

1. - The IT team is working to \_\_\_ the server capacity to handle the increased traffic on the website.  
 - The company plans to \_\_\_ production to meet the growing demand for its products.  
 A. Abound in/with  
 B. Hold fast to  
 C. Ramp up  
 D. Mete out
2. - As a traveling consultant, he has to \_\_\_, moving to a new city every few weeks.  
 A. Live out of a suitcase  
 B. Pack the house  
 C. Throw the baby out with the bathwater  
 D. Pick up the pieces
3. - In our meetings, everyone is encouraged to \_\_\_ their \_\_\_ and share their ideas.  
 A. Toot \_\_\_ own horn/Blow \_\_\_ own trumpet  
 B. Speak \_\_\_ mind  
 C. Raise \_\_\_ hand against  
 D. Pull \_\_\_ together
4. - He gave \_\_\_ to his creativity during the project, coming up with innovative solutions.  
 - The art workshop was a place where children could give \_\_\_ to their imaginations.  
 A. Bad hair day  
 B. Real kick in the teeth  
 C. Full play  
 D. Dirty dog
5. - She \_\_\_ the entire novel in just one evening.  
 - The speaker \_\_\_ the presentation, leaving little time for questions or discussion.  
 - He \_\_\_ his notes the night before the exam, hoping to remember the key points.  
 A. Knocked spots off  
 B. Gobbled up  
 C. Galloped through  
 D. Made a practice of
6. - After losing his job and struggling to find another, he ended up \_\_\_, living on the streets and relying on shelters for food.  
 A. High and low  
 B. Home and dry  
 C. All (fingers and) thumbs  
 D. Down and out
7. - A: "Do you know if we'll have a meeting tomorrow?"  
 - B: "\_\_\_! I have just received an email about it."  
 A. It's funny you should ask  
 B. A stitch in time (saves nine)  
 C. Wonders will never cease  
 D. The jig is up
8. - With all these new projects, I'm really \_\_\_ and struggling to keep up with my workload.  
 - During the dinner rush, the kitchen staff found themselves \_\_\_, trying to manage the flood of orders.  
 - He's one of those rare people who can get down \_\_\_ and work on the details, but still see the big picture.  
 - I don't want to get too lost \_\_\_, but there is a margin of error.  
 A. Out of the frying pan into the fire  
 B. In the weeds  
 C. Off the cuff  
 D. In a cleft stick
9. - Academics sitting in \_\_\_ have no understanding of what is important for ordinary people.  
 - The new policy proposals, drafted in the \_\_\_ of the capital, don't address the actual needs of the rural population.  
 A. Deaf ears  
 B. Close quarters  
 C. Ivory towers  
 D. Hot air
10. - After hearing the bad news, he took a few deep breaths to \_\_\_ himself \_\_\_ before speaking to his team.  
 - She had to \_\_\_ herself \_\_\_ quickly after the unexpected setback to continue with the presentation.  
 A. Pull \_\_\_ together  
 B. Stick to \_\_\_ guns  
 C. Fill \_\_\_ shoes  
 D. Set/Put \_\_\_ mind
11. - When he has an exam, he either studies day and night or does nothing at all. He can never find the \_\_\_\_.  
 A. Church mouse  
 B. Happy medium  
 C. Leading light  
 D. All work and no play
12. - The car was going \_\_\_ on the highway, pushing its limits.  
 - She was working \_\_\_ to finish the project before the deadline.  
 A. From top to toe  
 B. Flat out  
 C. For the record  
 D. After a fashion
13. - Both sides need to \_\_\_ and discuss their differences to reach an agreement.  
 A. Come to the table  
 B. Charge the earth  
 C. Grapple with  
 D. Get bent out of shape
14. - At that very moment, Gojo felt \_\_\_, as if he really were the honored one.  
 A. Purple with rage  
 B. At peace with the world  
 C. By the wayside  
 D. Standard-issue
15. - The new smartphone model \_\_\_ its competitors with its advanced features and sleek design.  
 - His performance on the field \_\_\_ everyone else's, securing the victory for his team.  
 A. Took the bloom off  
 B. Took after  
 C. Knocked spots off  
 D. Brought off
16. - For the plan to succeed, both departments need to collaborate. \_\_\_\_.  
 A. It takes two to tango  
 B. You can't have your cake and eat it (too)  
 C. In for a penny, in for a pound  
 D. Wonders will never cease
17. - People \_\_\_ the scene of the accident to see what had happened.  
 A. Crowded around  
 B. Galloped through  
 C. Put the wind up  
 D. Rallied round
18. - We had a(n) \_\_\_ with the car on our way to the beach, but luckily it was just a flat tire.  
 - There was a(n) \_\_\_ at the airport when our flight got delayed due to bad weather.  
 A. Smoking gun  
 B. Media blitz  
 C. Million-dollar question  
 D. Spot of bother

19. - After losing his job and his home, he felt like he was \_\_\_ his \_\_\_, with nowhere to turn.  
 - After a series of unfortunate events, he found himself \_\_\_ his \_\_\_, struggling to make ends meet.  
 A. On \_\_\_ beam ends / On \_\_\_ uppers B. By the seat of \_\_\_ pants  
 C. Worth \_\_\_ salt D. Off \_\_\_ trolley
20. - He \_\_\_ for a long time before finally deciding to buy the car.  
 - The committee \_\_\_ over the proposal, delaying their decision for weeks.  
 A. Scrimped and saved B. Hemmed/Hummed and hawed
21. - There's no need to \_\_\_ about the new office policies.  
 - Don't \_\_\_ just because we disagree on this.  
 A. Live out of a suitcase B. Sing like a canary  
 C. Cry a river D. Get bent out of shape
22. - She tried to stay calm, but she eventually \_\_\_ her \_\_\_ when her kids ignored her for the fifth time.  
 - The manager \_\_\_ his \_\_\_ when he found out that the team had missed the deadline.  
 A. Got/Had \_\_\_ ducks in a row B. Pulled \_\_\_ weight  
 C. Boggled \_\_\_ brain D. Blew \_\_\_ top
23. - We've finally gotten \_\_\_ with this project; it's smooth sailing from here.  
 A. Over the hump B. In a rut  
 C. In the black D. In stitches
24. - After the surgery, his health \_\_\_, and he started to recover quickly.  
 A. Scarfed down B. Tripped up  
 C. Took a turn for the better D. Laid it on with a trowel / Laid it on a bit thick
25. - As you fix the broken toy, be careful not to \_\_\_ by removing the parts that still work.  
 A. Make allowances B. Ride out  
 C. Throw the baby out with the bathwater D. Cry a river
26. - The towering mountains \_\_\_ the small village, creating a sense of isolation.  
 A. Touch up B. Tally with  
 C. Hem in D. Hold fast to
27. - After the breakup, he started \_\_\_ more frequently to cope with his emotions.  
 A. Jigging about B. Falling off a log  
 C. Hitting the bottle D. Fitting a quart into a pint pot
28. - She was \_\_\_ for the promotion, despite her qualifications and hard work.  
 - The will specified that the property would be \_\_\_ to the eldest son.  
 A. Set back B. Passed over  
 C. Sniped at D. Opened a can of worms
29. - It's a pathetic, cowardly man who would \_\_\_ his \_\_\_ a child.  
 A. Knock \_\_\_ lights out B. Toot \_\_\_ own horn/Blow \_\_\_ own trumpet  
 C. Raise \_\_\_ hand against D. Stick to \_\_\_ guns
30. - It was a real race \_\_\_ to get all the costumes sewn for the play.  
 - The doctors fought \_\_\_ to save the patient, who could have passed away at any moment after the severe accident.  
 - The team worked \_\_\_ to complete the project before the end of the day.  
 A. Green around the gills B. Against time/the clock  
 C. Into the weeds D. In the pink
31. - She spilled coffee on her shirt during breakfast and missed the bus, and now she's getting berated by the boss, talk about a(n) \_\_\_!  
 A. Rearguard action B. Hard pill to swallow  
 C. Hard/Tough nut to crack D. Bad hair day
32. - His plan to set up a successful business in this disgustingly capitalistic economy is just \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A. Pie in the sky B. Rearguard action  
 C. Wooden spoon D. Bad apple
33. - He was so exhausted from the long day at work that he \_\_\_ on the couch as soon as he got home.  
 - After spending all day at the beach, the kids \_\_\_ in the backseat on the way back to the hotel.  
 A. Zonked out B. Ground to a halt  
 C. Laid it on with a trowel / Laid it on a bit thick D. Fetched up
34. - The defense was \_\_\_, allowing the opposing team to score an easy goal.  
 - I was \_\_\_ when the phone rang, and I wasn't expecting any calls.  
 A. Done for B. Passed over  
 C. Kept posted D. Caught napping
35. - This new model comes with all the features of the old one, but \_\_\_!  
 - Your report is just like my report \_\_\_ — it's 30 pages longer, with no extra content whatsoever.  
 A. As cool as a cucumber B. With (brass) knobs on
- C. All bark and no bite / All talk (and no action) / All talk/mouth (and no trousers) D. In the red
36. - He joked that he was officially \_\_\_ when he turned 50.  
 - Some people think she's \_\_\_, but she's still producing amazing work.  
 A. Out of all recognition B. In the trenches  
 C. Off-the-grid D. Over the hill
37. - Trying to convince conservatives to change their mind is like \_\_\_\_.

- A. Hitting the bottle  
C. Nailing jelly to the wall
38. - She tried to \_\_\_ her teacher by turning in the same essay she used for another class.  
- Mysterio tried to \_\_\_ the entire world, making them believe he was a hero.
- A. Put one over on  
C. Shudder to think
39. - The \_\_\_ of a true friendship is whether it endures through the toughest times.  
- Their performance in the finals will be the \_\_\_ of their skills.
- A. Crack of dawn  
C. Head start
40. - Being passed over for the promotion was a(n) \_\_\_, especially after all his hard work.  
- Losing my job despite years of dedicated service was a(n) \_\_\_\_.  
- Finding out that his best friend had lied to him felt like a(n) \_\_\_\_.
- A. Elbow grease  
C. Church mouse
41. - People thought he was completely \_\_\_ his \_\_\_ for trying to build a flying car in his garage.
- A. Off \_\_\_ trolley  
C. On \_\_\_ beam ends / On \_\_\_ uppers
42. - With his new job demanding so much of his time, his hobbies have fallen \_\_\_\_.  
- Despite her initial enthusiasm, her New Year's resolution to exercise daily fell \_\_\_ after just a few weeks.
- A. A hundred and one  
C. Peppered with
43. - After working the same job for ten years, he felt like he was \_\_\_ and needed a change.  
- She's been \_\_\_ since the breakup, doing the same things every day without enthusiasm
- A. Peppered with  
C. By the wayside
44. - The two companies were \_\_\_ over the terms of the merger.  
- The neighbors have been \_\_\_ for years about the property boundary.
- A. Hard at it  
C. At loggerheads
45. - As soon as she saw the look on his face, the \_\_\_ dropped, and she realized he had been the anonymous donor all along.  
- It took a moment, but the \_\_\_ dropped when she noticed the clue hidden in the text.
- A. Bad/Difficult/Rough/Sticky patch  
C. Hundred and ten percent
46. - He \_\_\_ the snacks at the party, not realizing they were meant for later.  
- Their guests \_\_\_ the amenities, using all the hot water without asking.
- A. Made a practice of  
C. Agonized over
47. - She got the \_\_\_ about the party—it's a costume party, not a formal dinner.  
- You must have got the \_\_\_; we're meeting at the new office, not the old one.
- A. Plain Jane  
C. Pie in the sky
48. - Despite the challenges, she was determined to \_\_\_ the project \_\_\_ to the end.
- A. Have \_\_\_ in a half-nelson  
C. See \_\_\_ through
49. - The meeting was attended by everyone, \_\_\_ a few members who were out of town.
- A. Save for  
C. Rifle through
50. - Unfortunately, if this merger doesn't go through, it's \_\_\_ for our company.  
- It's \_\_\_ for the defending champs if they don't pull off a miraculous comeback.
- A. Salt of the earth  
C. High cotton
51. - It took a lot of \_\_\_ to scrub the stains off the kitchen floor.  
- The old car had been sitting in the garage for years, but with some \_\_\_, he managed to get it sparkling clean and running smoothly again.
- A. Weak links  
C. Hard/Tough nut to crack
52. - Whether he prefers to study in the morning or at night is \_\_\_; what matters is that he completes his assignments.  
- He mentioned that he doesn't like broccoli, but that's \_\_\_ since we were talking about dessert options.
- A. Home and dry  
C. Down and out
53. - She kept a(n) \_\_\_ on her investments, ensuring she made informed decisions.  
- The captain kept a(n) \_\_\_ on the horizon, watching for any signs of an approaching storm.
- A. Sticky end  
C. Lap of luxury
54. - Despite the criticism, she decided to \_\_\_ her \_\_\_ and pressed ahead with her original plan.
- A. Knock \_\_\_ lights out  
C. Roll up \_\_\_ sleeves/Pull \_\_\_ socks up
- B. Playing second fiddle  
D. Running the show
- B. Plough back  
D. Rake in
- B. Cool customer  
D. Acid test
- B. Thick skin  
D. Real kick in the teeth
- B. Worth \_\_\_ salt  
D. By the seat of \_\_\_ pants
- B. By the wayside  
D. On a tear
- B. On tenterhooks  
D. In a rut
- B. Keen as mustard  
D. Up the wall
- B. Penny  
D. Status quo
- B. Rallied round  
D. Made free with
- B. Wrong end of the stick  
D. Ballpark figure
- B. Sweep \_\_\_ under the carpet  
D. Tug at \_\_\_ heartstrings
- B. See to  
D. Keep a tight rein on
- B. Cat's pajamas/meow/whiskers  
D. Curtains
- B. Chain of events  
D. Elbow grease
- B. Neither here nor there  
D. High and dry
- B. Weather eye  
D. Bad hair day
- B. Hold \_\_\_ horses  
D. Stick to \_\_\_ guns

55. - She \_\_\_ on the rug and fell face first onto the floor.

- She \_\_\_ during her speech when she forgot her lines.

