***Mark the letter A, B, C, or D on your answer sheet to indicate the word(s) CLOSEST in meaning to the underlined bold word(s) in each of the following questions.***

1. They **were all ears** when I told them my first day at university.

A. paid little attention B. listened attentively

C. said nothing D. were talkative

2. The name of the song **rings a bell**, but I can’t remember who sings it.

A. sounds familiar B. makes a difference

C. gives a chance D. seems uninteresting

3. The rising star really **blotted his copybook** when it came to light that he was involved in a murder.

A. earned his fame B. sold a lot of books

C. signed his name D. spoiled his reputation

4. The man, **out of the blue**, came into my room and shouted at me.

A. interestingly B. intentionally C. unexpectedly D. deliberately

5. Having **deep pockets** has helped the startup get through the financial crisis.

A. a basic salary B. lots of money C. a small amount D. a simple method

6. His attitude to work always **drives me up the wall**; he seems uninterested in what he’s doing.

A. makes me pleased B. makes me angry

C. gives me more energy D. motivates me

7. They haven’t been **on speaking terms** for years because they had an argument over their lifestyle.

A. giving presents to each other B. talking to each other

C. quarreling with each other D. being impolite with each other

8. Lucy’s mother has been **walking on air** since she was informed that her dear daughter had passed the national entrance examination with flying colours.

A. pleased B. angry C. bored D. uninterested

9. The locals were **up in arms** over the proposal to widen the lanes for motorbikes.

A. positive B. neglected C. furious D. tired

10. Linda is **licking her manager’s boots** with a view to being promoted to the sales representative by the end of the year.

A. trying to please the manager B. doing nothing to help the manager

C. disappointing the manager D. donating money to the manager

11. During the covid-19 pandemic, people in my small village had to **tighten their belt** due to price increases on most goods.

A. donate lots of money B. spend on some luxury goods

C. refuse to buy anything D. spend less money

12. Michael was **in two minds** about whether to attend a university or not.

A. enthusiastic B. sure C. responsible D. uncertain

13. Mary’s still **sitting on the fence**, trying to decide which gifts she should buy for her mother.

A. refusing to report B. pleased to help

C. unable to decide D. constructing a new fence

14. The environmental campaign has **done the trick**; teenagers in my neighbourhood start to clean up some polluted areas.

