

CHUYÊN ĐỀ 23: CỤM TỪ CỐ ĐỊNH

A. SOME USEFUL COLLOCATIONS

STT	CỤM TỪ	NGHĨA
1	▪ A recipe for a disaster	▪ cách dẫn đến sự hỗn loạn, thảm họa
2	▪ A roaring success	▪ một thành công lớn, vang dội
3	▪ A stroke of luck	▪ dịp may bất ngờ
4	▪ Above the law	▪ đứng trên luật pháp
5	▪ Alive and kicking	▪ còn sống và rất khỏe mạnh, tràn đầy sức sống
6	▪ Alleviate suffering	▪ giảm bớt đau đớn, khổ sở
7	▪ At a standstill	▪ bị bế tắc, ngưng lại
8	▪ At all hours	▪ bất cứ khi nào
9	▪ At death's door	▪ bên ngưỡng cửa của tử thần, hấp hối, gần chết
10	▪ At odds	▪ gây sự bất hòa
11	▪ At one's disposal	▪ tùy ý sử dụng
12	▪ Back to the drawing board	▪ quay lại từ đầu để chuẩn bị một kế hoạch mới vì kế hoạch trước đã thất bại
13	▪ Bare necessity	▪ nhu yếu phẩm cơ bản(thức ăn, thuốc men,...)
14	▪ Be a big fish in a small pond	▪ một nhân vật quan trọng và có ảnh hưởng trong một cộng đồng nhỏ hay phạm vi hẹp
15	▪ Be a pack of lies	▪ toàn là lời dối trá
16	▪ Be awfully tired	▪ vô cùng mệt mỏi
17	▪ Be deep in something	▪ ngập sâu vào, mải mê, đắm chìm vào cái gì
18	▪ Be in sb's good/bad books	▪ được yêu thích/bị người nào ghét, có tên trong sổ đen của ai
19	▪ Be in the public eye	▪ trước mắt công chúng, bị dư luận soi xét
20	▪ Be in the right frame of mind	▪ đang trong tâm trạng tốt, thích hợp
21	▪ Be keenly interested in something	▪ rất thích, quan tâm điều gì

22	▪ Be made redundant	▪ bị sa thải
23	▪ Be on the level	▪ thật thà, chân thật, nói điều thật
24	▪ Be part and parcel	▪ phần cơ bản, quan trọng, thiết yếu
25	▪ Be put on probation	▪ chịu án treo, đang trong thời gian quản chế
26	▪ Be terminally ill	▪ bị bệnh nan y, vô phương cứu chữa
27	▪ Be wide awake	▪ hoàn toàn tỉnh táo
28	▪ Begin from scratch	▪ bắt đầu từ đầu, từ con số không
29	▪ Bite your tongue	▪ giữ im lặng, nhẫn nhịn không nói điều gì
30	▪ Box - top	▪ phòng vé
31	▪ Brain drain	▪ chảy máu chất xám
32	▪ Breach of contract	▪ vi phạm hợp đồng
33	▪ Break into the market	▪ thâm nhập thị trường
34	▪ break the ice	▪ làm cho người chưa gặp bao giờ cảm thấy thoải mái và bắt đầu nói chuyện với nhau.
35	▪ Brink of collapse	▪ bờ vực phá sản, sụp đổ
36	▪ By the same token	▪ vì lẽ ấy, đồng thời
37	▪ Capacity for something	▪ năng lực, khả năng làm gì
38	▪ Catch a glimpse of something	▪ nhìn thoáng qua, lướt qua
39	▪ Clap/lay/set eyes on sb/sth	▪ Đánh giá, để mắt cái gì/ai đó ngay từ lần đầu gặp
40	▪ Come to pass	▪ xảy ra như dự định
41	▪ Con (someone) out of sth	▪ lừa gạt ai đó
42	▪ Continuously throughout the night	▪ liên tục suốt đêm
43	▪ Corporal punishment	▪ hình phạt về thể xác, hành hạ thể xác
44	▪ Cost the earth	▪ chi phí đắt đỏ, tốn kém
45	▪ Count something on (the fingers of) one hand	▪ điều gì đó mà xảy ra rất hiếm hoặc tồn tại với số lượng rất nhỏ
46	▪ Creaking board	▪ tấm ván kẽo kẹt
47	▪ Dead-end job	▪ một công việc không có thăng tiến, triển vọng
48	▪ Do somebody a good/bad turn	▪ làm điều gì đó giúp đỡ hoặc có hại cho ai
49	▪ Do something by the book = to	▪ tuân thủ luật lệ

