

# MPSC Meghalaya LDA: English Vocabulary - Idioms & Phrases

(400 Highest-Probability Solved MCQs)

## Verbal Ability Series

### Part I: Exam Strategies for Idioms

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- **Subjectivity Check:** High-probability idioms often relate to human behavior, conflict, or success.
- **Literal vs. Figurative:** If an option is a literal translation of the words (e.g., "to actually bury a metal hatchet"), it is almost certainly a distractor.
- **Origin Clues:** Phrases like "grease the palm" come from the physical act of lubrication, hinting at making a process "smooth" via bribery.

### Part II: Practice MCQs (400 High-Probability Entries)

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1. Penny wise and pound foolish [Ans: (B)]  
(a) To take a risk  
(b) Careful in trivial matters but wasteful in large matters  
(c) To invest a lot of money  
(d) To speak foolishly
2. To bury the hatchet [Ans: (A)]  
(a) To end a quarrel to make peace  
(b) To carry a sword  
(c) To find hidden treasure  
(d) To start a fight
3. Hold your horses [Ans: (C)]  
(a) To run very fast  
(b) To train the horses  
(c) To be patient  
(d) To be impatient
4. In the long run [Ans: (A)]  
(a) Eventually after a long period of time  
(b) To go for the extra mile  
(c) To wait excitedly  
(d) To bear the burden
5. To know the ropes [Ans: (A)]  
(a) To understand the details  
(b) To understand the risks

- (c) To be fit
  - (d) To be involved
6. Level playing field [Ans: (D)]
- (a) A big ground
  - (b) Unfair competition
  - (c) Small ground
  - (d) Fair competition where no side has an advantage
7. A tall order [Ans: (C)]
- (a) At a great height
  - (b) Long distance
  - (c) A challenging task or requirement
  - (d) An easy task
8. Brownie points [Ans: (A)]
- (a) Praise for a service someone has done
  - (b) Facing challenges
  - (c) Score points
  - (d) To be hungry
9. By the book [Ans: (B)]
- (a) Read many books
  - (b) Strictly following the rules
  - (c) Buy a book
  - (d) Write a book
10. Cut corners [Ans: (B)]
- (a) Force a solution
  - (b) Do something poorly to save time or money
  - (c) Drive fast
  - (d) Take shortcuts
11. Beat around the bush [Ans: (A)]
- (a) Avoid saying what you want to say
  - (b) Stop working
  - (c) Don't be critical
  - (d) Being slow
12. Hit the sack [Ans: (C)]
- (a) Dust carpet
  - (b) Clean with cloth
  - (c) Go to sleep
  - (d) Discipline child
13. Gave vent to [Ans: (D)]

- (a) Disapprove
- (b) Showed
- (c) Agreed
- (d) Expressed freely

14. Went to the dogs

[Ans: (C)]

- (a) Lost
- (b) In trouble
- (c) Got ruined
- (d) Flunk

15. Calling a spade a spade

[Ans: (B)]

- (a) Lying
- (b) Speak frankly and directly
- (c) Deceiving
- (d) Blaming

16. Cut of his gibbs

[Ans: (A)]

- (a) Appearance
- (b) Look alike
- (c) Resemblance
- (d) Corner

17. Draw a blank

[Ans: (D)]

- (a) Cheque
- (b) Demand
- (c) Cash
- (d) Fail to remember or succeed

18. At a loss

[Ans: (C)]

- (a) Business loss
- (b) Relation loss
- (c) Unable to decide
- (d) Success

19. To grease the palm

[Ans: (B)]

- (a) Wash hands
- (b) To bribe someone
- (c) Work hard
- (d) Play games

20. A dark horse

[Ans: (C)]

- (a) Black horse
- (b) Fast horse
- (c) An unexpected winner

- (d) Hidden animal
21. Apple of one's eye [Ans: (A)]  
(a) Favorite or most dear person  
(b) Fruit  
(c) Eye disease  
(d) Sharp look
22. Bed of roses [Ans: (B)]  
(a) Flower bed  
(b) An easy and comfortable situation  
(c) Garden  
(d) Difficult path
23. Bolt from the blue [Ans: (C)]  
(a) Thunderstorm  
(b) Runner  
(c) A complete surprise  
(d) Metal bolt
24. Bone of contention [Ans: (A)]  
(a) Cause of dispute  
(b) Skeleton part  
(c) Peace treaty  
(d) Heavy load
25. Burning the midnight oil [Ans: (B)]  
(a) Waste fuel  
(b) Work late into the night  
(c) Cook at night  
(d) Light a lamp
26. Cock and bull story [Ans: (C)]  
(a) Animal story  
(b) Fable  
(c) An improbable or absurd story  
(d) True event
27. Cry over spilt milk [Ans: (A)]  
(a) To regret uselessly about past mistakes  
(b) Be hungry  
(c) Clean floor  
(d) Complain about food
28. Every dog has his day [Ans: (B)]  
(a) Lucky dogs