A. failed to be noticed B. confused some people

C. had the wanted effects D. needed more money

15. I **blow a fuse** when the man living next door often plays loud music at midnight.

A. remain calm B. get angry C. become uninterested D. keep pessimistic

16. You have to **hold your tongue** during the party; there’s a lot of guests there.

A. say much B. become furious C. keep silent D. say important things

17. The candidate **got cold feet** when asked an array of questions at the job interview.

A. became angry B. remained positive C. was confident D. became nervous

18. When he started to ask what time it was, I **got the message** and told him that I had to leave.

A. became unaware B. failed to text him C. got a call from him D. understood

19. He’s really **made a go of** his new coffee shop; he’s employed more 10 people to work on night shifts.

A. became successful with B. failed to succeed with

C. invested more in D. felt pessimistic with

20. The team spent nearly ten hours solving this problem, but they just **drew a blank**.

A. succeeded in finding a solution B. dealt with it successfully

C. came up with novel ideas D. were unable to find an answer

21. He’s trying to get an 8 in the IELTS test, but so far he’s **come up against a brick wall** and has got only a 7.

A. become successful B. encountered some obstacles

C. spent lots of money D. built some walls

22. Lack of willingness to work on weekends is the major **stumbling block** to getting that job.

A. advantage B. dedication C. impediment D. satisfaction

23. It’s time you **faced the music**! You’ve lied to me all the time.

A. gave your answer B. achieved what you dream

C. accepted criticism D. made some complaint

24. The thought of what might happen in the interview room **sent shivers down my spine**.

A. kept me insane B. made me frightened

C. made me confused D. kept me calm

25. James was determined to pass the final test that he **kept his nose to the grindstone**.

A. suffered from an illness B. failed to take the exam

C. worked very hard D. refused to make friends

26. David **put her nose out of joint** when he didn’t invite Jane to his party.

A. satisfied her B. upset her C. confused her D. bullied her

27. She **jumped down my throat** when I suggested that she had made a mistake in her presentation.

A. spoke angrily to me B. responded to me calmly

C. praised my comments D. threw something into my throat

28. Tony **stuck his neck out** and told the teacher that she had made a spelling mistake.

A. did something crazy B. refused to say anything

C. gave up all his dreams D. took a risk

29. Finding a suitable accommodation during winter nights is **a pain in the neck**.

A. satisfactory B. annoying C. intimidating D. embarrassing

30. The man **got bent out of shape** when I suggested that he had got into the wrong room.

A. was excited B. became forgetful C. got angry D. felt comfortable

31. Police have been searching for two girls who **vanished into thin air** a week ago.

A. corrected B. disappeared C. arrived D. shouted

32. When he was young, he managed to get cigarettes **under the counter**. Now he realises that it’s not really good.

A. directly B. excitingly C. secretly D. legally

33. Mitchell is the nicest guy I’ve ever met who is willing to **do me a good turn**.

A. help B. delay C. protest D. betray

34. James knows that he should start revising for his mid-term test, but he’s **dragging his feet**.

A. speeding B. promoting C. destroying D. delaying

35. When Joey saw her boyfriend flirting with another girl, she tried to **pull herself together** and left.

A. get angry B. feel nervous C. get anxious D. remain calm

36. This morning, the traffic was really bad, but we managed to arrive at the conference **in the nick of time.**

A. with all our documents B. at the last possible moment

C. with much time to spare D. in a terrible condition

37. If you are **at a loose end** this weekend, why don’t we go to the Italian restaurant and try some new food?

A. having nothing to lose B. having many things to do

C. having a lot to deal with D. having nothing to do

38. David **gave me the cold shoulder** all day because he was angry at my comments.

A. attended me B. hit me C. ignored me D. supported me

39. My best friend, Linda, **tied the knot** last month, but she said to me that she didn’t feel happy at all.

A. got engaged B. got married C. become separated D. got divorced

40. Her brother thinks that he will **be home and dry** in the job interview without careful preparations.

A. be successful B. be excited C. be satisfied D. be promoted

41. Joey **has a big mouth**. I told her not to tell Tim the whole story, but she just didn’t do it.

A. eats a lot B. makes friends easily

C. often say nasty things D. can’t keep secrets

42. I can’t believe it! I’ve been **taken for a ride** by my best friend all the time!

A. given a lift B. driven away

C. treated with sincerity D. deliberately deceived

43. He’s a nice guy but he started to **go off the rails** after making friends with them.

A. behave in an unacceptable way B. gain his power

C. conduct himself politely D. make the best decision

44. She **went to pieces** when she heard that her dear daughter was killed in the car accident.

A. got angry B. couldn’t behave in a sensible way

C. could lose her mind D. became confident

45. There was a great **hue and cry** over the government’s decision to demolish the ancient school.

A. expression B. satisfaction C. consolation D. disapproval

46. Even after he won the first prize in the competition, he **kept his feet on the ground**.

A. was happy B. was tired C. stayed humble D. was crazy

47. My younger sister has been **walking on air** all day since she knew that she was admitted to one of the most elite universities in the UK.

A. pleased B. dissatisfied C. wary D. mistreated

48. She said that she had read more than 150 books in just one month, but it sounded like **a tall story** to me.

A. a story which is very long B. a story which is really interesting

C. a story which is hard to believe D. a story which is easily understood

49. She’s a reliable and honest woman, so it would be **out of character** of her to lie.

A. difficult B. not typical C. unkind D. not stable

50. My grandmother’s **getting on** a bit; she becomes very forgetful.

A. getting lazy B. feeling tired C. becoming interested D. getting old

51. Although I have known him since I was **knee-high to a grasshopper**, I couldn’t remember how many people there are in his family.