	obey the rules while doing something	
50	▪ Drive somebody to something	▪ dồn ai vào thế bí phải làm gì
51	• Dull ache	▪ đau âm ỉ
52	▪ Excruciating pain	▪ cực kỳ đau đớn
53	▪ Exert oneself to something	▪ cố gắng, nỗ lực
54	▪ Fall prey to somebody/ something	▪ làm con mồi, nạn nhân của ai/ cái gì
55	▪ Fizzy drinks	▪ nước giải khát có ga
56	▪ Float through space	▪ lơ lửng trong không gian
57	▪ Fly by the seat of one's pants	▪ làm việc gì khó mà không có kinh nghiệm, kỹ năng cần thiết, làm theo cảm tính
58	▪ Follow/obey something to the letter	▪ làm chính xác như những gì ai đó bảo
59	▪ For the sake of somebody/ something	▪ vì lợi ích của ai/ cái gì
60	▪ Force your way through/into etc something	▪ chen lấn, xô đẩy, di chuyển khó khăn để đến nơi nào đấy
61	▪ Frighten/scare sb out of their wits	• làm cho ai vô cùng hoảng sợ
62	▪ Gain a competitive edge	▪ có được lợi thế cạnh tranh
63	▪ Garden sparrow	▪ chim sẻ nhà
64	• Get a move on	▪ nhanh lên
65	▪ Give an account of sth	▪ thuật lại chuyện gì
66	▪ Give chapter and verse	▪ nói có sách, mách có chứng (có chứng cứ rõ ràng, xác thực)
67	▪ Go grey	▪ có tóc bạc, bạc đầu
68	▪ Go to great lengths	▪ cố gắng hết sức, làm mọi thứ để đạt được điều gì
69	▪ Grasp an opportunity	▪ nắm bắt/ chộp lấy cơ hội
70	▪ Have a thirst for something	▪ có niềm khao khát, đam mê làm gì
71	▪ Have an aversion to something	▪ không thích cái gì
72	▪ Have an enquiring mind	▪ có tinh thần học hỏi
73	▪ Have an outstanding command of a language	▪ thông thạo vượt trội 1 thứ tiếng
74	▪ Have recollection of	▪ có hồi ức về
75	▪ Have time on one's hands	▪ chẳng có gì để làm, rảnh rỗi

76	▪ Heinous crime	▪ tội ác ghê tởm, tàn bạo
77	▪ Hold opinion	▪ có ý kiến
78	▪ In close proximity	▪ rất gần
79	▪ In deadly earnest	▪ vô cùng nghiêm trọng
80	▪ In deep (trouble)	▪ vô cùng rắc rối
81	▪ In earnest	▪ nghiêm túc, đúng đắn
82	▪ In mint condition	▪ trong điều kiện tốt như thể mới tinh
83	▪ In no mood for sth/ to do sth	▪ không có tâm trạng làm gì
84	▪ In the balance	▪ do dự, lưỡng lự
85	▪ (In) the middle of nowhere	▪ cách xa thị trấn và thành phố và là nơi có ít người sinh sống
86	▪ In the peak of physical condition	▪ ở trong tình trạng sức khỏe tốt nhất
87	▪ In the realm of	▪ trong lĩnh vực
88	▪ In vain	▪ thất bại, vô ích
89	▪ In/during/over the course of something	▪ trong suốt quá trình, trong khi
90	▪ Innocuous remark	▪ nhận xét vô hại, vô thưởng vô phạt
91	▪ Invariably pain	▪ lúc nào cũng đau
92	▪ It goes without saying	▪ chắc chắn, hiển nhiên, không phải nói
93	▪ It never crossed my mind	▪ chưa từng mảy may nghĩ điều gì
94	▪ Jump the queue	▪ vượt lên trước, chen lấn chỗ khi xếp hàng
95	▪ Keep somebody company	▪ ở lại với ai đó để họ không cô đơn
96	▪ Keep track (of someone/ something)	▪ tiếp tục theo sát, để mắt đến ai, cái gì
97	▪ Kill time	▪ giết thời gian
98	▪ Lay trust in	▪ đặt niềm tin vào
99	▪ Lend itself to something	▪ thích hợp với, có thể dùng làm
100	▪ Let alone do something	▪ chưa kể đến, nói chi là làm gì
101	▪ Let it announce	▪ khẳng định, làm cho mọi người biết
102	▪ Lethal weapon	▪ vũ khí giết người
103	▪ Make cutbacks	▪ thực hiện cắt giảm

104	▪ Make head or tail of	▪ hiểu đầu đuôi
105	▪ Move up ladder	▪ chuyển nấc thang (tiến lên, phát triển)
106	▪ Narrow something down	▪ loại bỏ các lựa chọn ít quan trọng hơn để việc lựa chọn dễ dàng hơn
107	▪ Nowhere near	▪ còn lâu
108	▪ Odd cough and cold	▪ ốm vặt
109	▪ Of one's own accord	▪ tự nguyện, tự ý
110	▪ Off the record	▪ không được ghi, không chính thức
111	▪ On a par with somebody/ something	▪ bằng, ngang tầm/ chất lượng với ai, cái gì
112	▪ On location	▪ quay ở hiện trường, quay ở trường quay ngoài trời
113	▪ On principle	▪ theo nguyên tắc (đạo đức), niềm tin cố định của mình
114	▪ On the pretext	▪ lấy cớ, viện lý do
115	▪ One way or another	▪ cách này hay cách khác
116	▪ Open prison	▪ án treo
117	▪ Out of condition	▪ không khỏe mạnh (đủ để tập thể dục năng vì không tham gia thể thao/ các hoạt động thể chất)
118	▪ Out of harm's way	▪ tránh những nơi có thể gây hại, ở nơi an toàn
119	▪ Overhead cost	▪ chi phí chung để hoạt động (phí thuê mặt bằng, điện nước,...)
120	▪ Pay in arrears	▪ trả tiền quá hạn, khát nợ
121	▪ Peer pressure	▪ áp lực từ bạn bè, người đồng trang lứa
122	▪ Pet project/theory/subject	▪ dự án/ lý thuyết/ chủ đề được chú ý/ yêu thích nhất/ nổi bật nhất
123	▪ Pinpoint the problems	▪ chỉ ra, xác định mọi vấn đề đang gặp phải
124	▪ Pit your wits against somebody/ something	▪ có đủ thông minh để đấu lại ai, cái gì
125	▪ Poor chance/ slim chance	▪ cơ hội mong manh
126	▪ Pour something into something	▪ đổ cái gì vào cái gì
127	▪ Press conference	▪ cuộc họp báo

