



SHAKTHI ACADEMY - CHENNAI

Increasing Confidence ; Reaching Goals

Idioms Exercise (A)

Directions : For each of the following sentences four alternatives are given. You are required to choose the correct meaning of the Idioms given in italics in the sentences.

1. The boy turned a *deaf ear* to the pleadings of all his well-wishers.
(a) listened carefully (b) was deadly opposed
(c) posed indifference (d) did not pay any attention
2. We should give a *wide berth* to bad characters.
(a) keep away from (b) publicly condemn
(c) give publicity to (d) not sympathise with
3. Sumit had to look high *and low before* he could find his scooter key.
(a) nowhere (b) always
(c) everywhere (d) somewhere
4. You may rush *from pillar to post*, but you stand no chance of getting what you want without a bribe.
(a) be very busy
(b) rush in all directions and suffer much harassment.
(c) go to all post boxes and post offices.
(d) go to many offices and post letters.
5. At a party, he is always in *high spirits*.
(a) talkative (b) cheerful (c) drunk (d) uncontrollable
6. She rejected his proposal of *marriage point blank*.
(a) directly (b) pointedly (c) absurdly (d) briefly
7. We should guard against *our green-eyed* friends.
(a) rich (b) jealous (c) handsome (d) enthusiastic
8. It was clearly a case of the *pot calling the kettle black* when Jagjit said that Ramu was a thief.
(a) Someone criticizing another for a fault which he himself has.
(b) A person accusing another of being black.
(c) A person blaming another for something, he has not done.
(d) Both are guilty of the same mistake.



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9. Rahul fought *tooth and nail* to save his company.
(a) with weapons (b) as best as he could
(c) using unfair means (d) with strength and fury
10. The popularity of the yester year's superstar is *on the wane*.
(a) growing more (b) at its peak
(c) growing less (d) at rock bottom
11. The sight of the accident made my *flesh creep*.
(a) worried me (b) frightened me
(c) confused me (d) drew my attention
12. He is a *queer fish*. I have failed to understand him.
(a) funny person (b) sensitive person
(c) strange person (d) quarrelsome person
13. The involvement of teachers in the scheme of education proved to be a *mare's nest*
(a) a false invention (b) a noble thing (c) a successful (d) a timely sleep
14. Chandu used very ugly words against his kind uncle; he *threw down the gauntlet* before him.
(a) abused and insulted (b) threw the challenge
(c) behaved as an important person (d) put conditions
15. The present undergraduate syllabus leaves very little *elbow room* for teachers to be innovative.
(a) room for elbow (b) space (c) freedom (d) ground
16. The members of the group were *at odds* over the selection procedure.
(a) acting foolishly (b) in dispute (c) unanimous (d) behaving childishly
17. There is *no love lost* between the two neighbours.
(a) close friendship (b) intense dislike (c) a love-hate relationship (d) cool indifference
18. I did not mind what he was saying, he was only *talking through* his hat.
(a) talking insultingly (b) talking irresponsibly



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- (c) talking ignorantly (d) talking nonsense.
19. If you pass this difficult examination, it will be a *feather in your cap*.
(a) you will get a very good job
(b) additional achievement
(c) your parents will be very happy
(d) you will get a scholarship for higher studies.
20. If you rub him *the wrong way*, he is bound to react.
(a) annoy him (b) abuse him (c) flatter him (d) encourage him
21. There was opposition to the new policy by *the rank and file* of the government.
(a) the majority (b) the ordinary members
(c) the cabinet members (d) the official machinery
22. Dowry is a *burning question* of the day.
(a) a dying issue (b) a relevant problem
(c) an irrelevant problem (d) a widely debated issue
23. His voice gets *on my nerves*.
(a) makes me sad (b) irritates me (c) makes me ill (d) pierces my eardrums
24. Some people have a habit of *wearing their heart* on their sleeve.
(a) Avoiding being friendly with others.
(b) Saying something which is not to be taken seriously.
(c) Exposing their innermost feelings to others.
(d) Wasting their time on unnecessary details.
25. The doctor says that the patient has *turned the corner*.
(a) completely recover (b) become worse (c) passed the crisis (d) died