- I \_\_\_ on the last question and lost a few points.

- A. Made good
- C. Took a turn for the better

- B. Tripped up
- D. Made a huge dent

56. - The artist decided to \_\_\_ the painting by adding a little more detail to the background.

- A. Plough back
- C. Touch up

- B. Skimp out on
- D. Pin down

57. - Tom wants to sue them, but \_\_\_ if you ask me.

- A. That dog won't hunt / That cock won't fight
- C. Down the hatch

- B. C'est la vie
- D. A stitch in time (saves nine)

58. - The very thought of having to pay more tax for a government with such half-assed healthcare made him \_\_\_.

- My mom went \_\_\_ when she found out that I have broken her favorite vase.

- A. Purple with rage
- C. In the weeds

- B. Blue in the face
- D. Out of circulation

59. - I haven't even \_\_\_ in that huge stack of papers I have to read.

- A. Kept posted
- C. Set back

- B. Passed over
- D. Made a dent

60. - The team \_\_\_ an incredible comeback in the last minutes of the game.

- Despite the economic downturn, the company \_\_\_ a major deal with an international client.

- A. Made heavy weather of
- C. Put paid to

- B. Brought off
- D. Made free with

61. - I \_\_\_ those who push their children too hard.

- A. Take issue with
- C. Pick up on

- B. Weave a web of
- D. Hem in

62. - He decided to burn the midnight oil and \_\_\_ to be able to ace the test.

- A. Ride out
- C. Shuffle off

- B. Hit the books
- D. Have teeth

63. - The company is dedicated to \_\_\_ electronics, offering a wide range of gadgets and devices.

- He made a fortune by \_\_\_ rare coins and antique jewelry.

- She enjoys \_\_\_ vintage clothing and often attends flea markets to find unique pieces.

- A. Conniving in
- C. Dallying with

- B. Raking off
- D. Dealing in

64. - His repeated requests for more funding fell on \_\_\_, as the board was not interested in increasing the budget.

- A. Lower reaches
- C. Stony ground

- B. Deaf ears
- D. Salt of the earth

65. - It's easier to accept the \_\_\_ than to push for change.

- To innovate, companies must challenge the \_\_\_ and think outside the box.

- A. Million-dollar question
- C. Skeleton in the cupboard/closet

- B. Status quo
- D. Wrong end of the stick

66. - She is a(n) \_\_\_ in the world of modern dance, known for her innovative choreography.

- As the founder of the company, he remains a(n) \_\_\_ in the tech industry, guiding the team to new heights.

- A. Sticky end
- C. Par for the course

- B. Leading light
- D. Straight arrow

67. - She's been pretending to work on the project for weeks, but when her boss asks for progress and found nothing, she realizes \_\_\_.

- A. A stitch in time (saves nine)
- C. Knock it off

- B. The jig is up
- D. Make haste

68. - After recovering from her illness, she was finally \_\_\_, enjoying the fresh air and visiting friends.

- A. Cock-and-bull
- C. Spick and span

- B. Here and there
- D. Out and about

69. - They had been dating for a long time and finally decided to \_\_\_ and get married

- Despite the risks, he finally decided to \_\_\_ and invested in the new tech startup.

- A. Take the plunge
- C. Hit the road

- B. Make allowances
- D. Live out of a suitcase

70. - She gave him a(n) \_\_\_, hinting at the surprise party planned for his birthday.

- A. Touch and go
- C. Bib and tucker

- B. Nudge and wink
- D. Hustle and bustle

71. - He enjoys \_\_\_ music recommendations to find new songs to add to his playlist.

- She spent the afternoon \_\_\_ her old photos, deciding which ones to keep and which to discard.

- A. Harping on about
- C. Conniving in

- B. Moping about
- D. Sifting through

72. - The fans \_\_\_ every moment of the concert, cheering loudly for their favorite songs.

- She \_\_\_ the praise from her colleagues after successfully completing the project.

- He \_\_\_ all the attention at the party, basking in the admiration of his friends.

- A. Took after
- C. Took the bloom off

- B. Took to
- D. Lapped up

73. - Though the politician appeared flawless on the surface, his career was jeopardized when a journalist unearthed a(n) \_\_\_ by raking up a decade-old scandal involving corruption that he had hoped was long forgotten.

- A. Circuit breaker
- C. Skeleton in the cupboard/closet

- B. Pretty penny
- D. Bad penny

74. - She's such a(n) \_\_\_; Even during the emergency, she managed to keep her cool and knew exactly what to do.

- A. Dirty dog
- C. Cool customer

- B. Sticky end
- D. Common touch

75. - Could you \_\_\_ it that the documents are delivered on time?

- The nurse will \_\_\_ the patient's needs throughout the night.

- I'll \_\_\_ the arrangements for the meeting, so you don't have to worry about it.

- A. See to
- C. Touch up

- B. Juggle with
- D. Pick up on

76. - I can't even untangle this thread - I have been feeling \_\_\_ today!

- A. All (fingers and) thumbs
- C. Out and about

- B. High and dry
- D. Here and there

77. - He can play the piano \_\_\_, but he's far from a professional.

- She managed to clean up the room \_\_\_, though it was still somewhat cluttered.

- The new software works \_\_\_, but it still has many bugs to fix.

- He spoke French \_\_\_, enough to get by, but not fluently.

- A. At every turn
- C. After a fashion

- B. To the fore
- D. For the record

78. - It's time for you to \_\_\_ and see that they're just using you.

- A. Batten down the hatches
- C. Part company

- B. Hold the field
- D. Wise up

79. - She \_\_\_ items for the art project the whole morning.

- A. Fetched and carried

80. - My mom is always \_\_\_ the importance of eating vegetables.

- He kept \_\_\_ the need to recycle, even though we all got the point.

- She can't stop \_\_\_ her ex-boyfriend, even though everyone is tired of hearing about it.

- A. Harping on about
- C. Nipping at the heels of

- B. Sifting through
- D. Dealing in

81. - Despite the setbacks, the team decided to \_\_\_ with the project.

- A. Forge ahead
- C. Call a spade a spade

- B. Hit the road
- D. Cry a river

82. - She took over the company and is now \_\_\_ with her innovative ideas and strong leadership.

- A. Jigging about
- C. Nailing jelly to the wall

- B. Falling off a log
- D. Running the show

83. - She listened to her favorite music to \_\_\_ herself \_\_\_ before the presentation.

- A. Sweep \_\_\_ under the carpet
- C. Psych \_\_\_ up

- B. Have \_\_\_ in a half-nelson
- D. See \_\_\_ through

84. - He was accused of \_\_\_ the embezzlement scheme, helping to divert company funds for personal gain.

- The students were caught \_\_\_ the cheating plan during the exam.

- A. Sifting through
- C. Raking off

- B. Dallying with
- D. Conniving in

85. - My brother \_\_\_ with an offer of help.

- Everyone in the neighborhood \_\_\_ to help clean up the park after the storm.

- When I first bought this dilapidated house, all my friends \_\_\_ to help fix it up.

- A. Looked askance
- C. Pitched in

- B. Got stood up
- D. Hit the skids

86. - The mechanic tried to \_\_\_ me \_\_\_ by charging double for the repairs.

- A. Tug at \_\_\_ heartstrings
- C. Sweep \_\_\_ under the carpet

- B. See \_\_\_ through
- D. Rip \_\_\_ off

87. - Even though there was some evidence against him, the jury gave him the \_\_\_ and found him not guilty.

- She missed the meeting, but I'll give her the \_\_\_ and assume she had a good reason.

- A. Crack of dawn
- C. Happy medium

- B. Lame duck
- D. Benefit of the doubt

88. - The apartment seems to \_\_\_ their lifestyle \_\_\_, offering everything they were looking for in a new home.

- A. See \_\_\_ through
- C. Fit \_\_\_ like a glove

- B. Have \_\_\_ in a half-nelson
- D. Psych \_\_\_ up

89. - Raising four children on a single income was a(n) \_\_\_, but I managed to do it anyway.

- A. Real kick in the teeth
- C. Benefit of the doubt

- B. Hard/Tough row to hoe
- D. Head start

90. - She decided to \_\_\_ painting as a hobby during her free time.

- The new furniture seems to \_\_\_ too much space in the living room.

- He decided to \_\_\_ the job offer from the prestigious company.

- A. Take up
- C. Touch up

- B. Ramble on
- D. Wrap up

91. - After the new competitors entered the market, the once-thriving company \_\_\_ and struggled to stay afloat.

- The economy \_\_\_ during the recession, with many businesses closing down and unemployment rising.

A. Acquired a taste

B. Made good

C. Hit the skids

D. Made a huge dent

92. - Take a break this weekend and have some fun. \_\_\_ makes life dull.

A. Plain Jane

B. Status quo

C. Hatchet man

D. All work and no play

93. - After much consideration, she \_\_\_ herself \_\_\_ for the promotion, hoping to advance her career.

- After the storm damaged their house, the neighbors \_\_\_ them \_\_\_, providing them board and lodging until repairs were made

- When her flight was canceled, a kind stranger \_\_\_ her \_\_\_ for the night.

A. Did \_\_\_ in

B. Sent \_\_\_ packing

C. Threw \_\_\_ off balance

D. Put \_\_\_ up

94. - The journalist was accused of doing a(n) \_\_\_ on the celebrity, focusing solely on negative aspects.

A. Million-dollar question

B. Hatchet job

C. Water under the bridge

D. Silver bullet

95. - After becoming the new manager, he started \_\_\_ his \_\_\_, making all the important decisions without consulting his team.

- At family gatherings, she is always \_\_\_ her \_\_\_, deciding the agenda and making sure everyone follows her plans.

A. Holding \_\_\_ thumbs/Keeping \_\_\_ fingers crossed

B. Throwing \_\_\_ weight around/about

C. Eating \_\_\_ heart out

96. - I'll be back in a few minutes. Can you \_\_\_ and take care of the customers?

- While I'm away, my sister will \_\_\_ and look after the kids.

A. Hold the fort

B. Call the shots

C. Gild the lily

D. Go by the numbers

97. - If I don't pass this exam, my chances of graduating on time are \_\_\_.

- The doctor said if I don't take care of my health, my life will be \_\_\_.

A. Sniped at

B. Made a dent

C. Done for

D. Opened a can of worms

98. - The bodies were mutilated beyond recognition.

- > The bodies were mutilated \_\_\_.

A. Blue in the face

B. Out of all recognition

C. At loggerheads

D. In the black

99. - The plot of the novel is full of \_\_\_.

A. Dribs and drabs

B. Twists and turns

C. Ups and downs

D. Bits and bobs/pieces

100. - His negative comments really \_\_\_ our first day at the beach.

- The unexpected rainstorm \_\_\_ the outdoor wedding.

A. Took the bloom off

B. Took a shine to

C. Lapped up

D. Knocked spots off

101. - A: You always say I'm late, but what about the time you missed the deadline last month?

- B: \_\_\_. You have a point.

A. Knock it off

B. Make haste

C. A stitch in time (saves nine)

D. Touché

102. - After losing his job, he took a temporary position at a much lower salary. It was a case of \_\_\_ to keep some income coming in.

- When the company's sales plummeted, they accepted a buyout offer from a competitor. It wasn't the best option, but it was \_\_\_.

A. Sitting ducks

B. Lower reaches

C. Force of circumstances

D. Any port in a storm

103. - She was \_\_\_, waiting for the results of her medical tests.

- After the job interview, he was \_\_\_, hoping for a positive response.

A. Garden-variety

B. On tenterhooks

C. Into the weeds

D. Hard at it

104. - The con artist managed to \_\_\_ lies to deceive the unsuspecting victims.

- The author's skills allowed him to \_\_\_ intrigue, keeping readers on the edge of their seats.

- The politician's speech appeared to \_\_\_ promises and assurances, but it was hard to see the concrete plans.

- She decided to \_\_\_ manipulation, playing each member of the group against one another.

A. Take heart from

B. Look up

C. Rake up

D. Weave a web of

105. - That get-rich-quick scheme was nothing but a(n) \_\_\_. It looked promising, but it was just a waste of time.

A. Narrow squeak

B. Gold brick

C. Weather eye

D. Elbow grease

106. - When his GPS failed during the road trip, he navigated \_\_\_ his \_\_\_, using road signs and a general sense of direction.

A. By the seat of \_\_\_ pants

B. On \_\_\_ beam ends / On \_\_\_ uppers

C. Worth \_\_\_ salt

D. Off \_\_\_ trolley

107. - After the heated argument, she decided to \_\_\_ by apologizing and suggesting they start over.

