

Vocabulary

Concept

VOCABULARY

- Learn root words and their meanings so as to guess the meaning of the words
- Learn prefixes and suffixes
- Form mnemonics to remember words

SYNONYMS

- Use root words, prefix or suffix to guess all possible meanings of the word before you look at the options.
- Consider all possible meanings of each of the answer options.
- Look for a match between the meanings of the stem word and those of the given choices. Do not jump to any conclusion before you analyse all the given options.
- In case of a tie, look at the parts of speech of the word.

ANTONYMS

- Think of antonyms for the given word before looking at the answer options
- Use the connotation of the words to help you guess an answer.
- Watch out for common wrong answer types.
 - o Typical wrong answer types on antonyms are:
 - Words that have no clear opposites
 - More than one answer seeming correct
 - Opposite answers

WORD ANALOGY

Questions are of two types:

- Finding an analogous pair: Here, you are asked to find a pair of words that has a relationship that is the same as / similar to the one given in the stem.
- Finding a word that completes the analogous pair: Here, you are asked to find a word to fill in a blank that makes the analogous pair.

The analogy could be of various types: Here are a few examples:

The words could have one of these relationships:

- Cause and effect
- Degree of intensity
- Part to whole
- Action and doer
- Synonyms
- Antonyms
- General association

Tips to identify the bridge:

- Begin by building a bridge
- Adjust the bridge
- Build bridges between answers and work backwards
- Avoid context traps

Common wrong answer types:

- Unrelated words
- Same subject trap
- Opposite bridge
- Irrelevant bridge

IDIOMS

- An idiom is a group of words (in a particular order) that means something very different from the meanings of the individual words.
- The term 'slang' refers to words or expressions used by and known within a closed community or group, and so, will not be considered to be a standard usage in the language.

PHRASAL VERBS

A phrasal verb is formed with a verb followed by a preposition. The meaning of a phrasal verb doesn't have to depend on the meaning of the base verb.

CONFUSING WORDS

English spelling is so confusing that a non-native speaker finds it illogical very easily. It always helps one to know the spelling of each word individually. One tip that could help you in this regard is to know the correct pronunciation of the word.

Drill

Form three words for each root word given below:

Root words	Meaning	Words
Ambi	both, on both sides	
Bene	good	
phil	love for	
amphi	both	
circum	Around, about	

Combine the prefixes with suitable root words to form words with the definitions given in parentheses:

1. ig- + root = _____ (not respectable)
2. il- + root = _____ (not able to read)
3. in- + root = _____ (not precise)
4. co- + root = _____ (be live together)
5. sym- + root = _____ (balanced on both sides by measurement)

Choose the word from the options that is closest in meaning to the given word:

1. Misdemeanour
a. Misery b. Offense c. Idolatry d. Mystery
2. Entanglement
a. Spark b. Closure c. Knot d. Procrastination
3. Blasphemy
a. Profanity b. Blandishment c. Reverence d. Squalid
4. Complacent
a. Clear b. Satisfied c. Intractable d. Truant
5. Flabbergasted
a. Assaulted b. Impaled c. Astounded d. Pleased
6. Maverick
a. Orthodox b. Non-conformist c. Hardened d. Stentorian
7. Infuriate
a. Exacerbate b. Fury c. Penetrate d. Pacify
8. Inculcate
a. Liberate b. Instill c. Refer d. inert
9. Console
a. Cabinet b. Enlighten c. Stupefy d. Conceal
10. Perfunctory
a. Fulsome b. Superficial c. Excellent d. Mortuary

Choose the word from the options that is farthest in meaning to the given word.