128	▪ Provoke somebody into (doing) something	▪ khiêu khích, xúi giục ai đó làm gì
129	▪ Pull yourself together	▪ bình tĩnh, điều khiển lại được cảm xúc sau khi tức giận/ buồn
130	▪ Put yourself in somebody's position	▪ thử đặt mình vào vị trí/ hoàn cảnh của người khác
131	▪ Qualified success	▪ sự vừa đủ khả năng thành công
132	▪ Quench one's thirst	▪ giải tỏa cơn khát
133	▪ Raise (someone's) hopes/expectations	▪ nhen nhóm niềm tin, hi vọng trong ai đó
134	▪ Reach a consensus	▪ đạt được sự nhất trí, đồng thuận
135	▪ Read between the lines	▪ hiểu được ẩn ý, ngụ ý
136	▪ Read between the lines	▪ tìm ra ngụ ý, hiểu được ẩn ý
137	▪ Redeeming feature	▪ một phẩm chất tốt mà phần nào bù đắp cho những phẩm chất xấu trong một người hay 1 vật
138	▪ Run a business	▪ điều hành kinh doanh
139	▪ Sales manager	▪ quản lý kinh doanh
140	▪ Secure in knowledge that	▪ tự tin, chắc chắn về điều gì
141	▪ See red	▪ bùng bùng nổi giận, nổi xung
142	▪ Set a good pattern	▪ nêu gương tốt, tấm gương tốt
143	▪ Set one's heart on doing sth	▪ thực sự ham muốn điều gì đó, mơ ước về điều gì đó
144	▪ Shed tears	▪ rơi lệ, nhò lệ
145	▪ Sheer cost	▪ giá cả cực kỳ cao
146	▪ Sheer pleasure	▪ chỉ là niềm vui vì
147	▪ Sheer pleasure	▪ niềm vui tuyệt đối, duy nhất
148	▪ Shrink duty	▪ trốn tránh trách nhiệm, nhiệm vụ, bỗn phận
149	▪ Slap in the face	▪ tát vào mặt (sỉ nhục, lăng mạ)
150	▪ Slash the prices	▪ giảm giá
151	▪ Slight cold	▪ cảm lạnh nhẹ
152	▪ Snatch of something	▪ phần nhỏ, đoạn ngắn
153	▪ Sole topic	▪ chủ đề chính, duy nhất

154	▪ Splitting headache	▪ đau đầu như búa bổ
155	▪ Squander savings	▪ lãng phí tiền tiết kiệm
156	▪ Stand someone in good stead	▪ có ích cho ai, có lợi cho ai; sẵn sàng giúp đỡ ai
157	▪ State of affairs	▪ tình trạng (chung) của vụ việc này, sự kiện trong 1 thời điểm nhất định
158	▪ Strongly ask	▪ mạnh mẽ yêu cầu
159	▪ Substitute something for something	▪ dùng cái gì thay thế cho cái gì khác
160	▪ Suit somebody down to the ground	▪ hoàn toàn thích hợp với ai
161	▪ Take a (heavy, terrible....) toll of something	▪ gây tổn hại, gây thiệt hại
162	▪ Take a course	▪ tham gia vào một khóa học
163	▪ Take effect	▪ có hiệu lực
164	▪ Take its course	▪ phát triển và kết thúc một cách tự nhiên
165	▪ Take something as read	▪ thừa nhận cái gì là đúng mà không bàn cãi
166	▪ Take sth as read	▪ chấp nhận một thứ gì đó là đúng
167	▪ Take the initiative in something	▪ dẫn đầu trong việc gì, khởi xướng việc gì
168	▪ Teach (your) grandmother to suck eggs	▪ trừng đòn khôn hơn vịt (dạy ai đó làm việc gì đó mà họ đã biết và thành thạo từ trước rồi)
169	▪ The apple doesn't fall far from the tree	▪ con nhà tông không giống lông cũng giống cánh, hổ phụ sinh hổ tử
170	▪ The big day	▪ ngày trọng đại
171	▪ The death penalty	▪ hình phạt tử hình
172	▪ The length and breadth of somewhere	▪ đi hết tất cả mọi nơi của địa điểm nào đó
173	▪ The letter of the law	▪ tính xác đáng của thuật ngữ pháp lý
174	▪ The quest for a new homeland	▪ cuộc tìm kiếm vùng đất mới
175	▪ The scene of the crime	▪ hiện trường vụ án
176	▪ Thorough examination	▪ kiểm tra tổng quát
177	▪ Thoroughly enjoy yourself	▪ hoàn toàn vui vẻ
178	▪ Throbbing headache	▪ đau nhói đầu
179	▪ Through no fault of one's own	▪ không phải lỗi của ai

180	▪ Throw caution to the winds	▪ thiếu thận trọng, liều lĩnh khi làm gì
181	▪ To do market research	▪ tiến hành, thực hiện nghiên cứu thị trường
182	▪ Tragedy strike	▪ bi kịch ập đến, giáng xuống
183	▪ Under lock and key	▪ được cất giấu an toàn, kỹ lưỡng
184	▪ Under the counter	▪ bán chui, bán lậu
185	▪ Utmost squalor	▪ sự dơ bẩn cực kỳ
186	▪ Vocation for something	▪ năng khiếu với việc gì
187	▪ Warts and all	▪ đầy đủ, không che giấu những nét hư, tật xấu
188	▪ Win - at -all - costs attitude	▪ thái độ háo thắng (muốn chiến thắng bằng mọi giá)
189	▪ Within reach of	▪ ở gần, trong tầm tay
190	▪ Within/in walking distance	▪ không xa lăm
191	▪ Written all over sb's face	▪ lộ rõ trên khuôn mặt

B. PRACTICE EXERCISES

Exercise 1.1: Mark the letter A, B, C or D to indicate the correct answer to each of the following questions.