A. strong B. old C. small D. weak

52. His uncle is **no spring chicken** anymore, so it’s not really appropriate to invite him to my Halloween party.

A. young B. old C. tall D. short

53. He doesn’t see himself as being **over the hill** yet; he still meets his friends in a local bar twice a month.

A. too old B. too fit C. too lazy D. too calm

54. There were a few **odds and ends** in the small box, so we decided to get rid of it.

A. familiar objects B. personal belongings C. valuable items D. trivial things

55. At the press conference, the rising star **bit the young reporter’s head off** when asked about his latest scandal.

A. spoke angrily to the young reporter B. gave the young reporter a present

C. told the young reporter to continue D. ask the young reporter to keep calm

56. I don’t know what happened to her, but she’s **in a black mood** all day.

A. ecstatic B. unhappy C. satisfied D. enthusiastic

57. Two of them decided to **bury the hatchet** after their conflicts had been resolved.

A. become friends B. become enemies C. dig a hole D. buy some tools

58. Travelling a long distance to get fresh produce is **part and parcel** of this job, so you have to familiarise yourself with it.

A. a trivial thing B. an unexciting part

C. an unavoidable feature D. a new way

59. My brother made up his mind to **put his shoulder to the wheel** after many years of messing around.

A. buy a big house B. sell his belongings

C. save a lot of money D. begin to work very hard

60. It’s obvious that doing physical exercise on a daily basis can **do wonders** for your health.

A. have a good effect B. have a negative influence

C. be harmful D. be dissatisfied

61. Stop **pulling my leg**! I know David didn’t call me last night.

A. accepting B. teasing C. beating D. refusing

62. Some students don’t want to go straight to university after finishing high school education because college tuition **costs an arm and a leg** nowadays.

A. is reduced B. remains stable C. is expensive D. keeps unchanged

63. You won the first prize in the competition, but don’t let it **go to your head**.

A. make you uneasy B. bring you money

C. keep you disappointed D. cause you to become arrogant

64. He’s really **off his head** if he thinks that he can perform well in his mid-term test without careful preparations.

A. uncomfortable B. crazy C. arrogant D. humorous

65. He really **put his foot in his mouth** with Sara when he asked her if she had remarried.

A. said something embarrassing B. told something obvious

C. said something interesting D. told something humorous

66. If you want to get a higher score in the listening test, just **stay on your toes**.

A. keep your feet above water B. wash your toes regularly

C. remain focused D. keep distracted

67. The government will **face the music** if they refuse to take any measures to stop the spread of the virus.

A. turn on loud music B. accept criticism

C. refuse admission D. keep changing

68. The high-speed camera reveals how two thieves broke into the house and left **in the blink of an eye**.

A. slowly B. reluctantly C. leisurely D. quickly

69. She’s going to exert herself in the competition; I can **feel it in my bones**.

A. believe it strongly B. dismiss it quickly

C. reject it decisively D. affect it deeply

70. Mitchell **hit the nail on the head** when he said what makes people uninterested in Mary’s stories is that they are tedious.

A. say indirectly B. indicate clearly C. describe exactly D. tell falsely

71. My parents seem to **see eye to eye** with my future career; they’re always supportive.

A. oppose B. neglect C. witness D. agree

72. I’m sorry but I can’t attend your birth party; I’m **up to my ears** in assignments and reports.

A. distracted B. callous C. perceptive D. occupied

73. Glancy **has a head for** numbers, so he can sail through all the Maths tests.

A. is uninterested in B. has a natural ability for

C. is bad at D. has an effect on

74. I’m going to take the IELTS test tomorrow, and I now **have butterflies in my stomach**.

A. feel comfortable B. become nervous C. keep depressed D. remain calm

75. I told Linda to keep the surprise party a secret, but she **let the cat out of the bag**.

A. feel unwell B. sing a song C. reveal a secret D. buy a new bag

76. The holiday was worse than expected; it **rained cats and dogs** day in, day out.

A. rained heavily B. rained slightly C. was sunny D. was cloudy

77. It’s the first time I’ve come to such a large banquet; people don’t wear casual clothes like me. I just **feel like a fish out of water**.