11. Deference
a. Disobedience b. Similarity c. Accordance d. Consensus
12. Impertinent
a. Impudent b. Respectful c. Meretricious d. Scrutinizing
13. Abstemious

- a. Greedy b. Temperate c. Haughtiness d. Helm
14. Trite
a. Pasquinade b. Exceptional c. Tare d. Vellicate
15. Alienate
a. Associate b. Earthling c. Falsify d. Truncate
16. Edible
a. Unabashed b. Unassailable c. Unbefitting d. Unpalatable
17. Browbeat
a. Threaten b. Tyrannize c. Extol d. Censure
18. Clemency
a. Mercilessness b. Unhygienic c. Refusal d. Satanic
19. Altercation
a. Combat b. Persistence c. Singular d. Concord
20. Testimony
a. Affidavit b. Ratification c. Denial d. Substantiation

Construct a bridge between each of the following pair of words:

- shoes, feet
- arrows, quiver
- brittle, glass
- bag, carry
- straight, crooked

For each of these pairs of words, form an analogous pair on your own showing the same relationship:

- spectacles : eyes ::
- heat : evaporate ::
- goldsmith : jewellery ::
- shout : scream ::
- river : bank ::

Can you give the reason why these pairs of words are not analogous?

- river : bridge and staircase : terrace
- pen : ink and blood : bank
- stethoscope : doctor and tablets : pharmacist
- illicit : illegal and implicit : open
- anger : grimace and envy : green

Figure out what idiom the pictures signify:

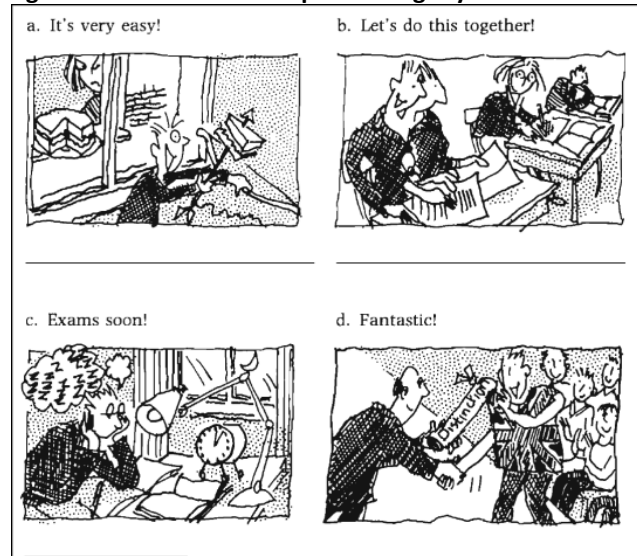


Figure out the meanings of the idioms used in these sentences:

- I would suggest you don't invite him to the party. He is such a *wet blanket*.

- My principal has no patience to listen to our explanations. He feels we *beat about the bush*.
- If you don't like this television program, better leave the room quietly. Don't behave like a *dog in the manger*.
- Our teacher asked us to admit our ignorance. He doesn't approve when we *whistle in the dark*.
- Sachin Tendulkar's century was like a '*silver lining*' in India's innings against the Lankans.
- The king wanted a war, but the minister advised him to *bury the hatchet*.
- When she came to know that Sherlock Holmes had taken up her case, she saw a *light at the end of the tunnel*.
- The task is going to be very difficult to complete. I wonder who is going to *bell the cat*?
- He is such an amiable chap. I don't think he would ever *cross swords* with anyone.
- She doesn't know how to proceed from where she is. She is caught between *the devil and the deep sea*.

Fill in the blanks with the right preposition to create an appropriate phrasal verb for making the sentence meaningful:

- I wouldn't take his word for what he says. He always blows _____ things.
- Cricketer V.V.S. Laxman has said that pressure always brings _____ the best in him.
- The whole thing comes _____ what I had foreseen.
- My friend was very excited because he was calling _____ his favourite movie star next week.
- My parents had given me a great childhood. Now that they are too old to fend for themselves, it is time to give _____ what I learned.
- The policeman reported that a burglar had broken _____ the household last evening.
- The customer service executive promised to resolve the problem on the spot and requested me to hang _____.
- The teacher expected us to turn _____ the assignment the following weekend.
- The honourable minister has agreed to preside over the function and give _____ the prizes.
- England takes _____ America in the semi-final tomorrow.