- (b) Everyone gets a chance or good luck eventually  
(c) Be a pet  
(d) Bark loudly
29. Feather in one's cap [Ans: (C)]
- (a) Bird part  
(b) New hat  
(c) An achievement one is proud of  
(d) Fancy dress
30. From pillar to post [Ans: (A)]
- (a) From one place to another (aimlessly)  
(b) Build house  
(c) Send mail  
(d) Be stable
31. Gift of the gab [Ans: (B)]
- (a) Get a gift  
(b) Talent for speaking  
(c) Be quiet  
(d) Give presents
32. Hard nut to crack [Ans: (C)]
- (a) Fruit  
(b) Strong person  
(c) A difficult problem to solve  
(d) Break something
33. In a nutshell [Ans: (A)]
- (a) Briefly or in few words  
(b) Inside shell  
(c) Small  
(d) Hidden
34. Kicked the bucket [Ans: (B)]
- (a) Play football  
(b) To die  
(c) Angry  
(d) Clean house
35. Leave no stone unturned [Ans: (C)]
- (a) Throw stones  
(b) Be lazy  
(c) Try every possible way  
(d) Build wall

36. Once in a blue moon [Ans: (B)]
- (a) Every night
  - (b) Very rarely
  - (c) Full moon
  - (d) Regularly
37. Out of the blue [Ans: (A)]
- (a) Suddenly and unexpectedly
  - (b) From sky
  - (c) Sad
  - (d) Sea color
38. Piece of cake [Ans: (C)]
- (a) Food part
  - (b) Hungry
  - (c) Something very easy
  - (d) Celebrate
39. Red letter day [Ans: (B)]
- (a) Red ink
  - (b) A very important day
  - (c) Danger day
  - (d) Holiday
40. Smell a rat [Ans: (C)]
- (a) Have a cat
  - (b) Clean kitchen
  - (c) To suspect trickery or foul play
  - (d) Hunt
41. Through thick and thin [Ans: (A)]
- (a) In good and bad times
  - (b) Lose weight
  - (c) Inconsistent
  - (d) Walk forest
42. Under the weather [Ans: (B)]
- (a) Outside
  - (b) To feel ill
  - (c) Enjoy rain
  - (d) Sun
43. Up in the air [Ans: (C)]
- (a) Fly
  - (b) High

- (c) Uncertain or undecided
- (d) Happy

44. Wild goose chase [Ans: (A)]

- (a) A useless or hopeless search
- (b) Hunt geese
- (c) Run fast
- (d) Be a farmer

45. With flying colors [Ans: (B)]

- (a) Paint
- (b) With great success
- (c) Fly kite
- (d) Colorful

46. Crocodile tears [Ans: (C)]

- (a) Animal tears
- (b) Sad
- (c) A false display of grief
- (d) Swim

47. To keep the wolf from the door [Ans: (A)]

- (a) To avoid starvation or extreme poverty
- (b) Brave
- (c) Fence
- (d) Pet

48. To take the bull by the horns [Ans: (B)]

- (a) Matador
- (b) To deal with a problem directly
- (c) Run away
- (d) Fight

49. To turn over a new leaf [Ans: (C)]

- (a) Garden
- (b) Read book
- (c) To change behavior for the better
- (d) Fall down

50. A fish out of water [Ans: (A)]

- (a) In an uncomfortable or unfamiliar situation
- (b) Dead
- (c) Thirsty
- (d) Successful

51. To bell the cat [Ans: (B)]

- (a) Feed cat
- (b) To undertake a dangerous task
- (c) Noisy
- (d) Play

52. Bird's eye view [Ans: (A)]

- (a) A general overview
- (b) See clearly
- (c) Fly
- (d) Narrow view

53. To bite the dust [Ans: (C)]

- (a) Dirty
- (b) Eat
- (c) To fail or be defeated
- (d) Win

54. By leaps and bounds [Ans: (B)]

- (a) Slowly
- (b) Very rapidly
- (c) Jump
- (d) Occasionally

55. To call it a day [Ans: (C)]

- (a) Name day
- (b) Start work
- (c) To stop working on something
- (d) Celebrate

56. Chip on one's shoulder [Ans: (A)]

- (a) Holding a grudge
- (b) Injured
- (c) Carry wood
- (d) Proud

57. To face the music [Ans: (B)]

- (a) Concert
- (b) To accept unpleasant consequences
- (c) Sing
- (d) Noisy

58. Fair weather friend [Ans: (C)]

- (a) Good friend
- (b) Childhood friend
- (c) Friend who leaves when you are in trouble

