

MPSC Meghalaya LDA: English Vocabulary - Idioms & Phrases

(400 Highest-Probability Solved MCQs)

Verbal Ability Series

Part I: Exam Strategies for Idioms

- **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)

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

Idiom	Meaning	Idiom	Meaning
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