A. Pop the question

B. Make good time

- C. Hold out/Offer/Extend an olive branch  
 108. - She takes vitamins to keep illnesses \_\_\_ during the winter months.  
 - Regularly checking your emails can help keep chaos \_\_\_\_.  
 - To keep debt \_\_\_, he carefully monitors his spending and saves diligently.
- A. Keen as mustard  
 B. Beyond the norm  
 C. All bark and no bite / All talk (and no action) / All talk/mouth (and no trousers)  
 D. At bay
109. - Problems can \_\_\_ when you least expect them, so always be prepared.  
 A. Have teeth  
 B. Crop up  
 C. Turned/Came up trumps  
 D. Take it up a notch
110. - The old mansion had gone to \_\_\_ after years of abandonment.  
 - The once-thriving business went to \_\_\_ following the economic downturn.  
 A. Thick and thin  
 B. Nook and cranny  
 C. Bed and board / Board and lodging  
 D. Rack and ruin
111. - The strong poison \_\_\_ the entire colony of ants.  
 - He \_\_\_ his knee during the soccer match and had to sit out the rest of the season.  
 - The heavy rain \_\_\_ our plans for a picnic.  
 A. Did in  
 B. Threw in the towel  
 C. Flew off the handle / Hit the roof/ceiling  
 D. Darted off
112. - She didn't want to be a(n) \_\_\_, but she had to point out the flaws in their plan.  
 A. Load of cobblers  
 B. Hatchet man  
 C. Wet blanket  
 D. Weak links
113. - You can occasionally find wildflowers growing \_\_\_ around the field.  
 A. Here and there  
 B. Spick and span  
 C. Rough and ready  
 D. High and low
114. - The company has been operating \_\_\_ for the past two quarters, thriving with very little expenses.  
 A. On the safe side  
 B. Sick as a dog  
 C. In the black  
 D. Beyond the norm
115. - The candidate spent the afternoon \_\_\_ at the county fair, shaking hands with voters and listening to their concerns.  
 A. Falling off a log  
 B. Jigging about  
 C. Nailing jelly to the wall  
 D. Pressing the flesh
116. - The book remained in the \_\_\_ of the bestseller list for months before gaining popularity.  
 - The study focused on the \_\_\_ of the social hierarchy and its impacts on health.  
 A. Lower reaches  
 B. Ivory towers  
 C. Sitting ducks  
 D. Bee's knees
117. - He always brags about his big plans, but he's \_\_\_. Nothing ever gets done.  
 A. Garden-variety  
 B. In the black  
 C. On the lam/run  
 D. All bark and no bite / All talk (and no action) / All talk/mouth (and no trousers)
118. - Failing the exam was a(n) \_\_\_, teaching him to study more diligently.  
 - Getting that rejection letter was a(n) \_\_\_, but it motivated him to work even harder  
 A. Real kick in the pants  
 B. Penny  
 C. Line of least resistance  
 D. Ballpark figure
119. - The company launched a(n) \_\_\_ to promote its new smartphone, featuring ads on TV, radio, and social media.  
 A. Media blitz  
 B. Far cry  
 C. Double bind  
 D. Elbow grease
120. - It really \_\_\_ my \_\_\_ how cheap the E5-2680v4 is despite its impressive core count!  
 A. Took to \_\_\_ heels  
 B. Slipped \_\_\_ mind  
 C. Got/Had \_\_\_ ducks in a row  
 D. Boggled \_\_\_ brain
121. - You can tell her to clean her room until you are \_\_\_, but she won't do it.  
 A. In the weeds  
 B. Blue in the face  
 C. On the safe side  
 D. In the trenches
122. - The newly elected president will soon \_\_\_ of the government.  
 - She was promoted to call the shots and \_\_\_ of the new project due to her excellent track record.  
 A. Make headway  
 B. Hit the spot  
 C. Shuffle off  
 D. Hold the reins
123. - Our team has been \_\_\_, working tirelessly to develop the new software update.  
 - During the busiest season, you'll find the manager \_\_\_, working alongside the staff to meet the deadlines.  
 A. In the trenches  
 B. Seasoned with  
 C. On tenterhooks  
 D. With (brass) knobs on
124. - The president's \_\_\_ was tasked with silencing opposition.  
 A. Pipe dream  
 B. Chain of events  
 C. Double take  
 D. Hatchet man
125. - The disrespect he showed our professor during class \_\_\_ my \_\_\_ so badly that I had to go take a walk to calm down.  
 A. Threw \_\_\_ off balance  
 B. Raised \_\_\_ hackles

- C. Committed \_\_\_ to memory  
126. - His nonchalant but controversial comments \_\_\_ a few \_\_\_ at the meeting.  
- During the heated discussion, she made a remark about his punctuality, which clearly \_\_\_ his \_\_\_\_.
- A. Saved \_\_\_ bacon  
C. Threw \_\_\_ off balance  
127. - I donned my best \_\_\_ for the wedding.  
A. Bib and tucker  
C. Rack and ruin
- B. Raised \_\_\_ hackles  
D. Ruffled \_\_\_ feathers  
128. - A: I feel just awful for Mary - she's been \_\_\_ her \_\_\_ ever since she found out she was rejected by her top-choice school.  
- B: Tell her to get over it already or she's gonna put on a heck ton of weight.
- A. Eating \_\_\_ heart out  
C. Holding \_\_\_ thumbs/Keeping \_\_\_ fingers crossed  
129. - The electrician installed a new \_\_\_ to protect the home's electrical system from overloads.  
A. Circuit breaker  
C. Tall order
- B. Hustle and bustle  
D. Thick and thin  
130. - Despite the storm warnings, they decided to \_\_\_ with their hiking trip, determined to reach the summit.  
- With no map and only a vague idea of the path, they decided to \_\_\_ into the dense forest.
- A. Live out of a suitcase  
C. Vamp it up  
131. - She was \_\_\_ all the necessary information before the important meeting.  
- The soldiers, \_\_\_ heavy weapons, were ready for the mission.
- B. Throwing \_\_\_ weight around/about  
D. Head start  
132. - Organizing such a large event in such a small city centre is like \_\_\_\_.  
A. Falling off a log  
C. Fitting a quart into a pint pot
- B. Running the show  
D. Playing second fiddle  
133. - Notwithstanding the obstacles, she \_\_\_ to meet the deadline.  
- They \_\_\_ with the project despite the setbacks.
- A. Took a turn for the better  
C. Caved/Gave in  
134. - She found learning languages as easy as \_\_\_\_.  
A. Barking up the wrong tree  
C. Falling off a log
- B. Pressed ahead  
D. Scarfed down  
135. - After establishing a strong presence in the domestic market, the company decided to \_\_\_ international sales.  
A. See to  
C. Dredge up
- B. Branch out into  
D. Take heart from  
136. - Before we jump to conclusions, let's \_\_\_ our \_\_\_ and review the data  
A. Hold \_\_\_ horses  
C. Fill \_\_\_ shoes
- B. Speak \_\_\_ mind  
D. Stick to \_\_\_ guns  
137. - Let's \_\_\_ the unpleasant incident and focus on the future.  
- He decided to \_\_\_ his mistakes and start afresh.
- A. Draw a veil over  
C. Weave a web of  
138. - When she missed the deadline, her chances of getting the promotion went \_\_\_\_.  
- After investing heavily in the failed startup, all his savings went \_\_\_\_.
- B. Rake in  
D. Shake off  
139. - To meet the tight deadline, the construction crew worked \_\_\_, often putting in double shifts.  
A. Egged on  
C. Around-the-clock/Round-the-clock
- B. All bark and no bite / All talk (and no action) / All talk/mouth (and no trousers)  
D. Out of the frying pan into the fire  
140. - Living on the streets often means being \_\_\_, facing harsh weather conditions daily.  
A. On a tear  
C. On the lam/run
- B. Exposed to the elements  
D. Off-the-peg  
141. - During the interview, he experienced \_\_\_ memory and couldn't recall the name of the company.  
- Her mistake was attributed to \_\_\_ judgment during a stressful situation.  
- The accident happened due to \_\_\_ concentration while driving.
- A. A blow of  
C. A load of  
142. - Wearing a helmet \_\_\_ his \_\_\_ when he fell off his bike.  
- The unexpected bonus from work really \_\_\_ their \_\_\_ just when they were struggling to pay bills.
- B. A lapse of  
D. A film of  
143. - Every new recruit was given a(n) \_\_\_ uniform and equipment upon joining.  
- The office laptops were all \_\_\_ models, with no special features or customizations.
- A. Committed \_\_\_ to memory  
C. Threw \_\_\_ off balance  
144. - The office laptops were all \_\_\_ models, with no special features or customizations.  
A. Over the hump  
C. Around-the-clock/Round-the-clock
- B. Ruffled \_\_\_ feathers  
D. Saved \_\_\_ bacon  
145. - The office laptops were all \_\_\_ models, with no special features or customizations.  
B. Rat-assed / Rat-arsed  
D. Standard-issue



144. - She drinks a cup of ginger tea every morning to \_\_\_ colds.

- They used mosquito repellent to \_\_\_ the bugs while camping.

A. Pop the question

C. Call it quits

B. File in

D. Ward off

145. - She \_\_\_ attention \_\_\_ her guests, making sure everyone felt welcome and comfortable.

- The coach \_\_\_ praise \_\_\_ the team after their outstanding performance.

A. Threw \_\_\_ hat in the ring

B. Lavished \_\_\_ on

146. - She's been going through a(n) \_\_\_ at work, dealing with multiple project failures.

- Their relationship hit a(n) \_\_\_ when they had to deal with long-distance separation.

- The company is facing a(n) \_\_\_ due to declining sales and increased competition.

A. Penny-pincher

B. Hard pill to swallow

C. Bad/Difficult/Rough/Sticky patch

D. Media blitz

147. - In the 1930s, many men became "\_\_\_" during the Great Depression, traveling in search of work or adventure.

A. Cool cat

B. Knight of the road

C. Pretty penny

D. Spot of bother

148. - The rigorous interview process is designed to \_\_\_ and find the most qualified candidates.

- The editor's job is to \_\_\_, ensuring only the best articles are published.

A. Hold the reins

B. Separate the wheat from the chaff

C. Hit the spot

D. Fit the bill

149. - After reading her a story, he \_\_\_ his daughter \_\_\_ and kissed her goodnight.

A. Saved \_\_\_ bacon

B. Tucked \_\_\_ in

C. Raised \_\_\_ hackles

D. Ruffled \_\_\_ feathers

150. - We noticed some errors in the report, and I \_\_\_ that they are being corrected as we speak.

A. Look up

B. Hold fast to

C. Juggle with

D. Hasten to add/point out/say

151. - She had to \_\_\_ a lot of money \_\_\_ the new kitchen renovation, but it was worth every penny.

- He had to \_\_\_ \$2000 \_\_\_ a new laptop after his old one broke down unexpectedly.

A. Fork out \_\_\_ for

152. - Despite all the challenges he faced, he continued to \_\_\_ his dreams of becoming a writer.

A. Hem in

B. Hold fast to

C. Put one over on

D. Shake off

153. - When the kid was late again, the teacher began to \_\_\_ about his irresponsibility and lack of respect.

A. Wax and wane

B. Stretch and tone

C. Bow and scrape

D. Rant and rave

154. - Finishing this project by the end of the week is a(n) \_\_\_, but I think we can do it.

- Preparing a five-course meal in under an hour is a(n) \_\_\_ for even the best chefs.

A. Tall order

B. Hard pill to swallow

C. Pipe dream

D. Bad penny

155. - Oh, \_\_\_ Alex! I'm really not in the mood for your jokes.

A. The jig is up

B. Knock it off

C. Fat chance (of that)

D. Down the hatch

156. - During the debate, the opposition team tried to \_\_\_ in the argument presented by their opponents.

- She couldn't help but \_\_\_ in his story, questioning every detail he shared.

A. Fit the bill

B. Pick holes

C. Hit the spot

D. Pick up the pieces

157. - Ever since she got that promotion, she's been living in \_\_\_.

- With our sales figures reaching new heights, we're really in \_\_\_ this quarter.

A. Force of circumstances

B. Curtains

C. High cotton

D. Hot air

158. - The vibrant patches of forest, where countless species reside, \_\_\_ wildlife.

A. Hem in

B. Draw a veil over

C. Slam down

D. Abound in/with

159. - With the budget cuts, the company had to \_\_\_ spendings to avoid any financial issues.

- As the project manager, she needs to \_\_\_ the team's progress to ensure they meet the deadline.

A. Tally up

B. Take heart from

C. Rake in

D. Keep a tight rein on

160. - It was a(n) \_\_\_, but she managed to avoid the accident by swerving just in time.

- He had a(n) \_\_\_ in passing the exam; he just made it by one point.

A. Happy medium

B. Bad/Difficult/Rough/Sticky patch

C. Narrow squeak

D. Crime of passion

161. - She may be a(n) \_\_\_, but her kindness and intelligence make her truly special.

- The new car model is a bit of a(n) \_\_\_, with no standout features or exciting design elements.

A. Breadline

B. Plain Jane

C. First port of call

D. Acid test

162. - When the company went bankrupt, the employees were left \_\_\_, with no severance pay or job prospects.

A. Home and dry

B. All (fingers and) thumbs

C. High and dry

D. Rough and ready

163. - *The old derelict bookshelf was covered by \_\_\_ dust.*  
 A. A film of  
 C. A fit of  
 B. A blow of  
 D. A load of
164. - *No worries - The documents are safely under \_\_\_ at my place.*  
 A. Nook and cranny  
 C. Lock and key  
 B. Touch and go  
 D. Bib and tucker
165. - *When planning the event, she asked the caterer for a(n) \_\_\_ of how much the service would cost.*  
 A. Leading light  
 C. Ballpark figure  
 B. Chain of events  
 D. Media blitz
166. - *The suspect is still \_\_\_, and the police are conducting a manhunt to capture him.*  
 - *The new policy received mixed reactions from the public \_\_\_.*  
 - *The report covered the issue \_\_\_, providing extensive details and analysis.*  
 A. Into the weeds  
 C. At large  
 B. Beyond the norm  
 D. Seasoned with
167. - *When the female mugger attacked him, he had no choice but to \_\_\_ his \_\_\_ to protect himself.*  
 A. Stick to \_\_\_ guns  
 C. Knock \_\_\_ lights out  
 B. Roll up \_\_\_ sleeves/Pull \_\_\_ socks up  
 D. Toot \_\_\_ own horn/Blow \_\_\_ own trumpet
168. - *The artist \_\_\_ by using unconventional materials for his sculpture, challenging traditional art forms.*  
 A. Got stood up  
 C. Made good  
 B. Went against the grain  
 D. Caved/Gave in
169. - *\_\_\_! The bus is about to leave and we can't miss it.*  
 A. A stitch in time (saves nine)  
 C. Make haste  
 B. Fat chance (of that)  
 D. A watched pot never boils
170. - *The project succeeded because everyone \_\_\_ their \_\_\_ and worked together efficiently.*  
 A. Slipped \_\_\_ mind  
 C. Blew \_\_\_ top  
 B. Got/Had \_\_\_ ducks in a row  
 D. Pulled \_\_\_ weight
171. - *Despite the heavy traffic, they managed to \_\_\_ and reached the campsite before sunset.*  
 A. Do/Work wonders/miracles  
 C. Make good time  
 B. Blast off  
 D. Fit the bill
172. - *The new manager \_\_\_, implementing changes within her first week.*  
 - *After graduating, he \_\_\_ in his new job, impressing his colleagues with his skills.*  
 - *The team \_\_\_ at the start of the project, meeting all the initial deadlines.*  
 A. Tripped up  
 C. Hit the ground running  
 B. Scarfed down  
 D. Hit the ball out of the park
173. - *They had a big argument last year, but it's all \_\_\_ now.*  
 A. Media blitz  
 C. Water under the bridge  
 B. Hatchet man  
 D. Hundred and ten percent
174. - *He tried to \_\_\_ the difficult tasks to his colleagues.*  
 - *The seller \_\_\_ the defective merchandise as if it were new.*  
 - *He decided to \_\_\_ his old phone to his friend, claiming it was still in perfect condition.*  
 A. Turned/Came up trumps  
 C. Separate the wheat from the chaff  
 B. Pawn off  
 D. Pack the house
175. - *After losing his job, he found himself on the \_\_\_, relying on food banks to feed his family.*  
 A. Church mouse  
 C. Water under the bridge  
 B. Straight arrow  
 D. Breadline
176. - *After catching the flu, he was \_\_\_ for a whole week.*  
 A. All bark and no bite / All talk (and no action) / All talk/mouth (and no trousers)  
 C. At bay  
 B. In stitches  
 D. Sick as a dog
177. - *We're almost done; just a few more details to \_\_\_ before the presentation.*  
 - *Let's \_\_\_ this meeting and get back to our other tasks.*  
 A. Wrap up  
 C. Rattle through  
 B. Skimp out on  
 D. Put one over on
178. - *The casino managed to \_\_\_ large sums of money from tourists visiting the city.*  
 - *During the holiday season, many stores \_\_\_ substantial revenue due to increased sales.*  
 A. Rake in  
 C. Abound in/with  
 B. Work at  
 D. Draw a veil over
179. - *Everyone \_\_\_ as soon as the food was served, enjoying the delicious meal.*  
 - *They \_\_\_ to the picnic, eager to try all the homemade goodies*  
 A. Hit the deck  
 C. Pressed ahead  
 B. Tucked in  
 D. Tripped up
180. - *She invited her family to \_\_\_ her travel experiences through photos and stories.*  
 - *He wanted his friends to \_\_\_ his joy when he announced his engagement.*  
 - *The shareholders were eager to \_\_\_ the company's profits.*  
 A. Rattle through  
 C. Keep a tight rein on  
 B. Stamp out  
 D. Share in
181. - *Despite the late hour, she was still \_\_\_, trying to finish the report before the deadline.*