Question 1: Because I believed his lies, he _____ me out of a lot of money. I will never believe in him again.

- A. conned B. took C. deceived D. stolen

Question 2: Language belongs to everyone, so most people feel that they have a right to _____ an opinion about it.

- A. express B. have C. hold D. take

Question 3: Open-air markets, for example, always carry huge in-store advertisements when they _____ the prices of products.

- A. slash B. reduce C. increase D. highlight

Question 4: It is always difficult for designer sportswear to _____ into the market because there is too much competition from leading brands like Adidas.

- A. invade B. cut C. break D. interfere

Question 5: When an interviewer from Playboy asked David whether he enjoyed doing “Tonight Show”, he gave a vivid _____ of how it felt to face Carson.

- A. imagination B. vision C. feeling D. account

Question 6: Jack prefers to be a big _____ in a small pond so he works for a small company with only sixty employees.

- A. fish B. starfish C. dolphin D. shark

Question 7: Maria doesn't know why she's telling Crystal how to use the piano. It seems to her like teaching your grandmother to suck_____.

- A. pines B. eggs C. lemons D. apples

Question 8: Jim worked many_____jobs before finally deciding to start his own business. He had collected many experiences for himself.

- A. dead-end B. attractive C. well-paid D. monetary

Question 9: The president didn't agree with our new ideas for the company so we had to go back to the drawing_____.

- A. start B. way C. board D. refreshment

Question 10: My father sees_____when he sees my sister going out with a strange boy.

- A. green B. red C. yellow D. blue

Question 11: You can count the number of times she's offered to buy me a drink on the_____of one hand.

- A. thumbs B. wrists C. fingers D. elbows

Question 12: We had no fighting experience before so we were really_____by the seat of our pants.

- A. flying B. using C. utilizing D. winning

Question 13: She has dreamt about becoming a singer when she was a little girl, so she set her_____on winning the first prize.

- A. heart B. eye C. mind D. head

Question 14: Southern Europe is experiencing a high "brain_____" these days because of the lack of economic prospects.

- A. losing B. lacking C. drain D. rain

Question 15: He literally was at death's_____when a kidney became available for transplant.

- A. verge B. egde C. border D. door

Question 16: He acts like his father. You know, the_____doesn't fall far from the tree.

- A. apple B. strawberry C. orange D. cucumber

Question 17: It_____without saying that Mrs Trang Anh is a very enthusiastic teacher. I love her so much.

- A. goes B. comes C. appears D. gets

Question 18: As soon as Ferlin came to party, he immediately set his_____on Melin. Maybe he was captivated by her.

- A. eye B. heart C. decision D. feeling

Question 19: Making sacrifices in your personal life is part and_____of being a film star. You should consider this.

- A. completion B. half C. whole D. parcel

Question 20: Dawson I hear that the new regulations will take _____ from October 1st, won't it?

- A. effect B. force C. power D. use

Question 21: Mary waited for them about 20 minutes and she was very nervous. Fortunately, they arrived alive and _____.

- A. safe B. kicking C. vulnerable D. unscathed

Question 22: Crocodiles see well, their eyes are equipped with three eyelids, each having a different function. Their eyeballs slide back out of _____ way during an attack.

- A. harm's B. danger's C. injury's D. damage's

Question 23: She took up many hobbies when she retired that she had hardly any_____.

- A. in hand B. out of hand C. on her hands D. at hand

Question 24: I'm _____ no mood to go to the party tonight because I have an argument over party cake with Jane this afternoon.

- A. in B. at C. for D. under

Question 25: After a few minutes Julia _____ herself together and explained her problem clearly.

- A. pulled B. took C. started D. fired

Question 26: Although the hardened criminal committed a crime, there was a strong movement supporting the abolition of the death _____. Many people believed that this punishment is very cruel.

- A. punishment B. penalty C. condemnation D. discipline

Question 27: My friend, Karen is hoping that she gets enough experience in the sales team, for her next job, she'll be able to apply for as a sales _____.

- A. controller B. manager C. organizer D. conductor

Question 28: Although famous film stars make a fortune but they are always in the public _____.

- A. eye B. watching C. service D. investigation

Question 29: The police tried in _____ to persuade the journalist to divulge the source of her information.

- A. success B. failing C. vain D. determination

Question 30: Anna wants to improve her pronunciation so she decided to _____ a course at her school.

- A. arrange B. buy C. give D. take

Question 31: In this puzzle, you have a chance to _____ your wits against the most intelligent people in Japan.

- A. set B. try C. beat D. pit

Question 32: The drunken couple did nothing to keep the flat clean and tidy and lived in the utmost _____.

- A. contamination B. pollution C. squalor D. convenience

Question 33: Jenny was offered a scholarship to study in Japan and she _____ the opportunity with both hands.

- A. agreed B. hold C. grasped D. accepted

Question 34: “In one _____ or another I intend to discover the truth. Believe in me” she promises.

- A. way B. road C. path D. street

Question 35: The BlackPink’s tour is in the _____ making their fans very nervous. They waited for them for a long time.

- A. balance B. consideration C. decision D. delay

Question 36: It was a _____ of luck that we found somewhere to park quickly last night.