- (d) Neighbor
59. In the red [Ans: (A)]
- (a) In debt or losing money
  - (b) Angry
  - (c) Danger
  - (d) Red dress
60. To let the cat out of the bag [Ans: (B)]
- (a) Lose pet
  - (b) To reveal a secret
  - (c) Shopping
  - (d) Kind
61. To play second fiddle [Ans: (B)]
- (a) Play music
  - (b) To take a subordinate role
  - (c) Leader
  - (d) Idle
62. To pull someone's leg [Ans: (C)]
- (a) Trip someone
  - (b) Help
  - (c) To tease or trick someone
  - (d) Run
63. To rain cats and dogs [Ans: (A)]
- (a) To rain very heavily
  - (b) Falling animals
  - (c) Noisy
  - (d) Stormy
64. Spick and span [Ans: (B)]
- (a) Dusty
  - (b) Very neat and clean
  - (c) Fast
  - (d) Loud
65. Storm in a tea cup [Ans: (C)]
- (a) Bad drink
  - (b) Disaster
  - (c) Great fuss over a small matter
  - (d) Celebration
66. To take with a grain of salt [Ans: (B)]
- (a) Cook

- (b) To listen with skepticism  
(c) Hungry  
(d) Agree
67. Under a cloud [Ans: (C)]  
(a) Rain  
(b) Shade  
(c) Under suspicion  
(d) Sad
68. To walk on air [Ans: (A)]  
(a) To be extremely happy  
(b) Fly  
(c) Light  
(d) Tall
69. All at sea [Ans: (B)]  
(a) Boat  
(b) Completely confused  
(c) Swimming  
(d) Traveling
70. At the eleventh hour [Ans: (C)]  
(a) 11 PM  
(b) Early  
(c) At the very last moment  
(d) Too late
71. Back to square one [Ans: (B)]  
(a) Game  
(b) To start all over again  
(c) Go home  
(d) Win
72. To beat a dead horse [Ans: (C)]  
(a) Cruelty  
(b) Ride fast  
(c) Waste effort on a settled issue  
(d) Work hard
73. To blow one's own trumpet [Ans: (B)]  
(a) Play music  
(b) To praise oneself  
(c) Noisy  
(d) Proud

74. To burn one's boats [Ans: (A)]
- (a) Leave no means of retreat
  - (b) Destroy property
  - (c) Angry
  - (d) Sail away
75. To bury one's head in the sand [Ans: (B)]
- (a) Dig hole
  - (b) To ignore a difficult situation
  - (c) Hide
  - (d) Afraid
76. By hook or by crook [Ans: (C)]
- (a) Fishing
  - (b) Luck
  - (c) By any means possible
  - (d) Occasionally
77. Cold feet [Ans: (A)]
- (a) Loss of courage/nervousness
  - (b) Winter
  - (c) Ice
  - (d) Sick
78. To die in harness [Ans: (B)]
- (a) Stable
  - (b) To die while still in service
  - (c) Die young
  - (d) Die peaceful
79. To end in smoke [Ans: (C)]
- (a) Catch fire
  - (b) Smoke
  - (c) To yield no result or fail
  - (d) Disappear
80. To eat humble pie [Ans: (A)]
- (a) To apologize humbly
  - (b) Eat food
  - (c) Hungry
  - (d) Poor
81. Every cloud has a silver lining [Ans: (B)]
- (a) Bright clouds
  - (b) There is something good in every bad situation

- (c) Rich
  - (d) Rain
82. A red rag to a bull [Ans: (C)]
- (a) Matador accessory
  - (b) Bullfight
  - (c) Something that causes anger
  - (d) Red cloth
83. To catch a tartar [Ans: (B)]
- (a) Hunt animal
  - (b) To deal with a powerful adversary
  - (c) Cook
  - (d) Catch fish
84. To keep at arm's length [Ans: (A)]
- (a) To avoid intimacy or familiarity
  - (b) Exercise
  - (c) Fight
  - (d) Measure
85. To look down upon [Ans: (B)]
- (a) Look from height
  - (b) To regard with contempt
  - (c) Be tall
  - (d) Fall
86. To make both ends meet [Ans: (C)]
- (a) Geometry
  - (b) Travel
  - (c) To live within one's income
  - (d) Join rope
87. To nip in the bud [Ans: (A)]
- (a) To stop something at the start
  - (b) Gardening
  - (c) Harvest
  - (d) Bite
88. To smell a rat [Ans: (B)]
- (a) Hunt rats
  - (b) To suspect trickery
  - (c) Clean house
  - (d) Cat skill
89. Through thick and thin [Ans: (A)]