- A. Purple with rage  
C. Hard at it
182. - The team worked late into the night and \_\_\_ in the project backlog.  
- After hours of sorting and organizing, they \_\_\_ in cleaning the garage.
- A. Pressed ahead  
C. Went against the grain
183. - Following their breakup, she slowly started to \_\_\_ and move on.  
- The town came together to \_\_\_ after the devastating hurricane.  
- The fire was a blow, but we were determined to \_\_\_ and get the business back on its feet.
- A. Get bent out of shape  
C. Pick up the pieces
184. - He finds it hard to trust people because of the \_\_\_ from his previous relationship.  
- She realized that to move forward in her career, she needed to let go of the \_\_\_ from her childhood experiences.
- A. Pie in the sky  
C. Church mouse
185. - After much speculation, she finally \_\_\_ her \_\_\_ and run for city council.
- A. Threw \_\_\_ hat in the ring
- B. Run-of-the-mill  
D. Beyond the norm
- B. Made a huge dent  
D. Did in
- B. Hit the road  
D. Make hay while the sun shines
- B. Dirty dog  
D. Emotional baggage
- B. Lavished \_\_\_ on
- B. Ninety-nine times out of a hundred  
D. For the record
187. - After the surgery, it was \_\_\_ for a while, but she eventually pulled through.  
- The doctors informed us that the next few hours would be \_\_\_, as they weren't sure if the patient would make it through the critical phase of the operation.  
- Due to the bad weather, our flight was \_\_\_, but we landed safely in the end.
- A. Hustle and bustle  
C. Touch and go
188. - His warnings about quitting were just \_\_\_; he never had any intention of leaving the company.
- A. Ivory towers  
C. Empty threats
189. - The movie was so touching that it made the whole audience \_\_\_.
- A. File in  
C. Cry a river
190. - They decided to move to a remote cabin in the mountains and live \_\_\_, relying on solar power and a well for water.  
- Our \_\_\_ vacation was so peaceful; no internet, no phone signal, not a cell phone in sight, just people living in the moment.
- A. Off-the-grid  
C. Keen as mustard
191. - When you arrive in the city, your \_\_\_ should be the visitor information center.  
- If you're looking to adopt a pet, the local animal shelter should be your \_\_\_.
- A. First port of call  
C. Line of least resistance
192. - His \_\_\_ allows him to laugh any kind of criticism off.
- A. Thick skin  
C. Penny-pincher
193. - He put in a(n) \_\_\_ to make his dream a reality, working day and night.
- A. Water over the dam  
C. Weak links
194. - He is a well-seasoned veteran who knows all the \_\_\_ of the business.
- A. Twists and turns  
C. Beer and skittles
195. - The fingerprints on the weapon were the \_\_\_ that led to the suspect's arrest.  
- The video footage was the \_\_\_ that proved the company's involvement in the fraud.  
- The leaked documents served as the \_\_\_, exposing the corruption within the organization.
- A. Dirty dog  
C. Hard/Tough row to hoe
196. - In \_\_\_ rage, he slammed the door so hard it almost came off its hinges.  
- She couldn't help but break into \_\_\_ laughter after hearing the hilarious joke.
- A. A load of  
C. A lapse of
197. - The drawer is full of \_\_\_ - clothes, toys, even books!
- A. Twists and turns  
C. Dribs and drabs
198. - She's the \_\_\_ - always willing to lend a hand and never expecting anything in return.
- A. Lower reaches  
C. Salt of the earth
- B. Nook and cranny  
D. Rack and ruin
- B. High cotton  
D. Hot air
- B. Plough through  
D. Root around
- B. With (brass) knobs on  
D. Around-the-clock/Round-the-clock
- B. Double bind  
D. Bad/Difficult/Rough/Sticky patch
- B. Smoking gun  
D. Cool cat
- B. Hundred and ten percent  
D. Hatchet job
- B. Ups and downs  
D. Ins and outs
- B. Rearguard action  
D. Smoking gun
- B. A fit of  
D. A blow of
- B. Bits and bobs/pieces  
D. Ins and outs
- B. Empty threats  
D. Ivory towers

199. - When he told me he won the lottery, I was so shocked you could have \_\_\_ me \_\_\_\_.  
 - She was so stunned by the news of her promotion that you could have \_\_\_ her \_\_\_\_.  
 A. Knocked \_\_\_ down/over with a feather
200. - When the coach found out about the broken rules, the entire team was \_\_\_\_.  
 - He missed another deadline, so he's \_\_\_ with the manager this time.  
 - After he was caught stealing from the company, everyone knew he was \_\_\_\_.  
 A. Exposed to the elements B. In stitches  
 C. For the high jump D. Beyond the norm
201. - They have us \_\_\_ with this contract; We have no choice but to acquiesce to it.  
 A. Exposed to the elements B. Over a barrel  
 C. Around the bend D. Egged on
202. - After repeated warnings about his performance, the company finally \_\_\_ him \_\_\_\_.  
 - When she found out he was lying, she \_\_\_ him \_\_\_ without a second thought.  
 A. Committed \_\_\_ to memory B. Sent \_\_\_ packing  
 C. Throw \_\_\_ under the bus D. Did \_\_\_ in
203. - The new office furniture was all \_\_\_\_, but it still looked quite stylish.  
 - He prefers bespoke suits over \_\_\_ ones because they fit better.  
 A. In the red B. On tenterhooks  
 C. Off-the-peg D. On the lam/run
204. - The company decided to \_\_\_ its profits into research and development to drive innovation and future growth.  
 A. Plough back B. Slam down  
 C. Shake off D. Take issue with
205. - Raising his glass to the bride and groom, he said, "To your happiness! \_\_\_!"  
 A. It takes two to tango B. Fat chance (of that)  
 C. You can't have your cake and eat it (too) D. Down the hatch
206. - That latest-gen Threadripper CPU must have cost a(n) \_\_\_\_.  
 A. Pipe dream B. Crime of passion  
 C. Pretty penny D. Skeleton in the cupboard/closet
207. - He missed the deadline, but it's \_\_\_\_; there's no point in stressing about it now.  
 A. Double bind B. Water over the dam  
 C. Bad penny D. Bad/Difficult/Rough/Sticky patch
208. - A vacation can \_\_\_ for your stress levels.  
 - The new treatment shall \_\_\_ for patients with rare diseases.  
 A. Do/Work wonders/miracles B. Separate the wheat from the chaff  
 C. Call it quits D. Cry a river
209. - They planned to go to the movies together, but he \_\_\_ and ended up having to watch the film alone.  
 A. Got stood up B. Scarfed down  
 C. Hit the ball out of the park D. Made good
210. - The long hike really \_\_\_ me \_\_\_\_; I'm exhausted.  
 A. Committed \_\_\_ to memory B. Put \_\_\_ up  
 C. Did \_\_\_ in D. Ruffled \_\_\_ feathers
211. - Despite her cold, she decided to \_\_\_ the illness and return to work quickly.  
 - After a long day, he took a walk to \_\_\_ the stress.  
 - The spy had to \_\_\_ the agents tailing him before meeting his contact  
 A. Shake off B. Rake up  
 C. Butter up D. Big up
212. - Life isn't all \_\_\_\_; You have to work hard and face challenges.  
 A. Bits and bobs/pieces B. Beer and skittles  
 C. Ins and outs D. Ups and downs
213. - Some historical figures met a(n) \_\_\_ due to their controversial actions.  
 - If you keep making risky decisions, you might come to a(n) \_\_\_\_.  
 - The villain in the movie came to a(n) \_\_\_ after his plans were foiled.  
 A. Duck's back B. Sticky end  
 C. Happy medium D. Bad penny
214. - The cat spotted a butterfly and \_\_\_ to chase it across the garden.  
 - He got an urgent call and \_\_\_ without saying goodbye.  
 - She remembered she left the oven on and \_\_\_ to the kitchen.  
 A. Had a bumpy ride B. Looked askance  
 C. Darted off D. Pushed the boat out
215. - When faced with multiple options, he always takes the \_\_\_\_, choosing whatever requires the least effort.  
 - Rather than arguing with her colleagues, she followed the \_\_\_ and agreed to their plan.  
 A. Common touch B. Line of least resistance  
 C. Breadline D. First port of call
216. - Even though you did not win the race, \_\_\_ the fact that you did your best.  
 A. Take heart from B. Mete out  
 C. Juggle with D. Rifle through
217. - Winning the lottery and becoming a millionaire is just a(n) \_\_\_ for most people.

218. - The startup company is \_\_\_, rapidly expanding its customer base and increasing its revenue.  
 - The basketball team has been \_\_\_ recently, winning their last eight games in a row.
- A. Narrow squeak  
C. Pipe dream  
B. Butcher's dog / Fiddle  
D. Emotional baggage
219. - He tends to \_\_\_ about his favorite movies, sometimes without realizing he's lost the interest of his listeners.
- A. Out of the fire  
C. Over a barrel  
B. In the red  
D. On a tear
220. - After years of working together, the two business partners decided to \_\_\_ due to differing future visions.
- A. Turned/Came up trumps  
C. Part company  
B. Wise up  
D. Take it up a notch
221. - The salesman tried to \_\_\_ his customers with compliments to close the sale.
- A. Butter up  
C. Save for  
B. Rifle through  
D. Work at
222. - Buying cheap old GPUs might seem smart, but it's \_\_\_ if you end up having to pay twice for the electric bills.
- A. Purple with rage  
C. Egged on  
B. Penny-wise and pound-foolish  
D. Out of circulation
223. - Just \_\_\_, I never agreed to those terms, if that's what you're implying.
- A. For the record  
C. After a fashion  
B. Ninety-nine times out of a hundred  
D. At every turn
224. - He keeps signing up for these tough marathons. He's a(n) \_\_\_ for punishment!  
 - Despite the labor and stress, she's a(n) \_\_\_ for work and never complains.  
 - He loves being in the spotlight and is a real \_\_\_ for attention.
- A. Glutton  
C. Hamster wheel  
B. Hen night  
D. Cream of the crop
225. - Stop \_\_\_, Billy, and just stand still for a moment!
- A. Nailing jelly to the wall  
C. Pressing the flesh  
B. Jiggling about  
D. Fitting a quart into a pint pot
226. - The new police chief is known as a(n) \_\_\_ who won't tolerate any form of corruption.  
 - He's a(n) \_\_\_ when it comes to following company policies and ethical guidelines.
- A. Double take  
C. Straight arrow  
B. Spot of bother  
D. Hen night
227. - The once wild and untamed valley is now \_\_\_, ready for this season's crops.
- A. Under the plough  
C. At bay  
B. In a cleft stick  
D. Out of the frying pan into the fire
228. - He \_\_\_ the route \_\_\_ so he wouldn't get lost on the way.  
 - The actor \_\_\_ his lines \_\_\_ for the upcoming performance.
- A. Committed \_\_\_ to memory  
C. Throw \_\_\_ under the bus  
B. Threw \_\_\_ off balance  
D. Saved \_\_\_ bacon
229. - In \_\_\_ luck, she found the lost ring on the beach.  
 - Losing his job during the economic downturn was \_\_\_ misfortune.
- A. A film of  
C. A blow of  
B. A fit of  
D. A lapse of
230. - Mr Nam accused us of being \_\_\_, as if nothing had happened.
- A. At large  
C. Sick as a dog  
B. Over the hump  
D. As cool as a cucumber
231. - My brother is the best lawyer in town, and he's pulled me \_\_\_ on more than one occasion!  
 - The president gets all the credit for the economic recovery, but it was really a team of international financial strategists that pulled it \_\_\_.
- A. Green around the gills  
C. Out of the fire  
B. For the high jump  
D. Over the hill
232. - They invited us to \_\_\_ with them and we ended up all collapsing in beery exhaustion.
- A. Stamp out  
C. Rattle through  
B. Skimp out on  
D. Get sauced
233. - Once we secure this final contract, we'll be \_\_\_ with the project.  
 - After acing the last test, she knew she was \_\_\_ for the semester.
- A. Spick and span  
C. Out and about  
B. High and dry  
D. Home and dry
234. - Securing the major contract was a(n) \_\_\_ his \_\_\_, showcasing his skills in negotiation.
- A. Feather in \_\_\_ cap  
B. Kept posted
235. - Let's \_\_\_ everyone's suggestions and decide on the best course of action.
- A. Wrap up  
C. Tally up  
B. Hold fast to  
D. Ramp up
236. - I thought installing an AIO cooler would be straightforward, but as soon as I opened the box, I realized I had \_\_\_.
- A. Opened a can of worms