- A. stroke B. blow C. hit D. pat

Question 37: Although I like the dress very much, the _____ cost of it is what really put me off.

- A. expensive B. extraordinary C. cheap D. sheer

Question 38: This _____ of affairs shouldn’t be allowed to get worse by the government otherwise the masses lose their belief in them.

- A. state B. situation C. prospect D. view

Question 39: Don’t criticize me. If you _____ yourself in my position, you would behave the same.

- A. set B. put C. think D. consider

Question 40: Once she’s _____ a few tears she’ll resign herself to the situation.

- A. shed B. split C. sobbed D. released

Question 41: I’ve had my car examined three times now but no mechanic has been able to _____ the problem.

- A. focus B. highlight C. pinpoint D. specify

Question 42: Don’t thank me for helping in the garden. It was _____ pleasure to be working out of doors.

- A. sheer B. mere C. simple D. plain

Question 43: His father doesn’t allow him to use his car because in the hand of a reckless driver like him, a car becomes a _____ weapon.

- A. fatal B. lethal C. mortal D. venal

Question 44: His chance of being picked for the Olympic swimming team is very _____.

- A. big B. poor C. slim D. B and C

Question 45: She had _____ mind which kept her alert and well-informed even in old age.

- A. an examining B. a demanding C. an enquiring D. a querying

Question 46: People in financial difficulties sometimes fall _____ to unscrupulous money lenders.

- A. prey B. fool C. scapegoat D. sacrifice

Question 47: The politician gave a press _____ to deny the charges that had been levelled at him.

- A. conference B. seminar C. discussion D. gathering

Question 48: Experts have now come up with proof that such stories were _____ earnest after all.

- A. on B. in C. at D. under

Question 49: His _____ topic of conversation was the weather, which makes him very tedious.

- A. sole B. only C. important D. loving

Question 50: I'm sorry Bob. I haven't got the time to do my own work, _____ alone help you with yours.

- A. let B. do C. come D. leave

Exercise 1.2: *Mark the letter A, B, C or D to indicate the correct answer to each of the following questions.*

Question 1: His English was roughly on a _____ with my Greek, so communication was rather difficult.

- A. similarity B. same C. position D. par

Question 2: The job requires a(n) _____ for hard work in difficult conditions. If you can, apply for it.

- A. ability B. competence C. capacity D. faculty

Question 3: He left the meeting early on the unlikely _____ that he had a sick friend to visit and had to come home immediately.

- A. pretext B. excuse C. claim D. motivation

Question 4: He looks much older. His financial worries seem to have taken a terrible _____ on his health.

- A. burden B. toll C. stress D. strain

Question 5: Apart from the _____ cough and cold, I've been remarkably healthy all my life.

- A. odd B. opportune C. regular D. timely

Question 6: Jane has got such a _____ headache that she can't concentrate on the lecture. She has a permit to stay home until she's healthy.

- A. beating B. drumming C. hammering D. throbbing

Question 7: The real test of your relationship will come when you start to see your new boyfriend _____ and all.

- A. faults B. warts C. spots D. moles

Question 8: He told the court that it was his desperate poverty that had _____ him to steal the bread. The court decided to send him in prison for 2 days.

- A. driven B. forced C. led D. brought

Question 9: She gave up nursing training when she found she had no _____ for looking after the sick.

- A. vocation B. mission C. ambition D. dream

Question 10: Don't worry about making a noise. The children are wide _____. They are watching cartoon.

- A. awake B. woken C. waking D. awoke

Question 11: This rehabilitation scheme is at a _____. They are trying their best to come up with the solution.

- A. hill B. moutain C. standstill D. valley

Question 12: They were ____ in conversation and didn't notice me leaving the room. When they called me to ask where I went, I had been at home for 15 minutes.

- A. deep B. thoroughly C. solidly D. captivated

Question 13: I was really looking forward to going to the game and I could hardly wait until the _____ day came.

- A. major B. important C. big D. huge

Question 14: Jack was tired of working for other people. He hate being criticized unfairly by them, so he decided to _____ his own business.

- A. run B. open C. start D. initiate

Question 15: They eventually _____ a consensus on the new bussiness plan after discussing for two weeks.

- A. reached B. achieved C. had D. came

Question 16: Advertising companies always do a lot of market _____ before they design new products.

- A. investigation B. examination C. exploration D. research

Question 17: The company made _____ at their stores in New Zealand and many employees were dismissed.

- A. money B. success C. cutbacks D. failure

Question 18: They pay one month in _____ to all their designers making them very worried.

- A. later B. after C. arrears D. full

Question 19: Jonie _____ all his savings in an unsuccessful business plan because of his arrogant character.

- A. lost B. failed C. squandered D. consumed

Question 20: An increase in rents in the shopping mall increased the _____ costs of all the shops which operated there.

- A. fixed B. total C. whole D. overhead

Question 21: Kenny believes that sport professionals deserve high salaries because constant hard training is necessary so that they can _____ themselves to the limit when they compete.

- A. exert B. ahead C. go D. apply

Question 22: One of the causes of obesity is that many people are out of _____ and don't do exercise

regularly.

- A. condition B. shape C. weight D. fitness

Question 23: Youth sport is being ruined by a win-at-all-costs _____, which includes cheating and breaking the rules to achieve victory.

- A. desire B. attitude C. dream D. yearning

Question 24: Some people believe that it is waste to _____ money into space research. Nevertheless, they are wrong.

- A. pour B. invest C. earn D. spend

Question 25: Most of the arguments in favour of space programs are in the _____ of science fiction.