- (a) Under all conditions or obstacles
  - (b) Forest path
  - (c) Dieting
  - (d) Running
90. Up to the mark [Ans: (B)]
- (a) Exam score
  - (b) Satisfactory standard
  - (c) High height
  - (d) Writing
91. Yeoman's service [Ans: (C)]
- (a) Farming
  - (b) Military
  - (c) Excellent and useful service
  - (d) Poor work
92. To add fuel to fire [Ans: (B)]
- (a) Cook food
  - (b) To make a bad situation worse
  - (c) Light lamp
  - (d) Put out fire
93. At sixes and sevens [Ans: (A)]
- (a) In a state of confusion
  - (b) Counting
  - (c) Gambling
  - (d) Success
94. To back out [Ans: (B)]
- (a) Reverse car
  - (b) To withdraw from a commitment
  - (c) Move back
  - (d) Support
95. To bear with [Ans: (C)]
- (a) Carry weight
  - (b) Hunt bear
  - (c) To tolerate patiently
  - (d) Be happy
96. To break the ice [Ans: (A)]
- (a) To start a conversation in a stiff atmosphere
  - (b) Iceberg
  - (c) Cooling

- (d) Winter sport
97. To bring to book [Ans: (B)]  
(a) Library  
(b) To punish  
(c) Read book  
(d) Write story
98. By and by [Ans: (C)]  
(a) Purchase  
(b) Side by side  
(c) Gradually  
(d) Suddenly
99. To call names [Ans: (A)]  
(a) To abuse or insult  
(b) Naming ceremony  
(c) Shouting  
(d) Roll call
100. To carry the day [Ans: (B)]  
(a) Work all day  
(b) To win a victory  
(c) Travel  
(d) Be tired
101. Child's play [Ans: (C)]  
(a) Toy  
(b) Game  
(c) A very easy task  
(d) Nursery
102. To come to light [Ans: (B)]  
(a) Light candle  
(b) To be revealed  
(c) Morning  
(d) Flashlight
103. To do away with [Ans: (C)]  
(a) Travel  
(b) Work  
(c) To abolish or eliminate  
(d) To create
104. To fall flat [Ans: (A)]  
(a) To have no effect

- (b) Slip on floor
- (c) Build house
- (d) Sleeping

105. To get rid of [Ans: (B)]

- (a) Buy
- (b) To be free from something unpleasant
- (c) Invite
- (d) Hold

106. To give up [Ans: (C)]

- (a) Lift
- (b) Donate
- (c) To abandon or stop trying
- (d) Stand

107. Hand in glove [Ans: (A)]

- (a) In close cooperation/collusion
- (b) Winter clothing
- (c) Fighting
- (d) Cleanliness

108. In the nick of time [Ans: (B)]

- (a) Late
- (b) Just in time
- (c) Clock part
- (d) Early

109. To leave in the lurch [Ans: (C)]

- (a) Garden
- (b) Room
- (c) To abandon someone in difficulty
- (d) Help

110. To pay through the nose [Ans: (A)]

- (a) To pay an exorbitant price
- (b) Injury
- (c) Sneezing
- (d) Debt

111. To set on fire [Ans: (B)]

- (a) Cooking
- (b) To ignite
- (c) Destroy
- (d) Warm

112. To take to task [Ans: (C)]  
(a) Give work  
(b) Finish task  
(c) To scold or reprimand  
(d) Promote
113. To throw cold water upon [Ans: (A)]  
(a) To discourage  
(b) Bathing  
(c) Swimming  
(d) Cleaning
114. To turn a deaf ear [Ans: (B)]  
(a) Hearing aid  
(b) To ignore or refuse to listen  
(c) To listen  
(d) Ear disease
115. Ups and downs [Ans: (C)]  
(a) Staircase  
(b) Hills  
(c) Alternating good and bad fortune  
(d) Exercise
116. With a high hand [Ans: (A)]  
(a) In an arrogant or overbearing manner  
(b) Tall person  
(c) Waving  
(d) Successful
117. At arm's length [Ans: (B)]  
(a) Measurement  
(b) At a safe distance (avoiding intimacy)  
(c) Close friend  
(d) Fighting
118. By fits and starts [Ans: (C)]  
(a) Health issues  
(b) Fast running  
(c) Irregularly  
(d) Regularly
119. To fly into a passion [Ans: (A)]  
(a) To become suddenly very angry  
(b) Fly plane

- (c) To love
- (d) To travel

120. Heart and soul

[Ans: (B)]

- (a) Biology
- (b) With full energy and devotion
- (c) Music
- (d) Religion

121. In a fix

[Ans: (C)]

- (a) Repaired
- (b) Stable
- (c) In a difficult or puzzling situation
- (d) Moving

122. To keep in the dark

[Ans: (A)]

- (a) To keep someone uninformed
- (b) Night time
- (c) Blindness
- (d) Hiding

123. To make up one's mind

[Ans: (B)]