- C. Sniped at  
237. - The politician \_\_\_ his advisor \_\_\_ to distance himself from the scandal.  
- When the project failed, he \_\_\_ teammate \_\_\_ to avoid taking the blame.  
A. Committed \_\_\_ to memory  
C. Ruffled \_\_\_ feathers  
D. Done for  
B. Threw \_\_\_ off balance  
D. Throw \_\_\_ under the bus
238. - The delivery came in \_\_\_; First I got the CPU, then the RAM, then the GPU.  
A. Airs and graces  
C. Twists and turns  
B. Bits and bobs/pieces  
D. Dribs and drabs
239. - He's a boy from a poor background who \_\_\_ on Wall Street.  
- My uncle owed thousands, but eventually he \_\_\_ on all of his debts.  
- He promised to repay the loan by the end of the month, and he \_\_\_ on his word.  
- He took a big risk by starting his own company, but he \_\_\_ and turned it into a thriving business.  
A. Flew off the handle / Hit the roof/ceiling  
C. Acquired a taste  
B. Pushed the boat out  
D. Made good
240. - Stop checking your phone for the job interview call. \_\_\_. Try to relax and keep busy.  
A. A watched pot never boils  
C. A stitch in time (saves nine)  
B. Wonders will never cease  
D. In for a penny, in for a pound
241. - The new marathon champion \_\_\_ his father in his love for sports.  
- She \_\_\_ her aunt who was a nurse and pursue a career in medicine.  
A. Took after  
C. Knocked spots off  
B. Made heavy weather of  
D. Filed into
242. - The gratingly incessant buzzing noise from the mosquitoes is driving me \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. Up the wall  
C. Beyond the norm  
B. Out of circulation  
D. Egged on
243. - The show's ratings \_\_\_ after the lead actor left the series.  
- The team's performance \_\_\_ in the second half of the season, losing most of their games.  
A. Tucked in  
C. Fell off a cliff  
B. Laid it on with a trowel / Laid it on a bit thick  
D. Darted off
244. - It's getting late, let's \_\_\_ for the day and pick up where we left off tomorrow.  
- After several failed attempts, he decided to \_\_\_ and try a different approach.  
A. Charge the earth  
C. Plunge ahead  
B. Shuffle off  
D. Call it quits
245. - The company tried to \_\_\_ the financial discrepancies \_\_\_, hoping no one would notice.  
A. Fit \_\_\_ like a glove  
C. Have \_\_\_ in a half-nelson  
B. Sweep \_\_\_ under the carpet  
D. Psych \_\_\_ up
246. - Despite \_\_\_ to the star player, he made crucial contributions to the team's victory.  
A. Barking up the wrong tree  
C. Jigging about  
B. Playing second fiddle  
D. Pressing the flesh
247. - The new startup is \_\_\_ the industry leader, challenging their market dominance  
- With the approaching deadline \_\_\_ the employee, he had to put in a hundred and ten percent.  
A. Conniving in  
C. Nipping at the heels of  
B. Sifting through  
D. Moping about
248. - I want to be \_\_\_ about any changes to the event schedule.  
A. Set back  
C. Opened a can of worms  
B. Kept posted  
D. Passed over
249. - The mystery turned out to be a(n) \_\_\_, remaining unresolved after months of research.  
A. Hard/Tough nut to crack  
C. Shot in the dark  
B. Duck's back  
D. Lap of honor
250. - If you're finding this workout too easy, \_\_\_ by adding some weights or increasing the intensity  
A. Take it up a notch  
C. Roll over  
B. Go by the numbers  
D. Bed out
251. - The family \_\_\_ all year so they could go on a summer vacation.  
A. Scrimped and saved  
B. Hemmed/Hummed and hawed
252. - Health officials are working tirelessly to \_\_\_ the spread of the virus.  
- The government launched a new campaign to \_\_\_ corruption in public offices.  
A. Stamp out  
C. Abound in/with  
B. Plough back  
D. Fob off
253. - The athlete's performance was \_\_\_, breaking records and setting new standards.  
- Her approach to solving the problem was truly \_\_\_, showcasing her creativity and ingenuity.  
A. In stitches  
C. Seasoned with  
B. Off-the-peg  
D. Beyond the norm
254. - Losing his job started a(n) \_\_\_ that forced him to reevaluate his life and career  
- The detective pieced together the \_\_\_ leading up to the crime to understand the suspect's motive.  
A. Media blitz  
C. Pie in the sky  
B. Cool customer  
D. Chain of events
255. - The CEO's \_\_\_ made her approachable and well-liked by employees at every level of the company.  
- Her novels have a(n) \_\_\_, resonating deeply with readers due to their relatable characters and everyday struggles.

- A. Pie in the sky  
C. Lead balloon
- B. Pretty penny  
D. Common touch
256. - After winning the lottery, they found themselves living in the \_\_\_ with a mansion and multiple exotic cars.  
A. Shot in the dark  
C. Glutton  
B. Lap of luxury  
D. Rearguard action
257. - The room was so cramped, you could barely \_\_\_ in there.  
A. Swing a cat  
C. Ward off  
B. Ride out  
D. Gild the lily
258. - His bullshit explanation for being late was a(n) \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. Common touch  
C. Spot of bother  
B. Load of cobblers  
D. All work and no play
259. - When questioned about her recent tardiness, Wendy gave some \_\_\_ story about how her train took the wrong track and she had to hitchhike to work from the station across town.  
A. Cock-and-bull  
C. Here and there  
B. Rough and ready  
D. Out and about
260. - His extensive background in the field gave him a(n) \_\_\_ when he began his new job.  
A. Head start  
C. Crack of dawn  
B. Thick skin  
D. Pie in the sky
261. - He's \_\_\_ about his role in the big soccer game this weekend.  
A. Keen as mustard  
C. Blue in the face  
B. In stitches  
D. On the lam/run
262. - We were able to observe the wildlife at \_\_\_, giving us an incredible view of their natural behavior.  
- The soldiers trained to fight at \_\_\_, preparing for hand-to-hand combat situations.  
- Living in a small apartment means we're always at \_\_\_ with each other.  
A. Ivory towers  
C. Close quarters  
B. Sitting ducks  
D. Salt of the earth
263. - They plan to \_\_\_ improving their product to better meet customer needs.  
A. Work at  
C. Keep a tight rein on  
B. Pin down  
D. Dole out
264. - The future of the company is now \_\_\_ after several bad investments and a shrinking customer base.  
- Their relationship has been \_\_\_ ever since they started arguing about finances.  
A. On tenterhooks  
C. In a cleft stick  
B. At bay  
D. On the rocks
265. - After trying to fix the old car for hours, he finally \_\_\_ and called a mechanic.  
- Realizing he couldn't fix the issue, he \_\_\_ and called for help.  
A. Tucked in  
C. Scarfed down  
B. Pushed the boat out  
D. Threw in the towel
266. - The President is used to being \_\_\_ by his opponents whenever a new policy is proposed.  
A. Opened a can of worms  
C. Sniped at  
B. Caught napping  
D. Kept posted
267. - He's such a(n) \_\_\_; he never splurges on anything.  
A. Wrong end of the stick  
C. Full play  
B. Penny-pincher  
D. Status quo
268. - The suspect has been \_\_\_ ever since his escape from prison last year.  
A. On the lam/run  
C. Around-the-clock/Round-the-clock  
B. In the red  
D. In the black
269. - The band's performance was so popular that they managed to \_\_\_ every night of their tour.  
A. Vamp it up  
C. Pack the house  
B. Hit the books  
D. Simmer down
270. - The teacher tried to \_\_\_ the key points of the lesson to ensure they covered everything before the test.  
- Despite the tight deadline, she managed to \_\_\_ the report and submit it on time.  
A. Take issue with  
C. Ramp up  
B. Rattle through  
D. Ramble on
271. - The company decided to \_\_\_ by launching their new product during the holiday season when consumer spending was still high.  
A. Root around  
C. Make hay while the sun shines  
B. Hold the fort  
D. Pop the question
272. - After months of isolation, he was starting to go \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. Up the spout  
C. Around the bend  
B. In a rut  
D. Over the hill
273. - The company \_\_\_ several smaller startups to expand its market share.  
- The kids \_\_\_ the cookies as soon as they came out of the oven  
- The mounting legal costs quickly \_\_\_ their savings  
A. Took the bloom off  
C. Made free with  
B. Gobbled up  
D. Rallied round
274. - We're planning a(n) \_\_\_ for Lisa next Friday. It's going to be an amazing send-off before her wedding.  
A. Wooden spoon  
C. Real kick in the pants  
B. Hen night  
D. Gold brick

275. - *I can't believe you thought I was serious! I was just \_\_\_ your \_\_\_ when I said I was moving to Mars.*

A. Pulling \_\_\_ leg

276. - *After traveling for hours without a plan, we finally \_\_\_ at a small village.*

- *After losing his job, he \_\_\_ in a new city looking for work.*

- *He \_\_\_ at our door late at night, completely unannounced.*

A. Laid it on with a trowel / Laid it on a bit thick

C. Fetched up

B. Caved/Gave in

D. Hit the ball out of the park

277. - *He doesn't sugarcoat his opinions and always tends to \_\_\_.*

- *We need to \_\_\_ and face the fact that the current strategy isn't working.*

A. Bed out

C. Pop the question

B. Call a spade a spade

D. Ride out

278. - *Speeding through the rain to get home faster caused him to skid off the road. \_\_\_.*

- *He tried to chop the vegetables quickly but ended up cutting himself. Sometimes, \_\_\_.*

A. Wonders will never cease

C. More haste, less speed

B. Make haste

D. Fat chance (of that)

279. - *The detective examined the crime scene \_\_\_, leaving no stone unturned.*

A. Ninety-nine times out of a hundred

C. From top to toe

B. To the fore

D. At every turn

280. - *We had to \_\_\_ in the back of the car for an hour to find the missing keys.*

A. Have teeth

C. Wise up

B. Root around

D. Separate the wheat from the chaff

281. - *The new team member turned out to be a(n) \_\_\_, causing conflicts and disrupting harmony in the workplace.*

- *The class was well-behaved, but there was one \_\_\_ who constantly caused trouble.*

A. Water under the bridge

C. Bad apple

B. Emotional baggage

D. Pretty penny

282. - *After a long week of work, they decided to have a(n) \_\_\_, exploring new restaurants and dancing the night away.*

A. Bad apple

C. Night on the town

B. Cool customer

D. Hen night

283. - *The restaurant was just \_\_\_. Nothing on the menu stood out, and the service was subpar.*

A. In stitches

C. Up the wall

B. Run-of-the-mill

D. Blue in the face

284. - *By signing the contract, she \_\_\_ for a new project.*

- *The flashy groundbreaking ceremony \_\_\_ for the redevelopment of the downtown area.*

- *After weeks of planning, they finally \_\_\_ for their new business venture.*

A. Fetched up

C. Tucked in

B. Pushed the boat out

D. Set the wheels in motion

285. - *Inflation sucks; They now \_\_\_ just for a cup of coffee.*

A. Charge the earth

C. Plough through

B. Make allowances

D. Hold the reins

286. - *After her promotion, she finally gets to \_\_\_.*

A. Pawn off

C. Call the shots

B. Take it up a notch

D. Pick holes

287. - *The team tried to \_\_\_, preventing their opponents from scoring for the entire match.*

- *Despite the fierce battle, the troops managed to \_\_\_ until reinforcements arrived.*

A. Hold the field

C. Pick up the pieces

B. Cry a river

D. Sing like a canary

288. - *She was \_\_\_ by her peers to prank the teacher.*

A. Over a barrel

C. In the red

B. Egged on

D. On a tear

289. - *She was chosen for the position \_\_\_ her extensive experience and skills.*

- *They earned the top spot in the competition \_\_\_ their hard work and dedication.*

A. By virtue of

B. Hell-bent on

290. - *She decided to \_\_\_ for the party, wearing a stunning red dress and bold makeup.*

- *The dress is simple and elegant, but you could \_\_\_ for evening wear with some stunning jewellery.*

A. File in

C. Vamp it up

B. Hold out/Offer/Extend an olive branch

D. Ward off

291. - *We missed the bus, but \_\_\_. We'll catch the next one.*

- *I didn't get the job I wanted, but \_\_\_. Something better might come along.*

A. C'est la vie

C. More haste, less speed

B. Touché

D. Make haste

292. - *His joke about the boss went down like a(n) \_\_\_, and no one laughed.*

A. Low ebb

C. Ballpark figure

B. Par for the course

D. Lead balloon

293. - *She \_\_\_ about her friend's cooking skills, even though the meal was just average.*

- *When he introduced the guest speaker, he really \_\_\_, making it sound like she was a superstar.*