- A. dawn B. area C. field D. realm

Question 26: As humans are destroying their own planet, the _____ for a new homeland in the universe is essential.

- A. demand B. quest C. request D. search

Question 27: It is necessary at times to infringe on personal freedoms because people who lack necessary experience or who are not in the _____ of physical condition sometimes take up dangerous sports.

- A. peak B. high C. height D. maximum

Question 28: I believe that the courts must apply the strict _____ of the law and impose the harshest possible sentences on criminals.

- A. force B. method C. letter D. power

Question 29: Many schools have abandoned the policy of _____ punishment for children who misbehave and prefer to give extra work or detention after school instead.

- A. corporal B. physical C. strict D. mental

Question 30: The young offender was put on _____ because his crime was not serious enough to send him to prison.

- A. probation B. immunity C. consideration D. trial

Question 31: Don't take it as _____ that you'll be promoted in your job, other colleagues stand a good chance too.

- A. standard B. availability C. read D. common

Question 32: The planes were delayed and the hotel was awful, but by the same _____ we still had a good time.

- A. value B. contrary C. as D. token

Question 33: My grandfather didn't have any _____ of phoning me last night. He is forgetful.

- A. remembrance B. reminding C. recollection D. reminiscence

Question 34: Few people can do creative work unless they are in the right _____ of mind. What about you?

- A. frame B. trend C. attitude D. pattern

Question 35: The experimental play was only a _____ success, which disappointed the playwright.

- A. local B. qualified C. cautious D. huge

Question 36: It was mindless of you to slap Jerky in the _____. You should never have done it if you expect him to love you.

- A. face B. heart C. head D. mind

Question 37: It had been assumed Feryen would take over the manager's post after the man retired. But, it never _____ to pass since he's decided to change his place of work.

- A. came B. happened C. coincided D. ran

Question 38: Reading between the _____, it seems neither Cole nor Ledley King will be going to Japan next month.

- A. lines B. columns C. situations D. people

Question 39: We've got some time to _____ before the meeting begins, so let's go for a stroll in the park. I want to have a coffee.

- A. destroy B. kill C. pass D. spend

Question 40: "There is no further treatment we can give", said Dr Jekyll, "We must let the disease take its _____",

- A. end B. term C. trend D. course

Question 41: They could sail out for days into the unknown and assess the area, secure in the _____ that if they didn't find anything, they could turn about and catch a swift ride back on the trade winds.

- A. belief B. mind C. knowledge D. miss

Question 42: Rose has been all over the world, but he still has a _____ for seeing new places and enjoying new experiences.

- A. thirst B. dream C. crave D. yearning

Question 43: Space tourism would be really tedious, simply _____ through space and looking out of the window of the spacecraft.

- A. flying B. moving C. floating D. running

Question 44: While Vietnam is quickly moving up the _____ into smartphones and semiconductors, the biggest chunk of its exports to the UK remained textiles.

- A. success B. tendency C. fame D. ladder

Question 45: He used to have a deep _____ to fish but now he likes it too much. He eats fish three times a week.

- A. dislike B. aversion C. intimacy D. warmth

Question 46: The high quality of Mercedes cars has enabled the company to gain a competitive _____ over its rivals in the world markets.

- A. advantage B. money C. edge D. strategy

Question 47: The car company has closed down so 1000 employees have been made _____. Now they don't know what to do to make a living.

- A. redundant B. overthrown C. overflowed D. bountiful

Question 48: I was so nervous about meeting Sophie's parents for the first time, but her dad immediately broke the _____ by asking about my car, and everything went great after that.

- A. boulder B. ice C. stone D. rock

Question 49: After my brother won a little bit money from lottery, he began throwing _____ to the winds and gambling everything we had.

- A. caution B. money C. status D. alertness

Question 50: Lyn was very excited when she saw that bird but her brother told her it wasn't a rare bird, just a common or _____ sparrow.

- A. ordinary B. common C. garden D. strange

Exercise 1.3: Mark the letter A, B, C or D to indicate the correct answer to each of the following questions.

Question 1: In Lorchester's _____ centre you can enjoy high-quality urban living, with reliable public transport and shops and restaurants.

- A. busy B. bustling C. hectic D. flurry

Question 2: Key features of the plan include the restoration of _____ buildings and a tree-planting scheme.

- A. unreliable B. rustic C. derelict D. desirable

Question 3: _____ roads are normal on holiday weekends.

- A. congested B. choked C. massed D. stuffed

Question 4: With commercial and recreational facilities within _____ distance and open all hours, it is hoped that people will choose to leave their cars at home.

- A. running B. miles C. comfortable D. walking

Question 5: He lives in a tiny house in the middle of _____ where nothing ever happened and where I felt bored.

- A. nowhere B. quiet C. beyond D. track

Question 6: Look at the time! We'd better get a _____ on or we're going to be late.

- A. rush B. move C. jump D. hurry

Question 7: You travel so much! I can't keep _____ of all the countries you have been to.

- A. note B. chance C. track D. sign

Question 8: I don't want to raise your _____, but there's a chance we might be flying to America.

- A. hope B. belief C. understanding D. ambition

Question 9: I can't believe that woman just tried to _____ the queue and got to the front first.

- A. break B. form C. join D. jump

Question 10: My dad's beginning to _____ grey, and he's only 35.

- A. turn B. change C. go D. raise

Question 11: I followed your instructions to the _____ but I still couldn't get the printer to work properly.

- A. word B. letter C. alphabet D. line

Question 12: Reading _____ the lines, it seems that the government's considering tightening media regulations.