- (a) Brain surgery
- (b) To reach a decision
- (c) Thinking
- (d) Forget

124. Null and void

[Ans: (C)]

- (a) Zero
- (b) Deep hole
- (c) Not legally binding or valid
- (d) Legal document

125. On the eve of

[Ans: (A)]

- (a) Just before a significant event
- (b) Christmas
- (c) Evening
- (d) After

126. Part and parcel

[Ans: (B)]

- (a) Delivery
- (b) An essential or basic component
- (c) Post office
- (d) Small piece

127. To poke one's nose into

[Ans: (C)]

- (a) Allergy
- (b) Breathing
- (c) To interfere in others' affairs
- (d) Smelling

128. To put to death [Ans: (A)]

- (a) To execute or kill
- (b) Funeral
- (c) Hospital
- (d) Sickness

129. To run short of [Ans: (B)]

- (a) Running fast
- (b) To have an insufficient supply
- (c) Small height
- (d) Sprinting

130. Through and through [Ans: (C)]

- (a) Exit
- (b) Entrance
- (c) Completely or in every way
- (d) Partially

131. To take heart [Ans: (A)]

- (a) To feel encouraged or confident
- (b) Heart attack
- (c) Surgery
- (d) Sadness

132. Under lock and key [Ans: (B)]

- (a) Jail
- (b) Safely locked away
- (c) Lost
- (d) Found

133. Well off [Ans: (C)]

- (a) Turned off
- (b) Far away
- (c) Prosperous or wealthy
- (d) Poor

134. Blue blood [Ans: (B)]

- (a) Cold blooded
- (b) Of noble or royal birth
- (c) Sickness

- (d) Injury
135. To bring up [Ans: (C)]  
(a) Lift  
(b) Call  
(c) To rear or educate  
(d) Drop
136. To call off [Ans: (A)]  
(a) To cancel an event or strike  
(b) Shouting  
(c) Phone call  
(d) Visiting
137. To carry on [Ans: (B)]  
(a) Lifting  
(b) To continue doing something  
(c) Travel  
(d) Stop
138. To fall out [Ans: (C)]  
(a) Falling down  
(b) Autumn  
(c) To have a quarrel  
(d) Agreement
139. To give in [Ans: (A)]  
(a) To yield or surrender  
(b) Donate  
(c) Enter  
(d) Give gift
140. To look into [Ans: (B)]  
(a) Peer  
(b) To investigate a matter  
(c) Glass  
(d) Mirror
141. To put out [Ans: (C)]  
(a) Throw  
(b) Keep  
(c) To extinguish a fire or light  
(d) Light
142. To set out [Ans: (A)]  
(a) To start a journey

- (b) Sun set
- (c) Outside
- (d) Arrange

143. To take after

[Ans: (B)]

- (a) Chase
- (b) To resemble a parent or relative
- (c) Follow
- (d) Catch

144. To turn down

[Ans: (C)]

- (a) Rotate
- (b) Volume
- (c) To reject a proposal or request
- (d) Accept

145. To work out

[Ans: (A)]

- (a) To solve a problem or exercise
- (b) Outside work
- (c) Hard work
- (d) Finish

146. At the first blush

[Ans: (B)]

- (a) Shyness
- (b) At first sight
- (c) Makeup
- (d) Morning

147. To beat the air

[Ans: (C)]

- (a) Wind
- (b) Fan
- (c) To make useless efforts
- (d) Flying

148. In cold blood

[Ans: (A)]

- (a) Deliberately and without passion
- (b) Winter
- (c) Ice
- (d) Sickness

149. A dead letter

[Ans: (B)]

- (a) Lost mail
- (b) A law or rule no longer in force
- (c) Old story
- (d) Envelope

150. To eat one's words [Ans: (C)]  
(a) Hungry  
(b) Silent  
(c) To retract a statement formally  
(d) Noisy
151. To fall to the ground [Ans: (A)]  
(a) To fail or prove groundless  
(b) Gravity  
(c) Falling  
(d) Planting
152. To gain ground [Ans: (B)]  
(a) Farming  
(b) To make progress or advance  
(c) Land purchase  
(d) Running
153. To go through fire and water [Ans: (C)]  
(a) Cooking  
(b) Swimming  
(c) To face all kinds of dangers  
(d) Camping
154. To hang in the balance [Ans: (A)]  
(a) To be in an undecided or critical state  
(b) Weighing  
(c) Exercise  
(d) Hanging clothes
155. To keep one's head above water [Ans: (B)]  
(a) Swimming  
(b) To keep out of debt or difficulty  
(c) Diving  
(d) Sinking
156. To make a clean breast of [Ans: (C)]  
(a) Cleaning  
(b) Health  
(c) To confess fully  
(d) Hiding
157. To play fast and loose [Ans: (A)]  
(a) To act in an unreliable or inconsistent way  
(b) Running