A. Did in

B. Tucked in



- C. Pressed ahead D. Laid it on with a trowel / Laid it on a bit thick
294. - *Scholarships are available \_\_\_ for those who meet the criteria.*  
 - *With his strikingly excellent qualifications, the job was his \_\_\_.*  
 A. Flat out B. From top to toe  
 C. For the asking D. Ninety-nine times out of a hundred
295. - *He planned a romantic dinner by the beach to \_\_\_ under the stars.*  
 A. Pop the question B. Bed out  
 C. Make headway D. Cry a river
296. - *The students in the honors program are considered the \_\_\_ in the school.*  
 A. Cream of the crop B. Butcher's dog / Fiddle  
 C. Status quo D. Glutton
297. - *Without any clues, his answer to the riddle was just a(n) \_\_\_.*  
 - *Launching the new product in that market with no prior market research felt like a(n) \_\_\_.*  
 A. Bad/Difficult/Rough/Sticky patch B. Stag night/Stag party/Bachelor party  
 C. Real kick in the pants D. Shot in the dark
298. - *I can't drive you to the mall, I already have \_\_\_ things to get done today.*  
 A. On the lam/run B. A hundred and one  
 C. Peppered with D. All bark and no bite / All talk (and no action) / All talk/mouth (and no trousers)
299. - *Despite the numerous setbacks, the project continued to \_\_\_, barely making any progress.*  
 A. Plough through B. Sing like a canary  
 C. Hit the spot D. Limp on
300. - *When he heard about the unfair decision, he \_\_\_ and started shouting.*  
 A. Flew off the handle / Hit the roof/ceiling B. Fetched up  
 C. Hit the skids D. Tucked in
301. - *They \_\_\_ reviewing their finances monthly to ensure they stayed on budget.*  
 - *He \_\_\_ reading a book every week to expand his knowledge.*  
 A. Lapped up B. Took to  
 C. Made mincemeat of D. Made a practice of
302. - *I meant to call her back yesterday, but it completely \_\_\_ my \_\_\_.*  
 - *I planned to bring the documents, but it \_\_\_ my \_\_\_ while I was rushing out the door.*  
 - *The meeting was important, but it somehow \_\_\_ his \_\_\_ amid all the chaos.*  
 A. Took to \_\_\_ heels B. Blew \_\_\_ top  
 C. Slipped \_\_\_ mind D. Got/Had \_\_\_ ducks in a row
303. - *Her spirits were at a(n) \_\_\_ after hearing the disappointing news.*  
 - *The market is currently at a(n) \_\_\_, with investors feeling uncertain about the future.*  
 A. Plain Jane B. Weather eye  
 C. Low ebb D. Pretty penny
304. - *The project was \_\_\_ by technical issues, which forced the team to delay the product launch.*  
 A. Passed over B. Set back  
 C. Done for D. Kept posted
305. - *The design was elegant and minimalistic; adding more features would just \_\_\_.*  
 - *The house was perfect as it was, but the new owners decided to \_\_\_ by renovating it.*  
 A. Fit the bill B. Gild the lily  
 C. Swing a cat D. Blast off
306. - *As soon as they heard the sirens, the robbers \_\_\_ their \_\_\_ and disappeared into the night.*  
 - *When the angry crowd gathered, he \_\_\_ his heels \_\_\_ avoid getting caught in the commotion.*  
 A. Blew \_\_\_ top B. Slipped \_\_\_ mind  
 C. Took to \_\_\_ heels D. Boggled \_\_\_ brain
307. - *The \_\_\_ of the city can be overwhelming.*  
 A. Nudge and wink B. Hustle and bustle  
 C. Lock and key D. Bib and tucker
308. - *He \_\_\_ the idea of taking a vacation, saying he had way better things to do.*  
 - *She \_\_\_ his attempts to apologize, not believing he was sincere.*  
 - *Many \_\_\_ the proposal, dismissing it as unrealistic and impractical.*  
 A. Made mincemeat of B. Put paid to  
 C. Knocked spots off D. Scoffed at
309. - *He \_\_\_ the government, criticizing their heavily prejudiced policies during the debate.*  
 - *The manager \_\_\_ the employee for consistently arriving late to work.*  
 A. Laid into B. Took to  
 C. Made heavy weather of D. Made a practice of
310. - *After finding out he lied to her, she called him a(n) \_\_\_.*  
 - *He cheated in the game and everyone called him a(n) \_\_\_.*  
 A. Cool customer B. Pipe dream  
 C. Dirty dog D. Acid test
311. - *She was quick to \_\_\_ the subtle hints he was dropping about the surprise party.*  
 - *It's impressive how children can \_\_\_ new languages so quickly!*  
 - *He didn't \_\_\_ the sarcasm in her voice and took her comment literally.*

- A. Pin down  
C. Get sauced
312. - He didn't let the negative feedback affect him; it was like water off a(n) \_\_\_\_.
- I've told him that he's heading for trouble, but he doesn't seem to listen - it's just water off a(n) \_\_\_\_.
- A. Duck's back  
C. Double bind
313. - After several meetings, the negotiators finally began to \_\_\_\_ towards a peace agreement.
- She has been studying hard and is starting to \_\_\_\_ in understanding complex mathematical concepts.
- A. Fit the bill  
C. Make allowances
314. - He puts on \_\_\_\_ when he's around the elite, but everyone can see through his facade.
- The new neighbor had \_\_\_\_, always talking about their luxurious vacations and expensive taste in wine.
- A. Bits and bobs/pieces  
C. Beer and skittles
315. - We're planning a(n) \_\_\_\_ for Tom next Friday. It's going to be an amazing send-off before his wedding.
- A. Stag night/Stag party/Bachelor party  
C. Straight arrow
316. - My son finally got out of his room and did his own laundry for once. \_\_\_\_!
- A. C'est la vie  
C. A stitch in time (saves nine)
317. - It's time to \_\_\_\_ the young plants in the garden now that the frost has passed.
- Farmers need to \_\_\_\_ seedlings early in the season for a successful harvest.
- A. Bed out  
C. Ward off
318. - The sudden gust of wind \_\_\_\_ the tightrope walker \_\_\_\_.
- The unexpected interview question \_\_\_\_ her \_\_\_\_, and she struggled to answer.
- The competitor's new tactics \_\_\_\_ the team \_\_\_\_, forcing them to adapt quickly.
- A. Threw \_\_\_\_ off balance  
C. Raised \_\_\_\_ hackles
319. - After a long hike, that cold lemonade really \_\_\_\_.
- Those morning coffee cups always \_\_\_\_ for me.
- After working all day, a warm bath really \_\_\_\_.
- A. Hit the spot  
C. Throw the baby out with the bathwater
320. - She seems to \_\_\_\_ of her mentor, always seeking advice from him.
- I \_\_\_\_ of my niece - she's a smart, loving girl.
- A. Simmer down  
C. Ride out
321. - They set off on their hike at the \_\_\_\_ to enjoy the sunrise from the mountain top.
- A. Crack of dawn  
C. Lame duck
322. - If you don't \_\_\_\_, we'll be late for school!
- A. Root around  
C. Plough through
323. - She spent a lot of time \_\_\_\_ the idea of moving to a new city but never took any concrete steps.
- He enjoyed \_\_\_\_ her at the party, but he wasn't looking for a serious relationship.
- A. Dallying with  
C. Harping on about
324. - You should come down off your \_\_\_\_ and listen to what they have to say.
- He needs to get off his \_\_\_\_ and realize that he's not always right.
- A. Lead balloon  
C. Weather eye
325. - After the bumpy boat ride, she looked \_\_\_\_ and needed to lie down.
- Some of the passengers looked kind of \_\_\_\_ after the trip!
- A. Up the wall  
C. Garden-variety
326. - The doctor was \_\_\_\_, having to decide between telling the patient the harsh truth or keeping their spirits up with hope.
- She felt like she was \_\_\_\_, trying to balance her career ambitions with her family commitments.
- The politician was \_\_\_\_, torn between supporting the party line and listening to the demands of the constituents.
- A. By the wayside  
C. In the black
327. - There is no \_\_\_\_ for solving climate change; it requires multiple approaches and global cooperation.
- A. Line of least resistance  
C. Silver bullet
328. - By \_\_\_\_, she had to switch careers after her company went bankrupt.
- A. Close quarters
- B. Pick up on  
D. Slam down
- B. Bad hair day  
D. Knight of the road
- B. Make headway  
D. Call a spade a spade
- B. Dribs and drabs  
D. Airs and graces
- B. Double take  
D. Bad apple
- B. Wonders will never cease  
D. Down the hatch
- B. Call a spade a spade  
D. Make good time
- B. Saved \_\_\_\_ bacon  
D. Tucked \_\_\_\_ in
- B. Live out of a suitcase  
D. Pick holes
- B. Forge ahead  
D. Think the world
- B. All work and no play  
D. Head start
- B. Get a wiggle on  
D. Plunge ahead
- B. Dealing in  
D. Sifting through
- B. High horse  
D. Rearguard action
- B. Across the board  
D. Green around the gills
- B. In a cleft stick
- D. All bark and no bite / All talk (and no action) / All talk/mouth (and no trousers)
- B. Wrong end of the stick  
D. Common touch
- B. Cat's pajamas/meow/whiskers

- C. Empty threats  
329. - Without proper defenses, the soldiers were like \_\_\_ to the enemy attack.  
- Leaving the valuables in plain sight made them \_\_\_ for thieves.  
A. Sitting ducks  
C. Bee's knees  
330. - His story didn't \_\_\_ the facts presented by the witnesses.  
- The final count must \_\_\_ the records we have on file.  
A. Tally with  
C. Rattle through  
331. - Time spent just sitting on a train can be a rare chance to step off the \_\_\_ and observe the world.  
A. Status quo  
C. Media blitz  
332. - After a long and fulfilling career, he decided it was time to \_\_\_ into a well-deserved retirement.  
- He would \_\_\_ to his room every evening, avoiding any social interaction.  
A. Grapple with  
C. Shuffle off  
333. - She didn't want to \_\_\_ old memories of her difficult childhood.  
- The historian managed to \_\_\_ forgotten facts about the ancient civilization.  
A. Rattle through  
C. Take issue with  
334. - The teacher answered the student's difficult question \_\_\_, showing her deep knowledge of the subject.  
- When the project manager asked for my input out of the blue, I had to speak \_\_\_, but I think I made some good points.  
A. Off the cuff  
C. Keen as mustard  
335. - Ugh, once Mom came in, yelling that I had to get up, I had no choice but to \_\_\_ the blankets and finally get out of bed.  
- She couldn't do anything but \_\_\_ her gloves in frustration after the argument.  
A. Get sauced  
C. Shudder to think  
336. - It's a(n) \_\_\_ store supplying only basic goods at affordable prices.  
- The \_\_\_ grocery store offers the lowest prices, but don't expect fancy displays or gourmet products.  
A. No-frills  
C. Standard-issue  
337. - She started to \_\_\_ her bag in search of her keys.  
A. Put one over on  
C. Get sauced  
338. - I \_\_\_ what my parents will say when I tell them I've failed my exams.  
A. Take issue with  
C. Fob off  
339. - Having failed his mid-term, he was told to \_\_\_ his \_\_\_ if he wanted to pass the finals.  
- After receiving poor grades on his report card, he knew it was time to \_\_\_ his \_\_\_ and start studying harder.  
A. Pull \_\_\_ together  
C. Stick to \_\_\_ guns  
340. - Despite the challenges, she \_\_\_ and delivered an excellent presentation.  
- The underdog team \_\_\_ and won the championship.  
A. Live out of a suitcase  
C. Part company  
341. - She faced challenges \_\_\_ while trying to start her own business.  
- The investigation revealed new clues \_\_\_, making the case more complex.  
A. After a fashion  
C. To the fore  
342. - He \_\_\_ for his daughter's wedding, sparing no expense.  
A. Darted off  
C. Ground to a halt  
343. - If you just \_\_\_ your \_\_\_ to revising, I'm sure you will get a 10.  
A. Set/Put \_\_\_ mind  
C. Speak \_\_\_ mind  
344. - The event was supposed to be well-organized, but they \_\_\_ the scheduling.  
- He \_\_\_ his first attempt at baking, burning the cake completely.  
A. Knocked spots off  
C. Made a muck of  
345. - I'll be \_\_\_ my \_\_\_ for you during your exam tomorrow.  
- Fans across the country are \_\_\_ their \_\_\_ for the team to win the championship.  
A. Holding \_\_\_ thumbs/Keeping \_\_\_ fingers crossed  
C. Eating \_\_\_ heart out
- D. Force of circumstances  
B. Salt of the earth  
D. Lower reaches  
B. Hold fast to  
D. Hem in  
B. Hamster wheel  
D. Head start  
B. Hold the field  
D. Gild the lily  
B. Dredge up  
D. Weave a web of  
B. At bay  
D. In stitches  
B. Big up  
D. Fling off  
B. For the high jump  
D. Over the hill  
B. Weave a web of  
D. Rifle through  
B. Rake in  
D. Shudder to think  
B. Roll up \_\_\_ sleeves/Pull \_\_\_ socks up  
D. Hold \_\_\_ horses  
B. Turned/Came up trumps  
D. Pop the question  
B. Ninety-nine times out of a hundred  
D. At every turn  
B. Fetched up  
D. Pushed the boat out  
B. Toot \_\_\_ own horn/Blow \_\_\_ own trumpet  
D. Stick to \_\_\_ guns  
B. Made a practice of  
D. Scoffed at  
B. Throwing \_\_\_ weight around/about

346. - The community \_\_\_ the local family who lost their home in a fire, providing them with food, clothing, and shelter.

- When he was going through a tough time, his friends all \_\_\_ to offer their support and help.

- People from all over the town \_\_\_ to raise funds for the new community center.

A. Knocked spots off

B. Rallied round

C. Laid into

D. Made mincemeat of

347. - During the crisis, his long-hidden leadership skills came \_\_\_, earning him widespread respect.

- The issue of climate change has come \_\_\_ in recent years, prompting global action.

A. After a fashion

B. At every turn

C. For the asking

D. To the fore

348. - His enthusiasm for the project seemed to \_\_\_ over time.

- The town's prosperity would \_\_\_ with the fortunes of the local industries.

A. Wax and wane

B. Bow and scrape

C. Stretch and tone

D. Rant and rave

349. - The boys got completely \_\_\_ at the party, even though they weren't old enough to drink!

A. On the rocks

B. Rat-arsed / Rat-arsed

C. Exposed to the elements

D. Over the hill

350. - He \_\_\_ at the newcomer, unsure whether to trust him.

A. Tripped up

B. Did in

C. Looked askance

D. Tucked in

351. - I've got a pile of paperwork to \_\_\_!