- A. between B. beyond C. among D. from

Question 13: You've had some good news, haven't you? It's written all over your _____.

- A. head B. nose C. face D. ear

Question 14: I take it as _____ that you've checked your facts carefully.

- A. granted B. certain C. sure D. read

Question 15: Many politicians will only speak to journalists if their comments are off the _____.

- A. record B. office C. censor D. point

Question 16: Don't break the rules - just do it by the _____.

- A. time B. charge C. book D. word

Question 17: We've travelled the length and _____ of the country looking for the next Teen Star.

- A. width B. breadth C. depth D. load

Question 18: Some people will go to any _____ to make money.

- A. length B. cost C. price D. condition

Question 19: If the manager says anything about the missed deadlines., just _____ your tongue, say nothing and we can discuss it later.

- A. swallow B. eat C. suck D. bite

Question 20: I didn't realize you were so _____ interested in fishing.

- A. keenly B. vividly C. extensively D. patently

Question 21: I'm hoping this work experience stand me in good _____ in my future career.

- A. stead B. ground C. footing D. precedent

Question 22: Take the doctor's advice into consideration. He's in _____ earnest about the epidemic.

- A. deadly B. fatally C. gravely D. mortally

Question 23: Pornography may be illegal banned but it is still available _____ the counter.

- A. on B. beneath C. under D. in

Question 24: We all have to follow the rules- none of us is _____ the law.

- A. beyond B. over C. above D. onto

Question 25: Paul's been in Alice's bad ____ ever since he offended her at the party.

- A. eyes B. books C. likes D. treats

Question 26: Feel free to come to us at all ____ if you need our advice.

- A. whiles B. moments C. hours D. occasions

Question 27: If you do that again you'll be in ____ trouble!

- A. deep B. dire C. adverse D. detrimental

Question 28: The professor's ____ theory is singing the preceded speech.

- A. fond B. fancied C. pet D. preferable

Question 29: It may be raining but I'm ____ enjoying myself.

- A. thoroughly B. desperately C. highly D. extremely

Question 30: The first amusement park in our city was a ____ success for its owners. Everyone would go there to have a good time.

- A. cracking B. roaring C. sparkling D. ringing

Question 31: I'd opt for a glass of mineral water just to ____ my thirst.

- A. quiver B. quieten C. quench D. quit

Question 32: It never ____ my mind that he was lying to me.

- A. entered B. crossed C. occurred D. put

Question 33: Don't thank me for helping you in the garden. It was ____ pleasure to be working out of doors.

- A. plain B. mere C. simple D. sheer

Question 34: He's a nice guy, ____ always ____ ready to do somebody a good ____.

- A. help B. play C. turn D. support

Question 35: She worried ____ about her exams and couldn't focus on her revision.

- A. constantly B. practically C. decidedly D. endlessly

Question 36: If it hadn't been for the hint the professor ____ , nobody would have found out the correct answer.

- A. dropped B. cast C. threw D. flung

Question 37: A middle-aged man was running away from the ____ of the crime.

- A. place B. scene C. location D. point

Question 38: The most powerful force in a teenager's life is probably ____ pressure.

- A. friend B. peer C. company D. crowd

Question 39: We finally managed to ____ our way through the crowd and reach the exit.

- A. create B. insist C. move D. force

Question 40: Since it was a minor crime, Derk was sent to _____ prison.

- A. an open B. an easy C. a soft D. a weak

Question 41: Don't worry - the documents are safely _____ lock and key at my place.

- A. under B. in C. on D. within

Question 42: Who need more than the _____ necessities of life?

- A. naked B. pure C. bare D. sole

Question 43: Over the _____ of the next few years, their relationship changed completely.

- A. span B. spell C. course D. term

Question 44: Although he was a hardened criminal, his one _____ feature was his love of children.

- A. saving B. redeeming C. recovering D. acquitting

Question 45: When I got stuck in the elevator, I was scared out of my _____.

- A. brains B. heads C. wits D. nerves

Question 46: It seems too good to be true. Are you sure this guy is on the _____?

- A. flat B. wagon C. level D. town

Question 47: I'm going for a walk in the park. Would you like to _____ me company?

- A. keep B. stay C. ward D. follow

Question 48: He let it _____ that the Prime Minister was a friend of his.

- A. announce B. talk C. drop D. infer

Question 49: Let's _____ the place; it looks so gloomy and unpleasant.

- A. miss B. depart C. disappear D. abandon

Question 50: For stamps and coins to be of value, they need to be in _____ condition.

- A. might B. flat C. sharp D. mint

Exercise 1.4: Mark the letter A, B, C or D to indicate the correct answer to each of the following questions.

Question 1: The whole movie was filmed on _____ in the Southern Indian.

- A. site B. location C. spot D. venue

Question 2: Eventually the list of candidates for the job was _____ down to three.

- A. lowered B. decreased C. narrowed D. dropped

Question 3: The doctor gave the patient a(n) _____ examination to discover the cause of his collapse.

- A. thorough B. universal C. exact D. whole

Question 4: Dana bought a lot of _____ drinks such as lemonade and orangeade.

- A. frozen B. fresh C. flat D. fizzy

Question 5: What he told me was a _____ of lies.

- A. pack B. load C. mob D. flock

Question 6: Candace would _____ her little sister into an argument by teasing her and calling her names.

- A. advocate B. provoke C. prompt D. trigger

Question 7: If you are on a diet, you should _____ honey for sugar in your tea.