Find the different meanings of the following heteronyms:

(Also learn the correct pronunciation)

- Wound
- Lead
- Tear
- Conduct
- Resume

Fill in the blanks using the correct homonyms from the list given below: (refuse, invalid, close, desert, dove)

- The soldier decided to _____ the post in the _____.
- When shot at, the _____ down the cliff.
- The insurance was _____ for the _____.
- The garbage bin was so full that it had to _____ more _____.
- They were too _____ to the door to _____ it.

Choose the correct homophone from the options that means the following:

- Not moving or fixed in one place
a. Stationery b. Stationary

7. Illegal
a. Elicit b. Illicit
8. A fight or contest between two people
a. Duel b. Dual
9. Separate and distinct
a. Discreet b. Discrete
10. A group of musical notes
a. Chord b. Cord

Concept review questions

Directions for questions 1 to 10: Choose the word from the options that is closest in meaning to the stem word.

1. Gullible
a. Credulous b. Guide c. Dubitable d. Stable
2. Stoic
a. Picturesque b. Impassive c. Tonic d. Discharge
3. Replenish
a. Retrieve b. Restore c. Reserve d. Redress
4. Aplomb
a. Bomb b. Apple c. Confidence d. Apathy
5. Serene
a. Quiet b. Senseless c. Bayonet d. Marine
6. Warp
a. Cover b. Twist c. Womanly d. Roll
7. Weary
a. Dress b. Bond c. Dry d. Tired
8. Quarters
a. One-fourth b. One-thirds c. Bungalow d. Accommodation
9. Abject
a. Thing b. Aim c. Refuse d. Severe
10. Page
a. Boy Servant b. Side c. Publish d. Copy

Directions for questions 11 to 20: Choose the word from the options that is farthest in meaning to the given word.

11. Malodorous
a. Fragrant b. Affliction c. Refute d. Unique
12. Pique
a. Pungent b. Soothe c. Annoy d. Acrid
13. Brazen
a. Bashful b. Gully c. Aggravate d. Boisterous
14. Irascible
a. Agitate b. Placid c. Amorous d. Augment
15. Appropriate
a. Condemn b. Pliant c. Brevity d. Deceive
16. Philistine
a. Pious b. Intellectual c. Recede d. Concede
17. Supercilious
a. Meek b. Clamor c. Credulous d. Ingratitude
18. Perilous
a. Safe b. Manic c. Fortitude d. Reckless
19. Entice
a. Rage b. Shaft c. Repulse d. Tawny
20. Vacillate
a. Sever b. Decide c. Trench d. Glaze

Directions for questions 21 to 30: For each lead pair, from the given pairs of words beneath it, choose the pair that exhibits a relationship closest to the one exhibited by the lead:

21. MEMORIZED : IMPROMPTU

- a. verbose : simple b. forced : glib
c. recited : read d. rehearsed : spontaneous
22. FATUOUS : INANE
a. clever : inchoate b. fatal : invigorating
c. portentous : ominous d. cloying : vicious
23. PERFECTION : PRACTICE
a. idealism : notions b. pinnacle : nadir
c. tardiness : energetic d. strength : exercise
24. CHARCOAL : WOOD
a. heat : carbon b. electricity : gas
c. fire : ash d. coke : coal
25. MURDER : GENOCIDE
a. accident : assault b. attack : war
c. wind : tornado d. stultify : invigorate
26. ARTIST : PAINT
a. doctor : patient b. mechanic : car
c. physics : formula d. sculptor : clay
27. HUTCH : RABBIT
a. barn : hay b. sty : pig
c. dairy : cow d. field : corn
28. GLASS : SHARD
a. weight : pound b. ladder : rung
c. meat : slice d. cookie : crumb
29. PRATFALL : EMBARRASSMENT
a. deadlock : mortification b. check-up : reluctance
c. downfall : patience d. windfall : jubilation
30. TENDRIL : VINE
a. trunk : tree b. pollen : flower
c. pseudopodia : amoeba d. trellis : honeysuckle

Directions for questions 31 to 40: The sentences given below contain idiomatic expressions (underlined). Find the meanings of the idioms from the options that follow the respective sentences:

31. Ashwin cannot continue to bury his head in the sand. He needs to deal with the problem scientifically.
a. deal a problem unscientifically.
b. not show one's face due to embarrassment.
c. run away from one's problems.
d. live a hidden life due to problems.
32. The ministers were called on the carpet for taking bribe from the company.
a. called for a meeting.
b. questioned by someone in authority.
c. asked to meet in person.
d. questioned by paying respect.
33. Mithun will do anything he can to squirrel out of going to school.
a. manage to escape.
b. manage to enter.
c. to save money to do an act.
d. to jump out.
34. According to the critics, there are two or three dark horses in t his one day series.
a. a person whose ability in well known.
b. a person who is unethical in his act.