A. Gild the lily

B. Plough through

C. Call it quits

D. Crop up

352. - For our new marketing campaign, we need creative thinkers, and John's innovative ideas \_\_\_.

- I've been looking for an unnecessarily overpriced backpack, and this Gucci backpack seems to \_\_\_.

A. Pull rank

B. Fit the bill

C. Root around

D. Make good time

353. - He thinks he'll get a promotion with that arrogant attitude? \_\_\_!

A. The jig is up

B. Touché

C. It takes two to tango

D. Fat chance (of that)

354. - Without sufficient funding, the construction project \_\_\_, leaving the site abandoned.

A. Looked askance

B. Ground to a halt

C. Hit the ball out of the park

D. Fetched up

355. - The school is going to be cut again this year, but then that's \_\_\_.

- Long meetings are \_\_\_ in the corporate world.

A. Double take

B. Media blitz

C. Chain of events

D. Par for the course

356. - Passions \_\_\_ as both teams fought for the championship title.

A. Pressed ahead

B. Got stood up

C. Pushed the boat out

D. Ran high

357. - His speech was \_\_\_ humor, making it engaging for the audience.

A. By the wayside

B. Sick as a dog

C. At peace with the world

D. Seasoned with

358. - She always looks like the \_\_\_ in her vintage dresses and stylish accessories.

A. Any port in a storm

B. Cat's pajamas/meow/whiskers

C. Force of circumstances

D. Curtains

359. - Despite the hardships, both teams were \_\_\_ winning the championship title.

A. Hell-bent on

B. By virtue of

360. - The sudden travel restrictions \_\_\_ our vacation plans.

- The unexpected rise in costs \_\_\_ the company's expansion plans.

A. Put the wind up

B. Put paid to

C. Made a practice of

D. Took a shine to

361. - It's hard to \_\_\_ exactly when the tradition started, as there are many conflicting accounts.

- The scientist was able to \_\_\_ the cause of the anomaly after conducting several experiments.

A. Pin down

B. Plough back

C. Shudder to think

D. Share in

362. - A: You do know that you could have just put off fixing that pipe leak until tomorrow instead, right?

- B: \_\_\_.

A. A stitch in time (saves nine)

B. More haste, less speed

C. That dog won't hunt / That cock won't fight

D. It takes two to tango

363. - Get \_\_\_ that view! Isn't it amazing?

A. A lapse of

B. A load of

C. A film of

D. A fit of

364. - Faced with the threat of a long prison sentence, he chose to \_\_\_ and testify against his accomplices.

A. Sing like a canary

B. Make good time

C. Vamp it up

D. Think the world

365. - The race car driver performed a(n) \_\_\_, proudly displaying the checkered flag after his triumphant win.

- A. Status quo  
C. Narrow squeak

- B. Lap of honor  
D. Hard pill to swallow

366. - *Charity organizations always \_\_\_ food and supplies to those in need.*

- A. Big up  
C. Dole out

- B. Take issue with  
D. Fling off

367. - *After months of training, he was as fit as a(n) \_\_\_ and ready for the marathon.*

- *Despite her age, she came through the surgery as fit as a(n) \_\_\_.*

- A. Bad penny  
C. Hard pill to swallow

- B. Cream of the crop  
D. Butcher's dog / Fiddle

368. - *The president became a(n) \_\_\_ after the election, with limited power to influence new legislation.*

- A. Butcher's dog / Fiddle  
C. Pie in the sky

- B. Far cry  
D. Lame duck

369. - *The essay was \_\_\_ historical quotes, with references to different politicians here and there.*

- A. Peppered with  
C. At peace with the world

- B. For the high jump  
D. In a cleft stick

370. - *During the meeting, we got a little \_\_\_ discussing the technical specifications, which confused some of the team members.*

- *Let's not get \_\_\_ with the budget details right now; we need to focus on the overall strategy.*

- A. Into the weeds  
C. Out of all recognition

- B. Against time/the clock  
D. Over a barrel

371. - *The printer is \_\_\_ again, so we can't print the documents right now.*

- *His attempt to fix the leak went \_\_\_, and now the problem is worse.*

- *The project was behind schedule and over budget, and it looked like the entire plan was \_\_\_, with no chance of success.*

- A. At loggerheads  
C. Up the spout

- B. Peppered with  
D. In a rut

372. - *Many kids who try to run away from unhappy homes discover that they've jumped \_\_\_ when they try to live on their own.*

- A. Rat-assed / Rat-arsed  
C. Out of the frying pan into the fire

- B. Blue in the face  
D. Exposed to the elements

373. - *She joined a yoga class to \_\_\_ her muscles.*

- A. Rant and rave  
C. Bow and scrape

- B. Wax and wane  
D. Stretch and tone

374. - *I don't mean to \_\_\_ my \_\_\_, but I did finish the project ahead of schedule.*

- *He is always trying to \_\_\_ his \_\_\_ about his latest business ventures.*

- A. Toot \_\_\_ own horn/Blow \_\_\_ own trumpet  
C. Fill \_\_\_ shoes

- B. Stick to \_\_\_ guns  
D. Knock \_\_\_ lights out

375. - *The luxurious hotel we stayed at this year is a(n) \_\_\_ from the budget motel we stayed at last year.*

- A. Cream of the crop  
C. Far cry

- B. Rearguard action  
D. Straight arrow

376. - *He doesn't have the authority to \_\_\_ on me.*

- *When the team couldn't agree on the new policy, the senior manager decided to \_\_\_ and implemented the changes himself using his power.*

- A. Pick holes  
C. Pull rank

- B. Hold the fort  
D. Bed out

377. - *The contractor tried to \_\_\_ materials, leading to a poorly constructed building.*

- A. Get sauced  
C. Skimp out on

- B. Tally with  
D. Butter up

378. - *Life is full of \_\_\_, but it's how we handle them that defines us.*

- A. Twists and turns  
C. Dribs and drabs

- B. Ups and downs  
D. Airs and graces

379. - *When I first got married, I was as poor as a(n) \_\_\_.*

- A. Church mouse  
C. Real kick in the teeth

- B. Common touch  
D. Thick skin

380. - *Her presentation at the conference \_\_\_, earning her a standing ovation.*

- *The marketing campaign was so effective that it \_\_\_, doubling the sales.*

- *The team \_\_\_ with their innovative new product, capturing the market's attention.*

- A. Pressed ahead  
C. Did in

- B. Hit the ball out of the park  
D. Tripped up

381. - *The judge decided to \_\_\_ a fair sentence.*

- *The coach never fails to \_\_\_ reasonable praise and criticism to his team based on their performance.*

- A. Branch out into  
C. Mete out

- B. Rifle through  
D. Fob off

382. - *Given the heavy traffic this morning, you should \_\_\_ for her lateness.*

- *Teachers often \_\_\_ for students who have learning disabilities.*

- A. Hit the books  
C. Simmer down

- B. Break the mould/mold  
D. Make allowances

383. - *The students \_\_\_ their professor, praising his engaging teaching style.*

- A. Tally up  
C. Ramble on
384. - *It is surprising how she managed to keep the house so \_\_\_, given that she's got two kids who's always frolicking around the house.*
- A. All (fingers and) thumbs  
C. Home and dry
385. - *They decided to \_\_\_ the storm in their cozy cabin.*  
- *The company managed to \_\_\_ the economic downturn without laying off any employees.*  
- *We need to \_\_\_ these tough times and stay focused on our goals.*
- A. Ride out  
C. Grapple with
- B. Weave a web of  
D. Think highly of
- B. Rough and ready  
D. Spick and span
386. - *\_\_\_ - Don't expect to pay less tax and still get a plenty of local services.*
- A. A watched pot never boils  
C. In for a penny, in for a pound
- B. Make good time  
D. Break the mould/mold
387. - *To be \_\_\_ is practically the same thing as flat broke.*
- A. At loggerheads  
C. Out of circulation
- B. Stone broke  
D. Off the cuff
388. - *Her warnings about the impending storm fell on \_\_\_ as no one took them seriously.*  
- *His concerns about the project's feasibility fell on \_\_\_, with management deciding to proceed anyway.*
- A. Hot air  
C. Salt of the earth
- B. Stony ground  
D. Any port in a storm
389. - *After the marathon, she \_\_\_ a big plate of pasta.*  
- *The kids \_\_\_ the cookies as soon as they came out of the oven.*  
- *He \_\_\_ his breakfast in a hurry before heading to work.*
- A. Hit the ground running  
C. Pushed the boat out
- B. Tripped up  
D. Scarfed down
390. - *After being scolded, the kids silently \_\_\_ their classroom.*
- A. Put paid to  
C. Made a practice of
- B. Crowded around  
D. Filed into
391. - *"If the bill passes, we're certainly not going to \_\_\_ and say that's fine," he said.*  
- *They're not going to just \_\_\_ and let him play because they're getting pressure from everybody.*
- A. Limp on  
C. Pawn off
- B. Roll over  
D. Make headway
392. - *The company has been operating \_\_\_ for the past two quarters, struggling to cover its expenses.*
- A. In the red  
C. Over the hill
- B. A hundred and one  
D. On the rocks
393. - *The crowd cheered as the fireworks began to \_\_\_ into the night sky.*  
- *The sprinters lined up, ready to \_\_\_ at the sound of the starting gun.*  
- *We're about to \_\_\_ on this new project with a team meeting next week.*
- A. Roll over  
C. Blast off
- B. Batten down the hatches  
D. Pick holes
394. - *It's frustrating to watch him \_\_\_ to those in power instead of asserting his own opinions.*  
- *He always had to \_\_\_ to his boss, going out of his way to show respect and obedience.*
- A. Bow and scrape  
C. Wax and wane
- B. Rant and rave  
D. Stretch and tone
395. - *Her unique fashion sense and chill attitude makes her the archetypal \_\_\_.*
- A. Cool cat  
C. Leading light
- B. All work and no play  
D. Hard pill to swallow
396. - *The corrupt official was found to be \_\_\_ a percentage of the funds meant for the project.*  
- *He always succeeds in \_\_\_ a commission from every deal, even the small ones.*
- A. Conniving in  
C. Raking off
- B. Moping about  
D. Dallying with
397. - *We watched a comedy movie last night and it had us \_\_\_ throughout.*
- A. At peace with the world  
C. In stitches
- B. Blue in the face  
D. On the safe side
398. - *Despite their best efforts, the team finished with the \_\_\_ in the tournament.*  
- *After a non-stop series of losses, the club was awarded the \_\_\_ for their performance.*  
- *She humorously accepted the \_\_\_, knowing that participating was more important than winning.*
- A. Stag night/Stag party/Bachelor party  
C. Plain Jane
- B. Media blitz  
D. Wooden spoon
399. - *The company announced a salary increase \_\_\_, benefiting all employees.*  
- *The new policy changes will apply \_\_\_, affecting students, teachers, and staff.*
- A. Across the board  
C. Out of the fire
- B. Hard at it  
D. Standard-issue
400. - *His entire family \_\_\_ his job promotion.*  
- *We all \_\_\_ her as she competed in the talent show.*
- A. Crowded around  
C. Took the bloom off
- B. Rooted for  
D. Scoffed at

401. - He had to \_\_\_ the difficult decision of whether to move for a new job.  
 - The community is trying to \_\_\_ the aftermath of the natural disaster.  
 - She had to \_\_\_ feelings of doubt and uncertainty after the breakup.  
 - Students often \_\_\_ complex theories in advanced mathematics.  
 A. Take it up a notch  
 C. Grapple with  
 B. Charge the earth  
 D. Swing a cat
402. - The children \_\_\_ their new teacher, feeling comfortable and eager to learn.  
 - The customer immediately \_\_\_ the vintage car, deciding to purchase it on the spot.  
 - She \_\_\_ the quaint little café and made it her go-to spot for weekend brunches.  
 A. Took a shine to  
 C. Crowded around  
 B. Took after  
 D. Put paid to
403. - He \_\_\_ the simple task, turning a ten-minute job into an hour-long ordeal.  
 - They \_\_\_ assembling the flat-pack furniture, despite the clear and simple instructions.  
 A. Took to  
 C. Made heavy weather of  
 B. Gobbled up  
 D. Laid into
404. - Before submitting the project proposal, Jane made sure she \_\_\_ her \_\_\_, with every detail meticulously organized and double-checked.  
 A. Blew \_\_\_ top  
 C. Boggled \_\_\_ brain  
 B. Got/Had \_\_\_ ducks in a row  
 D. Took to \_\_\_ heels
405. - The job posting mentioned that \_\_\_ would be provided, so she wouldn't have to worry about finding a place to stay or meals.  
 A. Bib and tucker  
 C. Nook and cranny  
 B. Nudge and wink  
 D. Bed and board / Board and lodging
406. - The symptoms she described were just \_\_\_ cold symptoms, nothing to be worried about.  
 - He's a(n) \_\_\_ sports fan who watches the big games but doesn't follow every detail of the season.  
 A. All bark and no bite / All talk (and no action) / All talk/mouth (and no trousers)  
 C. At loggerheads  
 B. A hundred and one  
 D. Garden-variety
407. - After her injury, she has been \_\_\_ and hasn't been seen at social events for months.  
 - Ever since he retired, he has been \_\_\_ and spends most of his time traveling.  
 A. Around the bend  
 C. Seasoned with  
 B. Out of circulation  
 D. On the safe side
408. - She's \_\_\_ at school over the last few months, with continual studying and testing.  
 A. Pushed the boat out  
 C. Had a bumpy ride  
 B. Ran high  
 D. Flew off the handle / Hit the roof/ceiling
409. - The young entrepreneur decided to \_\_\_ by introducing a revolutionary product that changed the market.  
 A. Break the mould/mold  
 C. Root around  
 B. Ward off  
 D. Vamp it up
410. - Quick, \_\_\_ before the show starts!  
 A. File in  
 C. Ward off  
 B. Ride out  
 D. Throw the baby out with the bathwater
411. - She \_\_\_ which job offer to accept, weighing the pros and cons of each.  
 - He \_\_\_ every detail of his work, striving for perfection.  
 A. Took the bloom off  
 C. Took a shine to  
 B. Filed into  
 D. Agonized over
412. - After the breakup, he spent days \_\_\_ the house, feeling sorry for himself.  
 - Instead of \_\_\_ the lost opportunity, he decided to focus on new possibilities.  
 - On rainy days, he wastes time \_\_\_ and doing nothing productive.  
 A. Sifting through  
 C. Moping about  
 B. Harping on about  
 D. Nipping at the heels of
413. - It was a(n) \_\_\_ learning that my father's fortune had been squandered.  
 A. Hard/Tough row to hoe  
 C. Circuit breaker  
 B. Butcher's dog / Fiddle  
 D. Hard pill to swallow
414. - We need to reform these outdated laws which \_\_\_ the economy \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A. Psych \_\_\_ up  
 C. Sweep \_\_\_ under the carpet  
 B. Have \_\_\_ in a half-nelson  
 D. Tug at \_\_\_ heartstrings
415. - We've already invested a lot of time into this project, so we might as well see it through. \_\_\_!  
 A. In for a penny, in for a pound  
 C. Down the hatch  
 B. A watched pot never boils  
 D. Wonders will never cease
416. - He tends to \_\_\_ old grievances every time we argue, making it hard to move forward.  
 - The journalist decided to \_\_\_ the politician's past scandals to create a sensational story.  
 A. Touch up  
 C. Work at  
 B. Rake up  
 D. Plough back
417. - Parents have to \_\_\_ their job commitments to spend enough time with their kids.  
 A. Plough back  
 C. Touch up  
 B. Juggle with  
 D. Stamp out
418. - The threat of a heavy storm \_\_\_ the residents, making them rush to secure their homes.  
 - The boss's stern warning \_\_\_ the employees about meeting their deadlines.