A. become excited B. feel comfortable C. become ecstatic D. feel awkward

78. Dan was **in deep water** when he said nasty things about his History teacher on Facebook.

A. in debt B. in trouble C. in detail D. in custody

79. On behalf of my business, I’m sorry that you’ve experienced the technical hitch for the last two days. Please accept these bottles of champagne **on the house** as an apology.

A. busy B. uncomfortable C. expensive D. free

80. He really **got in my hair** today; he asked me the same questions the whole day.

A. hurt me B. killed me C. annoyed me D. supported me

81. My mother **went off the deep end** when she found out that her daughter played truant.

A. went crazy B. fainted C. was lazy D. felt ashamed

82. Lucy’s **had ants in her pants** all day; she’s waiting for her test result.

A. been dizzy B. been exhausted C. felt itchy D. felt anxious

83. Jane **was like a bear with a sore head** when she missed the last bus to school.

A. felt unhealthy B. became irritable

C. was enthusiastic D. remained confident

84. Some experts advise that you shouldn’t lose weight by **eating like a bird**.

A. eating very much B. eating only meat

C. eating only vegetables D. eating very little

85. Shala’s **been like a cat on hot bricks** all day because she couldn’t find the key to her apartment.

A. been relaxed B. become anxious C. felt unwell D. been tired

86. They’ve been arguing about this matter **till the cows come home**, but they can’t solve anything.

A. unexpectedly B. for a long time

C. for a short period of time D. abruptly

87. You need to **get your ducks in a row** to make a good impression on the interviewer.

A. become forgetful B. become well-prepared

C. become extinct D. become lethargic

88. He’s never played golf before, but he’s **taken it like a duck to water**.

A. failed to adapt to it B. refused to learn it

C. learned it very quickly D. stopped trying it

89. Her attitude to same-sex marriage always **gets my goats**, so I just don’t want to talk with her about it.

A. annoys me B. interests me C. disappoints me D. interrupts me

90. The company decided to spend **the lion’s share** of its budget to help victims of the recent earthquake.

A. the most interesting part B. the most boring part

C. the largest part D. the smallest part

91. The loud music coming from the man living next door is **driving me up the wall**.

A. motivating me B. annoying me C. confusing me D. worrying me

92. Linda was **on cloud nine** when she was offered a position at a multinational.

A. bitterly disappointed B. deeply depressed

C. extremely happy D. desperately worried

93. When I told my mother that I had quit the job, she **flipped her lid**.

A. remained calm B. kept confident C. became angry D. felt happy

94. They’ve been working hard in the last 20 years, and now they’re **living high off the hog**.

A. making ends meet B. living with lots of money

C. donating money to poor people D. living in slumps

95. The newly launched app from the company is **in a different league** altogether.

A. much poorer B. much dirtier

C. much more expensive D. much better

96. My brother’s **a night owl**, and our parents often say that staying up too late can do harm to his health.

A. a person who likes to sleep early

B. a person who often drinks alcohol at night

C. a person who prefers to stay awake late at night

D. a person who usually drinks coffee to remain awake at night

97. They’ve been together **through thick and thin**, and nothing can break their bond.

A. through good and bad times B. in excitement

C. with regrets D. with the support of strangers

98. It’s time you **hit the books**, boy! Your exam is on Monday.

A. study in a relaxing way B. buy some reference books

C. read some books on the Internet D. study hard

99. Susan **made a bundle** selling locally obtained produce to city citizens.

A. received a low salary B. earned a lot of money

C. failed to meet sales targets D. got a promotion

100. I didn’t **see the joke** when my teacher told a funny story.

A. understand the joke B. laugh at someone else

C. become annoyed D. feel disappointed

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