- c. a person whose ability is very little known.
d. a person who is very strong and energetic.
35. Radha made no bones about her dislike for television serials.
a. speak plainly, not attempting to hide the truth.
b. not speaking plainly and attempting to hide the truth.
c. not making any comment of.
d. not taking any action to undo something.
36. Listen, students! If you don't clean this mess up, the hostel warden will read you the riot act.
a. give a suspension order.
b. take severe action for some wrong.
c. give a severe beating.
d. give a severe scolding.
37. Always stand for the truth, and let the chips fall where they may.
a. let the enemies hit you where they want to.
b. let things be stopped when it had to be stopped.
c. not worrying too much about the consequences.
d. not worrying too much about the data known.
38. Raja is trying to curry favour with his professor.
a. gain a person's approval by making use of flattery.
b. gain a person's enmity by annoying him unnecessarily.
c. to harass or make fun of a person.
d. to favour a person even if he is wrong.
39. When it comes to her health, Archana has a devil-may-care attitude.
a. attitude that somebody will care for her.
b. very cautious attitude.
c. very casual attitude.
d. belief in unnatural powers.
40. The company pulled the rug from under its employees' feet by denying them their bonus.
a. affect somebody secretly.
b. punish somebody for their wrong.
c. taking away the support and create problems.
d. pulling down somebody.

Directions for questions 41 to 50: Choose an appropriate phrasal verb and fill in the blanks.

41. We _____ them all night, but we couldn't find them.
a. looked at b. looked into c. looked up d. looked for
42. The pedestrian was _____ by a speeding motorist.
a. run into b. run down c. run with d. run in
43. Rahul is unfit for married life. He _____ every girl he meets.
a. break out of b. break into c. breaks up d. breaks up with

44. Jesitha kept nagging everyday that we watch the movie, and I finally _____.
a. gave up b. gave in c. gave out d. gave away
45. Can you help wash these clothes, please? They're really beginning to _____.
a. stink up b. smell off c. pile up d. fade off
46. There is no doubt that Ram is Kumar's son. I can see that he _____ Kumar in many ways.
a. takes down b. takes out c. takes up d. takes after
47. Anushya's husband is very mean. How does she _____ him?
a. put up b. put out with c. put up with d. put out
48. I am sorry that I got so delayed. I was _____ in the traffic.
a. held onto b. held in c. held out d. held up
49. Ajay Jadeja thought he could _____ calling cricket a silly game.
a. Get out of b. Get atop of c. Get in to d. Get away with
50. The people ought to learn their lesson; they should not _____ all the promises made by the politicians.
a. Fall in b. Fall at c. Fall for d. Fall out
- Directions for questions 51 to 60:** Find the word from the given options that is closest in meaning to the given phrase.
51. Highly skilled
a. Adapt b. Adopt c. Adept d. Adduct
52. To conspire
a. Allude b. Elude c. Include d. Collude
53. A false belief
a. Illusion b. Collision c. Delusion d. Derision
54. A choice between things
a. Alternative b. Alternate c. Alternately d. Alternatively
55. Location or Scene
a. Cite b. Site c. Sight d. Mite
56. Praise
a. Competent b. Complement c. Complacent d. Compliment
57. An inner sense of right and wrong
a. Concise b. Conscious c. Conscience d. Conscientious
58. To give up
a. Wave b. Weave c. Waive d. Wean
59. Being impartial
a. Uninterested b. Disinterested c. Indifferent d. Unmoved
60. Every two years
a. Bilateral b. Biennial c. Biannual d. Bilinear