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ACADEMY**

# Idioms and Phrases PYQs



## IDIOMS AND PHRASES

**Directions :** Given below are some idioms/phrases followed by four alternative meanings to each. Choose the response (a), (b), (c) or (d) which is the most appropriate expression.

### 26. Cry over spilt milk

- (a) Complaining about a loss in the past
- (b) Too much inquisitive about something
- (c) When something is done badly to save money
- (d) Dealing with a problem only in an emergency situation



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**27. Cut the mustard**

- (a) Prepare spices out of mustard seeds
- (b) To come up to expectations
- (c) Making absurd expectations
- (d) Very enthusiastic

**28. Devil's advocate**

- (a) A dangerous person
- (b) To present a counter argument
- (c) Very argumentative person
- (d) Creating an unpleasant situation



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**29. Don't count your chickens before the eggs have hatched**

- (a) If you are not good at something, better to avoid that
- (b) Don't make plans for something that might not happen
- (c) Not to come up to expectations
- (d) Don't put all your resources in one possibility



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**30. Give the benefit of doubt**

- (a) To be partial to someone
- (b) To be judgmental
- (c) Regard someone as innocent until proven otherwise
- (d) Say something exactly right





**31. A dark horse**

- (a) a black coloured horse
- (b) a person who wins a race or competition although no one expected him to
- (c) a person who keeps secrets
- (d) an ignorant person

**32. A show-stopper**

- (a) someone who stops the show
- (b) someone who organizes the show
- (c) a performance that is extremely good
- (d) a fashionable person



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33. A jack of all trades

- (a) someone who has many skills
- (b) a confident and not very serious young man
- (c) someone who has hit the jackpot
- (d) a great businessman



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**34. Fight tooth and nail**

- (a) to quarrel with someone
- (b) to attack someone with a lot of force
- (c) to try hard to prevent something from happening
- (d) to try very hard to achieve something





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35. Fair and square

- (a) in an honest way
- (b) in a critical way
- (c) neither very good nor very bad
- (d) in a foolish way



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**21. Overstep the mark**

- (a) To tell people how successful you are
- (b) To step into someone else's areas of expertise
- (c) To upset someone by doing/saying more than you should
- (d) To do something in an excited way

**22. Palsy-walsy friends**

- (a) Good friends
- (b) Friends who help each other in difficult situations
- (c) Friends by choice, and not by chance
- (d) Unfriendly



**23. Open a Pandora's box**

- (a) To do something that causes a lot of new problems that you did not expect
- (b) To do something out of compulsion
- (c) To do something beyond expectation
- (d) To do something out of the box, that causes awards and ceremonies for you

**24. Pull your socks up**

- (a) To get well-dressed for the occasion
- (b) Improve your work or behaviour
- (c) To speak in an honest way without hesitation
- (d) To be in control of an organization, often secretly



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**25. To get under somebody's skin**

- (a) To deceive someone
- (b) To admire someone
- (c) To annoy someone
- (d) To support someone





**26. Turn topsy-turvy**

- (a) To completely change something
- (b) To completely evaluate something
- (c) To enjoy yourself greatly
- (d) To exhaust yourself completely

**27. A clarion call**

- (a) A trumpet call
- (b) An intimidating voice
- (c) A strong request
- (d) An urgent order





**29.** A hunky-dory situation

- (a) There are serious issues among people
- (b) There are no problems and people are happy
- (c) There is war and bloodshed all over
- (d) There is no work, only enjoyment

**30.** Give somebody a leg up

- (a) To pull someone down
- (b) To deceive and betray someone
- (c) To help someone for their livelihood
- (d) To help someone to be successful



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**31. Be over the hill**

- (a) To be on a mountain top
- (b) To travel in the jungle
- (c) To be too old to do things
- (d) To do something in the most complete way



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**32. Bite your tongue**

- (a) To stop yourself from saying something because it would be better not to
- (b) To bite off your tongue while eating
- (c) To feel sorry
- (d) To ask someone something that you want



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33. Turn a blind eye

- (a) To run away
- (b) To begin to behave in a more positive manner
- (c) To change a situation
- (d) To choose to ignore behaviour that you know is wrong





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**34. Yellow journalism**

- (a) Paid storytelling
- (b) Government reports published on yellow coloured papers
- (c) Writings in newspapers that try to influence people's opinion by using strong language and false information
- (d) Journalism which agrees completely with the policies of the governments and capitalists





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**35. To be in seventh heaven**

- (a) To fly in the air
- (b) To be extremely happy
- (c) To be completely alone
- (d) To visit a place which is in the list of the seven wonders of the world



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**11. Once-over**

- (a) To do something quickly
- (b) To do something elaborately
- (c) To do something perforce
- (d) To do something for others

**12. A bag of bones**

- (a) An extremely fat person
- (b) An extremely thin person
- (c) A wealthy person
- (d) A healthy person



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**13. Muddy the waters**

- (a) To spread dirt around
- (b) To make a situation easy
- (c) To make one's life happy
- (d) To make the situation complicated

**14. To level with**

- (a) To be honest
- (b) To be on a plain
- (c) To cheat someone
- (d) To take revenge



**15. Show your hand**

- (a) To tell people about the past
- (b) To tell people about the future
- (c) To tell people about them
- (d) To tell people about your plans

**16. To pull up**

- (a) To lift heavy weights
- (b) To check oneself
- (c) To shorten the distance
- (d) Too short of destination

**16. T**

- (a)
- (b)
- (c)
- (d)



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17. Be out of action
- (a) To get punishment
  - (b) To get reward
  - (c) To become dysfunctional
  - (d) To become superactive
18. Learning from the school of hard knocks
- (a) Learning things from experience
  - (b) Learning things from others
  - (c) Learning things from environment
  - (d) Learning things through difficult experiences





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**19. Raise some hackles**

- (a) To annoy
- (b) To make someone happy
- (c) To do a great task
- (d) To sit idle

**20. A man of letters**

- (a) An excellent artist
- (b) A scholar in literature
- (c) An outstanding sportsman
- (d) A known novelist



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36. A red-letter day

- (a) a trivial day
- (b) a very important or significant day
- (c) a day of bloodshed and violence
- (d) a mourning day



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37. The gift of the gab

- (a) ability to speak easily and confidently
- (b) ability to spoil something
- (c) ability to sell things
- (d) gift from a sacred institution



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38. Walk a tightrope

- (a) to be forced to leave your job
- (b) to be ready to fall
- (c) to act very carefully
- (d) to invite danger



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39. To be in a fix

- (a) to receive strong criticism
- (b) to support oneself
- (c) to fix problems
- (d) to be in a difficult situation





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40. To fish in troubled waters

- (a) to borrow money
- (b) to steal belongings of
- (c) to get benefit in bad situation
- (d) to extend a helping hand



26. Be bad news

- (a) feelings of hate
- (b) someone who behaves in a dishonest way
- (c) someone who is considered undesirable
- (d) to be ill

27. Back to the drawing board

- (a) to draw comparisons
- (b) to be a member of planning group
- (c) to start planning again because the previous plan has failed
- (d) to be fast at understanding a situation

28. Be in the eye of the storm

- (a) to look at something quickly
- (b) to fail miserably at a sport
- (c) to see something that you do not want to see
- (d) to be in the midst of a controversy



**29.** Life in the fast lane

- (a) to lead a selfless life
- (b) to have a happy life without complaints
- (c) life without money or comforts
- (d) an exciting and eventful lifestyle

**30.** To pass the buck

- (a) to collect money from a group of people
- (b) to shift the responsibility of something to someone
- (c) to have a short conversation with someone
- (d) to have the credentials for a particular job



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