) orderly preparation of apple pie

2) For this act of indifference he will be taken to task by **the authority**.

- a) rewarded
- b) tender his resignation
- c) entrusted with an official job.
- d) get an official reprimand

3) To get admission in present-day educational institutions, all children should be born with a **silver spoon in the mouth**.

- a) be born with silver spoon
- b) be born in a rich family
- c) be born to silver spoon manufacturer
- d) always hold a silver spoon

4) It takes a month of Sundays to chop all that wood.

- a) no time
- b) a long time
- c) a special Sunday
- d) a short period

5) Politicians enjoy blowing their own trumpets.

- a) to use one's own trumpet
- b) to blow their trumpet loudly
- c) to praise others trumpeting
- d) to boast about their achievements

6) I tried to feel his pulse on the issue, but in vain.

- a) enlighten him
- b) argue with him
- c) guide him
- d) find his views

7) The new manager ruled the roost to every one.

- a) rushed through work
- b) got paid very handsomely
- c) created good impression
- d) exercised authority

8) You need to have something up your sleeve if the **present plan does not work**.

- a) have some hidden sources of money
- b) have a secret pocket in the sleeve
- c) have an alternative plan
- d) have some honest means

9) **let sleeping dogs lie**

- a) do not allow dogs to stand
- b) prevent dog mobility
- c) do not bring up an old controversial issue
- d) dogs can raise tempers

10) Children complain about their parents' gifts. They should learn not to look a gift horse in the mouth

- a) not to ask for more gifts
- b) not to find goodness in the gifts
- c) not to look at a horse's mouth
- d) not to find fault with the gifts received

11) **a man of straw**

- a) a man of no substance
- b) a very active person
- c) a worthy fellow
- d) an unreasonable person

12) Acquiring a job is a cakewalk for a student who has good academic performance coupled with a good attitude.

- a) a walkway made with cakes
- b) an easy achievement
- c) walk away with a cake
- d) a difficult achievement

13) The issues were settled in court, but after a few days, it was back to square one.





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- a) to run to the first square
- b) to start and return
- c) to come to a stop
- d) to return to the starting point

14) Scientific knowledge is no longer a closed book in this 21st century.

- a) a covered book
- b) a mystery
- c) a mysterious book
- d) an unopened book

15) Despite his initial arrogance he had to eat humble pie.

- a) he maintained composure
- b) he failed to protest eventually
- c) he accepted the food offered
- d) he had to yield under pressure

16) The newly-elected Chief Minister has promised to bring about changes in the state.

- a) make
- b) carry
- c) cause to happen
- d) produce

17) The sailors nailed their colours to their mast.

- a) refused to climb down
- b) took over the ship
- c) decided to abandon the ship
- d) put up a colourful mast

18) The students found it hard to go at equal speed with the professor.

- a) put up with
- b) keep up with
- c) race against
- d) get away from

19) The mention of her former husband's name still makes Rita foam at the mouth.

- a) vomit
- b) shy
- c) fall sick
- d) angry

20) to cut one short.

- a) to insult one
- b) to criticise one
- c) to interrupt one
- d) to love one

21) It is difficult to have a sensible discussion with her as she flies off at a tangent.

- a) starts discussing something irrelevant
- b) loses her temper easily
- c) does not really understand anything
- d) gets carried away

22) After his business failed, he had to work very hard to keep the wolf from the door.

- a) earn an honest living
- b) regain his lost position
- c) defend from enemies
- d) keep away extreme poverty

23) We must husband our resources against hard times.

- a) support
- b) sing
- c) concede
- d) save

24) If you read between the lines, you will appreciate what he writes.

- a) can read a lot quicker
- b) know what the writer thinks
- c) can read and write in the language
- d) can read leaving lines in between

25) He is a cut above all the other boys in the group.

- a) more active than
- b) a little rougher than
- c) rather superior to
- d) quite taller than

26) We must work with all our might and main, otherwise we cannot succeed.

