



Date : 24th Dec 2023

English Vocabulary - Idioms & Phrases

English

Q:1 Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.

Toffee-nosed

1. A person who thinks he is of a high social class and looks down on people of lower class
2. A solid, respectable and respected member of society
3. Continue to live at the same social standard we have lived at, even though we have money problems
4. A person who seems impolite/of low education at first, but who is usually of good character

Q:2 Select the correct meaning of the idiom in bold and italics.

Our hearts go out to the families of the victims of this terrible tragedy.

1. To receive or express praise for a job well done.
2. To feel sympathy for someone when they are distressed.
3. Well wishes for a deceased person.
4. To wish for things does not yield to anything.

Q:3 Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.

A lame excuse

1. No excuse
2. Explanation
3. Weak excuse
4. Strong excuse

Q:4 Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.

To be on thin ice

1. To be in faulty situation
2. To be in marginalised situation
3. To be in a risky situation
4. To be in limited scope

Q:5 Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.

A lot on one's plate

1. To eat a lot
2. A lot to do
3. To have a serious ailment
4. To serve all dishes on one plate

Q:6 Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.

A slap on the wrist

1. Punishment to an innocent.
2. Suggest something secretly.
3. A very mild punishment.
4. Beating someone too much on the wrist.

Q:7 Select the most appropriate option that can substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence.

You can ask Mr. Dinakar for anything; he would give you the shirt off his back.

1. is willing to do anything to help another person
2. is a person who makes the decisions
3. is a person who is selfish
4. is a person who is arrogant

Q:8 Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.

To stand one's ground

1. To maintain one's position
2. To fight for the same position
3. To stand up
4. To stand in one's own land

Q:9 Select the most appropriate meaning of the underlined idiom.

Even when the child accused the relative of inappropriate behaviour, the parents continued to play perfect hosts at the party instead of addressing the elephant in the room.

1. Ignoring someone who seeks attention through false stories
2. Punishing someone for inappropriate behaviour
3. Revealing the secrets
4. A big problem everyone is ignoring or afraid to talk about

Q:10 Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.

After a tiring day, the workers decided to _____ to restore their energy.

1. have an axe to grind
2. put a spoke in the wheel
3. bring to book
4. hit the sack



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Answer Key

1. (1)	2. (2)	3. (3)	4. (3)	5. (2)
6. (3)	7. (1)	8. (1)	9. (4)	10. (4)

Answers and Solutions

Q:1 The correct answer is **option 1** i.e. **A person who thinks he is of a high social class and looks down on people of lower class.**

Idioms: A group of words established by usage as having a meaning not deducible from those of the individual words.

'Toffee-nosed' means someone has a high opinion of themselves and a low opinion of other people.

Example: He's a **toffee-nosed** git – take no notice of him!

Q:2 The correct answer is **option 2** i.e. **To feel sympathy for someone when they are distressed.**

Idioms: A group of words established by usage as having a meaning not deducible from those of the individual words.

'Our hearts go out' means to feel sympathy for them.

Q:3 The correct answer is **option 3** i.e. **Weak excuse.**

Idioms: A group of words established by usage as having a meaning not deducible from those of the individual words.

'A lame excuse' means weak and unsatisfactory lies.

Example: To blame politicians is **a lame excuse.**

Q:4 The correct answer is **option 3** i.e. **To be in a risky situation.**

Idioms: A group of words established by usage as having a meaning not deducible from those of the individual words.

'To be on thin ice' means doing something risky which may have serious consequences.

Example: His firm is just **on thin ice** of bankruptcy.

Q:5 The correct answer is **option 2** i.e. **A lot to do.**

Idioms: A group of words established by usage as having a meaning not deducible from those of the individual words.

'A lot on one's plate' means to have a large amount of important work, to deal with.

Example: She has got **a lot on her plate** – especially with two new projects.

Q:6 The correct answer is **option 3** i.e. **A very mild punishment.**

Idioms: A group of words established by usage as having a meaning not deducible from those of the individual words.

'A slap on the wrist' means a punishment that is not very severe.

Example: The fine they gave her is just more or less **a slap on the wrist.**

Q:7 The correct answer is **option 1** i.e. **is willing to do anything to help another person.**

The idiom would give you the shirt off his back refers to someone who will do anything to help a person. Since the sentence itself talks about asking Mr. Dinakar anything, it is obvious that the meaning is someone who 'is willing to do anything to help another person'.

Hence, **is willing to do anything to help another person** is the correct answer.

Q:8 The correct answer is **option 1** i.e. **To maintain one's position**

To stand one's ground – This idiom means to stick with one's decision or maintain one's ground/position.

Hence, **To maintain one's position** is the correct answer.

Q:9 The correct answer is **option 4** i.e. **A big problem everyone is ignoring or afraid to talk about.**

The idiom the elephant in the room refers to a situation when people do not discuss a serious/controversial issue or choose to avoid it.

Hence, **A big problem everyone is ignoring or afraid to talk about** is the correct answer.

Q:10 The correct answer is **option 4** i.e. **hit the sack** have an axe to grind – to do something or say something with a selfish reason or motive
put a spoke in the wheel – to intentionally make it difficult for someone to do what they are planning to do.



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bring to book - officially punish someone or make them accountable for their behaviour.

hit the sack - to go to bed/sleep

After a tiring day, people go to sleep to restore energy.

Hence, **hit the sack** is the correct answer.