- A. change B. substitute C. replace D. convert

Question 8: The heavy rain lashed on _____ throughout the night without letting up.

- A. continually B. continuously C. perpetually D. eternally

Question 9: Due to the computer malfunction all our data was lost. So unhappily, we had to begin all the calculations from _____.

- A. onset B. source C. original D. scratch

Question 10: Do you think this kind of meat _____ itself to stewing?

- A. allows B. gives C. offers D. lends

Question 11: It was Martain who _____ the initiative in introducing our guests to the princess.

- A. adopted B. took C. led D. pursued

Question 12: I was _____ tired. However, I made up my mind to apply myself to this task once again.

- A. awfully B. acutely C. hugely D. intensely

Question 13: You may feel sure the casting will be done perfectly, just _____ your trust in me and you will see I'm right.

- A. lay B. grant C. forward D. allow

Question 14: The _____ boards in the staircase would always wake us up whenever somebody climbed up at night.

- A. screeching B. cracking C. roaring D. creaking

Question 15: His parents have always wanted Phillip to set a good _____ to his younger brothers both at school and at home.

- A. form B. model C. pattern D. guidance

Question 16: "This will cause all sorts of problems". "I know. It's a _____ for disaster".

- A. recipe B. ingredient C. receipt D. reason

Question 17: He didn't mean to be offensive; it was quite an _____ remark.

- A. innocuous B. indehiscent C. incendiary D. insidious

Question 18: Poor management brought the company to the _____ of collapse.

- A. brink B. rim C. fringe D. brim

Question 19: He will be sue for _____ of contract if he does not do what he promised.

- A. breach B. fracture C. crack D. rupture

Question 20: When people live in such close _____ to each other, there are bound to be occasional

problems.

- A. neighbourhood B. vicinity C. position D. proximity

Question 21: I'm a vegetarian. I refuse to eat meat on _____.

- A. belief B. conscience C. principle D. theory

Question 22: Tragedy _____ yesterday when a man was swept out to sea by a freak wave.

- A. struck B. sparked C. hit D. came

Question 23: Patients who are _____ ill often prefer to die at home surrounded by their loved ones.

- A. lethally B. terminally C. ultimately D. eventually

Question 24: Her last movie was a surprise _____ hit.

- A. box-department B. box-ticking C. box-top D. box-office

Question 25: He had such _____ pain that he had to _____ lie quite still in his bed.

- A. agonizing B. excruciating C. extreme D. piercing

Question 26: Whenever we plan to go on a picnic, it _____ rains.

- A. continuously B. invariably C. unavoidably D. interminably

Question 27: The drugs did nothing to _____ her suffering.

- A. alleviate B. mollify C. minimize D. lighten

Question 28: We could have provided him with a detached house but he _____ asked for a small flat.

- A. decidedly B. specifically C. strongly D. solely

Question 29: She's not in pain, She's just felt a _____ ache at the back of her head.

- A. lasting B. dull C. dim D. deadly

Question 30: Sally has an _____ command of the French language.

- A. extreme B. utter C. outstanding D. intensive

Question 31: I had a heavy cold and _____ headache, so I wasn't in good mood.

- A. splitting B. dreadful C. frightful D. horrible

Question 32: I took a day off work yesterday. It was nothing serious, just a _____ cold.

- A. light B. slight C. biting D. nasty

Question 33: I didn't see the whole occurrence. I just managed to catch a _____ of it.

- A. glimpse B. look C. sight D. view

Question 34: You can't expect to win the competition. Your drawings are _____ near as professional as the other painters' ones.

- A. never B. nothing C. nowhere D. nobody

Question 35: You may use the facilities freely. They are all at your _____.

- A. disposition B. dispossession C. display D. disposal

Question 36: The passengers were asked to put on life belts for the _____ of their safety.

- A. risk B. sake C. care D. point

Question 37: Because we live within easy _____ of the city centre, we don't have to travel to school by bus.

- A. range B. distance C. access D. reach

Question 38: It was hard to make head or _____ of what the man was talking about.

- A. neck B. back C. nose D. tail

Question 39: The actor was so nervous that he could only remember small _____ of dialogue

- A. shreds B. pieces C. patches D. snatches

Question 40: Even the other convicts considered it a _____ crime.

- A. guilty B. hard-bitten C. heinous D. hell-bent

Question 41: She resigned _____. No one forced her to do so.

- A. for her own sake B. of her own accord C. with a will D. on purpose

Question 42: It is far too easy to lay the blame _____ on the shoulders of the management.

- A. flatly B. willingly C. squarely D. perfectly

Question 43: The brother and sister were _____ over who would get to inherit the beach house.

- A. at large B. at odds C. at a standstill D. at a loose end

Question 44: Social work suits her _____ to the ground.

- A. for B. down C. out D. round

Question 45: He lost his job _____ no fault of his own.

- A. with B. by C. through D. over

Question 46: He's so lazy! We all have to work harder because he's always _____ his duties.

- A. evading B. shirking C. ducking D. dodging

Question 47: I found the information for the project in the encyclopaedia but I couldn't give _____ and verse on it.

- A. chapter B. unit C. poem D. extract

Question 48: A meal in that restaurant costs the _____ but still it is always packed.

- A. world B. soil C. earth D. moon

Question 49: Because of cutbacks in council spending, plans for the new swimming pool had to be _____.

- A. stockpiled B. overthrown C. shelved D. disrupted

Question 50: With traffic _____ along the main roads, residents seeking to emerge from the side roads in which they live find it virtually impossible to do so.

- A. bumper to bumper B. hectic C. dense D. neaten