- A. Made free with  
 C. Made a muck of  
 419. - His approach may be \_\_\_, but he gets the job done efficiently.  
 - The cabin was \_\_\_, but it provided shelter and warmth.  
 - They had a(n) \_\_\_ plan to handle the situation, lacking detail but effective.  
 A. Cock-and-bull  
 C. Here and there  
 420. - The politician's speech was full of \_\_\_, with no real plans or solutions.  
 - He always makes grand promises, but it's all just \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A. Hot air  
 C. Empty threats  
 421. - If you think I'm the one who made the mistake, you're \_\_\_\_\_. It was someone else.  
 A. Running the show  
 C. Jigging about  
 422. - After recovering from the flu, she's now \_\_\_ and feeling great.  
 - Despite his age, he's still \_\_\_ and active every day.  
 A. In the pink  
 C. On the rocks  
 423. - Her homemade cookies are the \_\_\_; I could eat them all day.  
 - That new restaurant in town is the \_\_\_; everyone is raving about the food and ambiance.  
 A. Stony ground  
 C. Bee's knees  
 424. - To ensure the project runs smoothly, we need to \_\_\_ and stick to the outlined steps.  
 - In an emergency situation, it's crucial to \_\_\_ to make sure everyone stays safe.  
 A. Go by the numbers  
 C. Part company  
 425. - She always leaves early to be \_\_\_ and avoid any traffic delays.  
 - I know the weather looks fine now, but let's bring an umbrella just to be \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A. Up the spout  
 C. On the safe side  
 426. - After a few lessons, the children \_\_\_ the subject like ducks to water.  
 - The puppy \_\_\_ its new home immediately, exploring every corner with enthusiasm.  
 - He \_\_\_ his new job with ease, impressing his colleagues with his quick learning.  
 A. Took to  
 C. Galloped through  
 427. - No doctor \_\_\_ their \_\_\_ would recommend such a treatment without thorough research.  
 - Any engineer \_\_\_ their \_\_\_ should be able to troubleshoot this problem without much difficulty.  
 A. Worth \_\_\_ salt  
 C. Off \_\_\_ trolley  
 428. - He had to \_\_\_ the recipe online before cooking dinner.  
 - The kids \_\_\_ to their coach as a role model.  
 - Things started to \_\_\_ once he found a new job.  
 A. Wrap up  
 C. Skimp out on  
 429. - I had to \_\_\_ the burger so I could get back on the road straight away.  
 A. Slam down  
 C. Take heart from  
 430. - Without proper funding and resources, the initiative won't \_\_\_ and will fail to make a significant difference.  
 - Laws need to \_\_\_ to deter potential violators and maintain order.  
 A. Have teeth  
 C. Take it up a notch  
 431. - The case was a(n) \_\_\_ rather than a real murder with premeditated malice.  
 A. Acid test  
 C. Head start  
 432. - The principal was caught in a(n) \_\_\_ because whether she expelled the student or let him off, she would still get blamed.  
 A. Happy medium  
 C. Load of cobblers  
 433. - She had to do a(n) \_\_\_ when she saw the striking resemblance between the two strangers.  
 - He did a(n) \_\_\_ when he saw his old friend from school in the busy marketplace, unable to believe his eyes at first.  
 A. Happy medium  
 C. Emotional baggage  
 434. - The success of the project was hampered by a few \_\_\_ in the team who couldn't keep up with the deadlines.  
 A. Status quo  
 C. Silver bullet  
 435. - Every \_\_\_ of the house was stuffed with souvenirs of their trips abroad.  
 A. Touch and go  
 C. Thick and thin  
 B. Put the wind up  
 D. Filed into  
 B. Down and out  
 D. Rough and ready  
 B. Curtains  
 D. High cotton  
 B. Playing second fiddle  
 D. Barking up the wrong tree  
 B. Blue in the face  
 D. Across the board  
 B. High cotton  
 D. Salt of the earth  
 B. Fit the bill  
 D. Make headway  
 B. Across the board  
 D. Around the bend  
 B. Made a muck of  
 D. Took the bloom off  
 B. On \_\_\_ beam ends / On \_\_\_ uppers  
 D. By the seat of \_\_\_ pants  
 B. Ramble on  
 D. Look up  
 B. Plough back  
 D. Rattle through  
 B. Live out of a suitcase  
 D. Pack the house  
 B. Media blitz  
 D. Crime of passion  
 B. Emotional baggage  
 D. Double bind  
 B. Wrong end of the stick  
 D. Double take  
 B. Weak links  
 D. Bad/Difficult/Rough/Sticky patch  
 B. Nook and cranny  
 D. Nudge and wink



436. - I'd love to stay longer but I really need to \_\_\_\_.
- After finishing up all the paperwork, we decided to call it a day and \_\_\_\_ before the evening rush hour.
- A. Swing a cat  
C. Call a spade a spade
- B. Pack the house  
D. Hit the road
437. - The kids were so hyper after the party, it took a while for them to \_\_\_\_ and get ready for bed.
- The manager asked everyone to \_\_\_\_ so they could have a productive discussion without interruptions.
- A. Simmer down  
C. Blast off
- B. Vamp it up  
D. Grapple with
438. - The manager tried to \_\_\_\_ the customer with a half-hearted apology and a small discount.
- She tried to \_\_\_\_ her responsibilities onto her colleagues, but they noticed and pushed back.
- The parent had to \_\_\_\_ the child's questions with vague answers, avoiding a long discussion
- A. See to  
C. Fob off
- B. Weave a web of  
D. Share in
439. - The soldiers fought a(n) \_\_\_\_ to hold off the enemy while the rest of their unit withdrew to safer ground
- The team, outmatched in skill, played a(n) \_\_\_\_, focusing on defense to keep the scoreline respectable.
- A. Rearguard action  
C. Circuit breaker
- B. Bad penny  
D. Water under the bridge
440. - Just when we thought we'd seen the last of him, he showed up at the party like a(n) \_\_\_\_.
- That issue with the old car is like a(n) \_\_\_\_, it keeps coming back no matter how many times we fix it.
- A. Penny  
C. Bad penny
- B. Tall order  
D. Pipe dream
441. - During the marathon, he \_\_\_\_ at the 20-mile mark and struggled to keep running.
- The team \_\_\_\_ midway through the game, losing their momentum and energy.
- A. Dashed off  
C. Threw in the towel
- B. Tripped up  
D. Hit the wall
442. - As the alarm went off, everyone \_\_\_\_ to avoid potential flying debris.
- He saw the ball coming fast toward him, so he \_\_\_\_, lying flat on the ground.
- A. Hit the deck  
C. Looked askance
- B. Pitched in  
D. Scarfed down
443. - She looked \_\_\_\_ for her missing keys, but they were nowhere to be found.
- A. Spick and span  
C. High and low
- B. Out and about  
D. Neither here nor there
444. - The story about the lost puppy finding its way home will surely \_\_\_\_ your \_\_\_\_.
- A. Fit \_\_\_\_ like a glove  
C. Rip \_\_\_\_ off
- B. Sweep \_\_\_\_ under the carpet  
D. Tug at \_\_\_\_ heartstrings
445. - When the male CEO retired, the new female leader had big shoes to fill, but she quickly proved she could \_\_\_\_ his \_\_\_\_.
- With the star player injured, the rookie had to step up and \_\_\_\_ his \_\_\_\_ on the team.
- A. Hold \_\_\_\_ horses  
C. Speak \_\_\_\_ mind
- B. Roll up \_\_\_\_ sleeves/Pull \_\_\_\_ socks up  
D. Fill \_\_\_\_ shoes
446. - In the debate, she \_\_\_\_ her opponent's arguments with her well-researched points.
- The lawyer \_\_\_\_ the witness's testimony, exposing inconsistencies and lies.
- The new startup \_\_\_\_ the competition by offering better products at lower prices.
- A. Agonized over  
C. Made mincemeat of
- B. Took after  
D. Crowded around
447. - Whether to buy a house now or wait for the market to cool down is the \_\_\_\_ for many first-time homebuyers.
- A. Pie in the sky  
C. Elbow grease
- B. Straight arrow  
D. Million-dollar question
448. - Under the intense scrutiny of the press, the politician eventually \_\_\_\_ and provided a full confession.
- A. Caved/Gave in  
C. Pressed ahead
- B. Got stood up  
D. Flew off the handle / Hit the roof/ceiling
449. - Just wanted to \_\_\_\_ my friend for landing that awesome new job! Congratulations!
- A. Touch up  
C. Big up
- B. Abound in/with  
D. Ramp up
450. - They promised to support each other through \_\_\_\_, no matter what they faced.
- A. Bed and board / Board and lodging  
C. Hustle and bustle
- B. Thick and thin  
D. Nook and cranny
451. - As the hurricane approached, residents were advised to \_\_\_\_ and stock up on emergency supplies.
- A. Throw the baby out with the bathwater  
C. Charge the earth
- B. Pawn off  
D. Batten down the hatches
452. Successful people always seize an opportunity whenever it \_\_\_\_ itself.
- A. Presents  
C. Displays
- B. Reveals  
D. Shows
453. Many feel that the President is, whether by accident or \_\_\_\_, starting a war with Iran.
- A. Design  
C. Intent
- B. Motive  
D. Purpose
454. Conflicting witness statements present a \_\_\_\_ picture of the incident.
- A. Writhed  
B. Confused

C. Muddied

D. Grained

455. *Tony's had that terrible pain in his eye since morning. I'm afraid some \_\_\_\_ body must have got inside it and is causing discomfort.*

A. Outside

B. Foreign

C. Exotic

D. External

456. *The neighborhood was dealing with a(n) \_\_\_\_ of burglaries, leaving residents fearful and on edge.*

A. Attack

B. Plague

C. Assault

D. Outbreak

1C	2A	3B	4C	5C	6D	7A	8B	9C	10A
11B	12B	13A	14B	15C	16A	17A	18D	19A	20B
21D	22D	23A	24C	25C	26C	27C	28B	29C	30B
31D	32A	33A	34D	35B	36D	37C	38A	39D	40D
41A	42B	43D	44C	45B	46D	47B	48C	49A	50D
51D	52B	53B	54D	55B	56C	57A	58A	59D	60B
61A	62B	63D	64B	65B	66B	67B	68D	69A	70B
71D	72D	73C	74C	75A	76A	77C	78D	79A	80A
81A	82D	83C	84D	85C	86D	87D	88C	89B	90A
91C	92D	93D	94B	95B	96A	97C	98B	99B	100A
101D	102D	103B	104D	105B	106A	107C	108D	109B	110D
111A	112C	113A	114C	115D	116A	117D	118A	119A	120D
121B	122D	123A	124D	125B	126D	127A	128A	129A	130D
131A	132C	133B	134C	135B	136A	137A	138D	139C	140B
141B	142D	143D	144D	145B	146C	147B	148B	149B	150D
151A	152B	153D	154A	155B	156B	157C	158D	159D	160C
161B	162C	163A	164C	165C	166C	167C	168B	169C	170D
171C	172C	173C	174B	175D	176D	177A	178A	179B	180D
181C	182B	183C	184D	185A	186B	187C	188C	189C	190A
191A	192A	193B	194D	195D	196B	197B	198C	199A	200C
201B	202B	203C	204A	205D	206C	207B	208A	209A	210C
211A	212B	213B	214C	215B	216A	217C	218D	219C	220C

301D	302C	303C	304B	305B	306C	307B	308D	309A	310C
311B	312A	313B	314D	315A	316B	317A	318A	319A	320D
321A	322B	323A	324B	325D	326B	327C	328D	329A	330A
331B	332C	333B	334A	335D	336A	337D	338D	339B	340B
341D	342D	343A	344C	345A	346B	347D	348A	349B	350C
351B	352B	353D	354B	355D	356D	357D	358B	359A	360B
361A	362A	363B	364A	365B	366C	367D	368D	369A	370A
371C	372C	373D	374A	375C	376C	377C	378B	379A	380B
381C	382D	383D	384D	385A	386D	387B	388B	389D	390D
391B	392A	393C	394A	395A	396C	397C	398D	399A	400B
401C	402A	403C	404B	405D	406D	407B	408C	409A	410A
411D	412C	413D	414B	415A	416B	417B	418B	419D	420A
421D	422A	423C	424A	425C	426A	427A	428D	429A	430A
431D	432D	433D	434B	435B	436D	437A	438C	439A	440C
441D	442A	443C	444D	445D	446C	447D	448A	449C	450B
451D	452A	453C	454C	455B	456D				