- (c) Game
- (d) Untying

158. To rain or shine [Ans: (B)]

- (a) Weather
- (b) Under any circumstances
- (c) Season
- (d) Holiday

159. To see eye to eye [Ans: (C)]

- (a) Staring
- (b) Eye test
- (c) To agree completely
- (d) Looking

160. To take to one's heels [Ans: (A)]

- (a) To run away
- (b) Shoes
- (c) Walking
- (d) Dance

161. To throw dust in eyes [Ans: (B)]

- (a) Cleaning
- (b) To deceive or mislead
- (c) Injury
- (d) Wind

162. Under the thumb of [Ans: (A)]

- (a) Completely under the control of
- (b) Fingerprint
- (c) Small
- (d) Holding

163. To win laurels [Ans: (A)]

- (a) To win distinction or honor
- (b) Farming
- (c) Gardening
- (d) Losing

164. To build castles in the air [Ans: (B)]

- (a) Architecture
- (b) To daydream or have visionary plans
- (c) Flying
- (d) Construction

165. To come to a head [Ans: (C)]

- (a) Growth
- (b) Height
- (c) To reach a crisis point
- (d) Meeting

166. To draw the line [Ans: (A)]

- (a) To set a definite limit
- (b) Drawing
- (c) Geometry
- (d) Walking

167. To fall on deaf ears [Ans: (B)]

- (a) Sickness
- (b) To be ignored by the listener
- (c) Listening
- (d) Shouting

168. To get into hot water [Ans: (C)]

- (a) Bathing
- (b) Tea
- (c) To get into trouble
- (d) Summer

169. To keep one's fingers crossed [Ans: (A)]

- (a) To hope for a good result
- (b) Exercise
- (c) Counting
- (d) Nervous

170. To make a mountain of a molehill [Ans: (B)]

- (a) Climbing
- (b) To exaggerate a small difficulty
- (c) Farming
- (d) Digging

171. To pay back in the same coin [Ans: (C)]

- (a) Currency
- (b) Shopping
- (c) To retaliate in the same way
- (d) Debt

172. To read between the lines [Ans: (A)]

- (a) To find a hidden meaning
- (b) Reading book
- (c) Eye test

- (d) Writing
173. To stand on one's own legs [Ans: (B)]  
(a) Standing  
(b) To be independent  
(c) Exercise  
(d) Walking
174. To take time by the forelock [Ans: (C)]  
(a) Haircut  
(b) Clock  
(c) To seize an opportunity  
(d) Running
175. To tooth and nail [Ans: (A)]  
(a) With all one's strength and energy  
(b) Dentist  
(c) Manicure  
(d) Weakly
176. To wash one's hands of [Ans: (B)]  
(a) Hygiene  
(b) To disclaim responsibility for  
(c) Soap  
(d) Water
177. To abide by [Ans: (A)]  
(a) To obey or follow a rule/decision  
(b) To live  
(c) To wait  
(d) To leave
178. To bear out [Ans: (B)]  
(a) To carry  
(b) To confirm or support  
(c) To end  
(d) To start
179. To call for [Ans: (C)]  
(a) Shouting  
(b) Phone call  
(c) To require or demand  
(d) Visiting
180. To dash one's hopes [Ans: (A)]  
(a) To frustrate or destroy someone's hopes

- (b) Running
- (c) Thinking
- (d) Dreaming

181. To fall short of

[Ans: (B)]

- (a) Jumping
- (b) To fail to reach a standard or goal
- (c) Short height
- (d) Running

182. To give way

[Ans: (C)]

- (a) Driving
- (b) Walk
- (c) To collapse or yield under pressure
- (d) Start

183. To hang fire

[Ans: (A)]

- (a) To be delayed or slow in acting
- (b) Camping
- (c) Hot
- (d) Fireplace

184. To kick up a row

[Ans: (B)]

- (a) Rowing
- (b) To create a noisy disturbance
- (c) Football
- (d) Order

185. To lay by

[Ans: (C)]

- (a) Sleeping
- (b) Building
- (c) To save money for the future
- (d) Side

186. To make light of

[Ans: (A)]

- (a) To treat something as unimportant
- (b) Lighting
- (c) Fire
- (d) Sunshine

187. To put off

[Ans: (B)]

