**Idioms:**

1. To cut a sorry figure

2. To leave no stone unturned

3. To live from hand to mouth

4. To turn over a new leaf

5. To win laurels

6. Not worth his salt

7. To take French leave

8. To keep abreast of

9. Jack of all trades

10. A Herculean task

11. All agog

12. Hobson’s choice

13. Open question

14. From pillar to post

15. Cakes and ale

16. At sixes and sevens

17. To take up the cudgels

18. Brown study

19. Hush money

20. Maiden speech

21. To turn a deaf ear

22. Fair and square

23. Wet behind the ears

24. Gift of the gab

25. Penelope’s web

26. Achilles’ feet

27. Between Scylla and Charybdis

28. To smooth somebody’s ruffled feathers-

29. Dot your I’s and cross your t’s…

30. Bedlam let loose

31. A close shave

32. A cog in the machine

33. Star-crossed

34. As the crow flies

35. To wash your hands of somebody or something

36. To have a bee in the bonnet-

37. To swallow a bitter pill- to accept a fact or an event which is unpleasant

38. An apple of discord

**Meanings:**

1. To make a poor impression

2. To try one’s level best

3. To have a scarce living

4. To change for the better

5. Distinguish oneself

6. A good-for-nothing fellow

7. To take leave without permission or information

8. To keep in touch

9. One who knows a little about many things

10. A work which needs tremendous efforts [Hercules is a famous Greek mythological character known for his superhuman powers of strength. He was supposedly the son of the god Zeus, and thus had abilities that normal humans did not have. At one point, Hercules was given a series of twelve horribly difficult tasks that he had to perform in order to atone for killing someone - a herculean task is one that would have been given to Hercules because it is such a huge job].

11. In a state of restless expectation, in a state of excitement

12. Accept or leave the offer [The phrase is said to originate with Thomas Hobson (1544–1631), a livery stable owner in Cambridge, England. To rotate the use of his horses, he offered customers the choice of either taking the horse in the stall nearest the door or taking none at all.]

13. A question without any generally agreed answer

14. From one resource to another

15. Merry-making

16. Confused and disordered

17. To defend tenaciously

18. Deep in thought

19. Bribe paid to secure silence

20. First public speech

21. To disregard

22. Straight forwardly

23. Inexperienced

24. Power of talking

25. A task which is never completed

( Penelope, who is regarded as the symbol of marital faithfulness, was asked by many suitors to marry one of them when Ulysses, her husband was absent for a long period of time. She used many tricks to avoid the suitors. One was: she told that she was given an order by gods in her dream that she would have to weave a shroud for her father-in-law, and then only she could marry. The suitors agreed. Penelope used to weave the shroud throughout the day, and at night, when everyone was asleep undid the day’s work. In that way, the work never finished and she deferred her admirers for some time.)

26. One weak point in an otherwise impenetrable system

(Achilles was a famous warrior in Greek mythology. His mother Thetis gave him a bath in the heavenly river, Styx in order to make him immortal. After the bath it was found that one of his heels had not touched the water. Thus he remained vulnerable at that portion of his body. And eventually, in the Trojan War, he was wounded there and died.

27. Between two equally dangerous situations

(In Greek mythology, Scylla was a cursed sea-monster with multiple heads. Using her long necks, she picked sailors from ships when they passed by her den. And Charybdis was a nearby whirlpool where ships often sank. So it was difficult for a ship to remained unharmed by either of these two dangers.)

28. to make someone feel less angry/ offended.

29. Take care of all the possible mistakes, be very attentive

30. An utterly chaotic situation (the gate of Bedlam. i.e Bethlehem-a lunatic asylum is opened—the consequence is understandable.)

31. a situation in which an almost certain accident is avoided by chance

32. A less important small part in a system

33. Not able to be happy because of bad luck

34. the shortest distance

35. to refuse to be responsible for some act

(The story of Pontius Pilate may be referred to here. Pilate though wanted to stop Jesus’ execution ultimately gave in against the demand of the blood-thirsty mob. He let Jesus be taken away for crucifixion but before doing that washed his hands in public indicating that he would not be responsible for the act or its consequence.)

36. To keep telling about something repeatedly while others do not consider it important

37. To accept a fact or an event which is unpleasant

38. Cause of all fights and quarrels

(Eris, the sea-god threw a golden apple in a party where he was not invited. “To the fairest” was inscribed on the apple. Three goddesses- Hera, Athena, and Aphrodite got entangled in a quarrel claiming the possession of this apple. The incident ultimately resulted in the abduction of Helen by Paris, and the Trojan War, and then the destruction of Troy.)