- a) complete trust
- b) exceptional skill
- c) full unity
- d) full force

27) to throw dust in one's eyes.

- a) to deceive
- b) to show false things
- c) to make blind
- d) to harm someone

28) We had better batten down the hatches. The weather is unpredictable.





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- a) prepare for a difficult situation
- b) go somewhere safe
- c) face the obstacles
- d) stay in-door

29) He gave vent to his pleasure with a smile.

- a) allowed
- b) expressed
- c) enjoyed
- d) shared

30) As soon as the police arrived, the bank robbers showed the white flag.

- a) surrendered
- b) ran away
- c) were incensed
- d) calmly left the scene

31) The police caught the thief red handed.

- a) with blood in hands
- b) at the time of committing the crime
- c) after reading the rules
- d) in a red uniform

32) When she realised that she had bought a fake product, she knew that her money had gone down the drain.

- a) dropped in the drain
- b) got washed away
- c) her money was safe
- d) was lost forever

33) You have been caught cheating; now you must face the music.

- a) stand up to unpleasant consequences
- b) be debarred
- c) be insulted publicly
- d) face the unpleasant consequences

34) Some people do not grease anybody's palm on any account.

- a) flatter
- b) cheat
- c) fight
- d) bribe

35) The car broke down just as it reached the edge of a cliff. It was indeed a close shave.

- a) very risky
- b) narrow escape from danger
- c) to be happy
- d) to share one's brand

36) The parents are in high spirits as their son has got a decent job.

- a) drunk
- b) cheerful
- c) shocked
- d) in good position

37) Even though the new clerk was given a difficult task, he remained cool as a cucumber.

- a) caught cold
- b) was happy
- c) was scared
- d) not nervous or emotional

38) I was so disappointed when my close friend left me in the lurch.

- a) helped me in difficult times
- b) abandoned me when I needed help
- c) stopped helping me in emergency
- d) went away without waiting for me

39) His position in the company was on the brink of disaster.

- a) at the point of
- b) on the side of
- c) on the back of
- d) at the top of

40) George Bernard Shaw was blessed with the gift of the gab.

- a) ability to work hard
- b) ability to speak impressively
- c) luck on one's side
- d) enormous wealth

41) Nowadays, one gets good literary books once in a blue moon.

- a) at very low cost
- b) when moon gives blue light
- c) rarely
- d) from renowned publisher

42) He decided to bury the hatchet.

- a) to make peace
- b) to fool someone
- c) to bury the wealth
- d) to keep a secret





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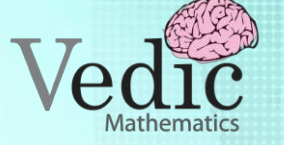
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43) "If he does not perform his duties properly, I will send him packing," said the manager.

- a) give him a warning
- b) serve him a notice
- c) terminate his services
- d) send him to packing department

44) If you develop friendship with an individual you must stand by him through thick and thin.

- a) under all circumstances
- b) to accompany through a thick forest
- c) in day and night
- d) think about his/her welfare

45) He will certainly come to grief if he does not leave his present friends.

- a) go up to the extreme
- b) suffer
- c) enjoy
- d) addicted

46) The officer kicked up a row over the issue.

- a) made a great fuss
- b) avoided the issue
- c) gave strict orders
- d) gave a kick in the air

47) Fresh out of college, Ram found it difficult to get a job as he was wet behind the ears.

- a) inexperienced
- b) unhealthy
- c) irresponsible
- d) unsuitable

48) Reena is a kind of person who wears her heart on her sleeve.

- a) expresses her emotions caringly
- b) suppresses her emotions openly
- c) suppresses her excitement sparingly
- d) expresses her emotions freely

49) Sarala is always ready to eat anyone's salt.

- a) to cook tasty dishes
- b) an infectious disease
- c) to deceive someone
- d) to be one's guest

50) I hope to talk him over to our view.

- a) analyze
- b) convince
- c) support
- d) oppose