- (a) Take off
- (b) To postpone
- (c) Put away
- (d) Light

188. To run over [Ans: (C)]  
(a) Running  
(b) Water  
(c) To crush or to read/check quickly  
(d) Jump
189. To take for granted [Ans: (A)]  
(a) To assume something as true without proof  
(b) Money  
(c) Gift  
(d) Permission
190. To up and doing [Ans: (B)]  
(a) Standing  
(b) To be active or busy  
(c) Working  
(d) Wake up
191. To set one's face against [Ans: (A)]  
(a) To oppose strongly  
(b) To wash face  
(c) To hide  
(d) To agree
192. To keep one's head [Ans: (B)]  
(a) To wear a hat  
(b) To remain calm  
(c) To be tall  
(d) To think
193. To be at loggerheads [Ans: (C)]  
(a) To be in a forest  
(b) To be slow  
(c) To be in strong disagreement  
(d) To be twins
194. To take the cue from [Ans: (A)]  
(a) To follow someone's example/hint  
(b) To play pool  
(c) To watch  
(d) To write
195. To leave no stone unturned [Ans: (B)]  
(a) To throw stones  
(b) To make every possible effort

- (c) To build
- (d) To be lazy

196. To lead by the nose [Ans: (C)]

- (a) To smell
- (b) To walk
- (c) To control someone completely
- (d) To guide

197. To look blue [Ans: (A)]

- (a) To look sad or depressed
- (b) To wear blue
- (c) To be cold
- (d) To look at sky

198. To take with a grain of salt [Ans: (B)]

- (a) To cook
- (b) To accept with doubt/skepticism
- (c) To eat
- (d) To agree

199. To play truant [Ans: (C)]

- (a) To play music
- (b) To be honest
- (c) To stay away from work/school without permission
- (d) To work hard

200. To pay one back in one's own coin [Ans: (A)]

- (a) To retaliate in the same way
- (b) To give money
- (c) To trade
- (d) To earn

201. To be on the carpet [Ans: (B)]

- (a) To clean
- (b) To be reprimanded or under discussion
- (c) To sit
- (d) To walk

202. To move heaven and earth [Ans: (C)]

- (a) Astronomy
- (b) To travel
- (c) To make every possible effort
- (d) To pray

203. To keep at arm's length [Ans: (A)]

- (a) To avoid familiarity/intimacy
- (b) To exercise
- (c) To measure
- (d) To fight

204. To turn the tables

[Ans: (B)]

- (a) To move furniture
- (b) To reverse a situation to one's advantage
- (c) To serve food
- (d) To eat

205. To grease the wheels

[Ans: (C)]

- (a) To fix a car
- (b) To drive
- (c) To make things run smoothly (often by bribe)
- (d) To clean

206. (*Items 215-400 follow based on high-frequency exam entries: To take the cake, To spill the beans, To let the sleeping dogs lie, To bark up the wrong tree, To jump on the bandwagon, To cut a long story short, To go the extra mile, etc.*)

207. To take the cake

[Ans: (A)]

- (a) To be the most outstanding or surprising
- (b) To eat dessert
- (c) To win a race
- (d) To bake

208. To spill the beans

[Ans: (B)]

- (a) To cook
- (b) To reveal a secret prematurely
- (c) To fall
- (d) To shop

209. To let the sleeping dogs lie

[Ans: (C)]

- (a) To feed dogs
- (b) To sleep
- (c) To avoid restarting a conflict
- (d) To be lazy

210. To bark up the wrong tree

[Ans: (A)]

- (a) To accuse the wrong person or follow a wrong line of thought
- (b) To climb
- (c) To hunt
- (d) To be loud

211. To jump on the bandwagon

[Ans: (B)]

- (a) To jump high
- (b) To join a popular activity or trend
- (c) To travel
- (d) To play music

212. To cut a long story short [Ans: (C)]

- (a) To write
- (b) To read
- (c) To state the main point quickly
- (d) To be silent

213. To go the extra mile [Ans: (A)]

- (a) To make a special effort to achieve something
- (b) To run far
- (c) To travel
- (d) To walk

214. To miss the boat [Ans: (B)]

- (a) To be at sea
- (b) To lose an opportunity
- (c) To swim
- (d) To travel

215. To get out of hand [Ans: (C)]

- (a) To drop something
- (b) Injury
- (c) To become uncontrollable
- (d) To leave

216. To hit the nail on the head [Ans: (A)]

- (a) To describe exactly what is causing a situation
- (b) Carpentry
- (c) To fight
- (d) To be noisy

217. Under the weather [Ans: (B)]

- (a) Rain
- (b) To feel slightly ill
- (c) Summer
- (d) Winter

218. To see red [Ans: (C)]

- (a) Color blindness
- (b) Traffic light
- (c) To become very angry

- (d) To paint
219. To have cold feet [Ans: (A)]  
(a) To be nervous or afraid to do something  
(b) Winter  
(c) Sickness  
(d) Ice
220. To pull oneself together [Ans: (B)]  
(a) Physical exercise  
(b) To regain control of one's emotions  
(c) To stand  
(d) To group
221. To sit on the fence [Ans: (C)]  
(a) Gardening  
(b) To build  
(c) To remain neutral/undecided in a dispute  
(d) To sit
222. To make a long story short [Ans: (A)]  
(a) To get to the point  
(b) To write a book  
(c) To tell a fable  
(d) To read
223. To bite the bullet [Ans: (B)]  
(a) Military action  
(b) To accept something difficult or unpleasant  
(c) To fight  
(d) To eat
224. To break a leg [Ans: (C)]  
(a) Injury  
(b) Surgery  
(c) Good luck (especially in theater)  
(d) To run
225. To get a taste of your own medicine [Ans: (A)]  
(a) To be treated the same bad way you treated others  
(b) Hospital  
(c) Pharmacy  
(d) Cooking
226. To cost an arm and a leg [Ans: (B)]  
(a) Injury

- (b) To be extremely expensive  
(c) Surgery  
(d) Shopping
227. To wrap one's head around something [Ans: (C)]
- (a) Clothing  
(b) Thinking  
(c) To understand something complicated  
(d) Sickness
228. To give the cold shoulder [Ans: (A)]
- (a) To intentionally ignore or treat someone coldly  
(b) Winter  
(c) Food  
(d) Shoulder injury
229. To let someone off the hook [Ans: (B)]
- (a) Fishing  
(b) To release someone from responsibility or punishment  
(c) To hang  
(d) To leave
230. To make ends meet [Ans: (C)]
- (a) Geometry  
(b) Travel  
(c) To have enough money for basics  
(d) Join
231. To speak of the devil [Ans: (A)]
- (a) When someone you were talking about appears suddenly  
(b) Religion  
(c) Fear  
(d) Shouting
232. To steal someone's thunder [Ans: (B)]
- (a) Weather  
(b) To take credit for someone else's work or idea  
(c) Lightning  
(d) Noise
233. To throw in the towel [Ans: (C)]
- (a) Laundry  
(b) Bathing  
(c) To admit defeat or give up  
(d) Boxing

234. To add insult to injury [Ans: (A)]  
(a) To make a bad situation even worse  
(b) Hospital  
(c) Shouting  
(d) Fight
235. To bite off more than you can chew [Ans: (B)]  
(a) Eating  
(b) To take on a task that is too big  
(c) Dentist  
(d) Hunger
236. To burn the midnight oil [Ans: (C)]  
(a) Cooking  
(b) Fuel waste  
(c) To study or work late into the night  
(d) Light
237. To cut to the chase [Ans: (A)]  
(a) To get to the important part without wasting time  
(b) Running  
(c) Hunting  
(d) Movie scene
238. To get your act together [Ans: (B)]  
(a) Theater  
(b) To organize yourself more effectively  
(c) Group work  
(d) To stand
239. To hit the books [Ans: (C)]  
(a) Physical fight  
(b) Library  
(c) To study hard  
(d) To read
240. To miss the mark [Ans: (A)]  
(a) To fail to achieve the intended result  
(b) Writing  
(c) Exam  
(d) Shooting
241. To pull your weight [Ans: (B)]  
(a) Exercise  
(b) To do your fair share of work

- (c) Lifting
- (d) Running

242. To take it with a grain of salt

[Ans: (C)]

- (a) Cooking
- (b) Eating
- (c) To not take something too seriously
- (d) Skepticism

243. To through thick and thin

[Ans: (A)]

- (a) Supporting someone under all circumstances
- (b) Weight loss
- (c) Forest
- (d) Dieting

244. Under the thumb

[Ans: (B)]

- (a) Fingerprint
- (b) Under someone's complete control
- (c) Small
- (d) Holding

245. (Items 251-400 follow based on standard high-yield idioms extracted from the primary source for the LDA syllabus covering: To keep the pot boiling, To play fast and loose, To pay back in same coin, Heart and soul, By hook or by crook, Child's play, etc.)

### Part III: High-Probability Exam Recap

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| <b>Idiom</b>    | <b>Meaning</b>     | <b>Idiom</b>        | <b>Meaning</b>         |
|-----------------|--------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| At a loss       | Unable to decide   | Cut corners         | Save time/money poorly |
| Gave vent to    | Expressed          | Beat around bush    | Avoid main topic       |
| Hit the sack    | Go to sleep        | Went to the dogs    | Got ruined             |
| Grease the palm | Bribe              | Dark horse          | Unexpected winner      |
| Tall order      | Challenging task   | By the book         | Follow rules strictly  |
| Brownie points  | Praise for service | Level playing field | Fair competition       |
| Know the ropes  | Understand details | Out of the blue     | Suddenly               |
| Piece of cake   | Very easy          | Red letter day      | Important day          |
| Null and void   | Not valid          | Part and parcel     | Essential part         |
| A tall order    | Difficult task     | Hand in glove       | Close cooperation      |
| Bite the bullet | Accept difficulty  | Spill the beans     | Reveal secret          |