Exercise (B)

1. Komal was left *high and dry* by her friends when she lost all her money.
(a) isolated (b) rejected (c) wounded (d) depressed



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2. The party stalwarts have advised the president to take it *lying down* for a while.
(a) to show no reaction (b) to take rest
(c) to be on the defensive (d) to be cautious
3. A movement for the world unity is *in the offing*.
(a) at the end (b) about to start (c) on decline (d) in the air
4. In the Armed Forces, it is considered a great privilege to *die in harness*.
(a) die with honour (b) die on a horse back
(c) die while still working (d) die in the battlefield
5. Sita is not *cut out* for this kind of work.
(a) trained (b) suitable (c) recommended (d) considered
6. His most trusted friend proved to be *a snake in the grass*.
(a) cowardly and brutal (b) an unreliable and deceitful person
(c) a hidden enemy (d) low and mean
7. The politician was able to sway the mob with *his gift of the gab*.
(a) fluency of speech (b) flattering words
(c) abundance of promises (d) political foresight
8. The speaker gave a *bird's eye view* of the political conditions in the country,
(a) a detailed presentation (b) a biased view
(c) a general view (d) a personal view
9. After *sowing his wild oats* Ram has decided to stick to the straight and narrow path in future.
(a) becoming a gardener
(b) becoming a farmer
(c) a period of wildness
(d) going through a period of irresponsible pleasure seeking
10. They sold their house because it was a *white elephant*.
(a) an expensive one (b) a big one (c) a useless one (d) a rare find



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11. When he tells stories about himself, he *is inspired to draw the long bow*.
(a) get excited (b) exaggerate (c) get emotional (d) underrate
12. He was a king who ruled his subjects *with a high hand*.
(a) oppressively (b) kindly (c) conveniently (d) sympathetically
13. Discipline is *on the wane* in schools and colleges these days.
(a) increasing (b) declining (c) spreading (d) spiralling
14. He *did me a good turn* by recommending me for the post of Vice-president.
(a) became suddenly good (b) improved my prospects
(c) did an act of kindness (d) returned my kindness
15. Being an introvert, he will only *eat his heart out*.
(a) eat too much (b) keep brooding (c) invite trouble (d) suffer silently
16. The question of abolition of private property is *still a moot point*.
(a) unknown (b) undecided (c) not clear (d) uncertain
17. Sumit and I have known each other for a long time but when I met him the other day for some unknown reason, *he cut me dead*.
(a) abused me (b) treated me as a complete stranger
(c) shouted at me (d) showed dislike for me
18. I have come to know of your *hole and corner* method of dealing with people.
(a) strict (b) servile (c) secret (d) suspicious
19. Continuous interrogation finally made the man *spill the beans* and the disaster was averted.
(a) blurt out the truth (b) to give information
(c) to scatter the truth (d) to scatter the beans
20. The trade union's seemingly rightful demand is only a *stalking horse* to blackmail the management.
(a) trick (b) proposal (c) pretence (d) suggestion



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21. The teacher was as *good as his word*.

- (a) incapable of action (b) better than expected
(c) highly pretentious (d) ready to fulfil his promise

22. The reporter said to the editor. "You need not consult anyone. You can take *my word for it*."

- (a) believe what I say (b) use the work I suggest
(c) take my promise (d) listen to my explanation

23. If we give them this concession, it will be the *thin end of the wedge*.

- (a) a compromise on principles
(b) the least we could do for them
(c) the beginning of further concessions
(d) inadequate for their needs

24. He is always *picking holes* in every project.

- (a) asking irrelevant questions on (b) suggesting improvement in
(c) finding fault with (d) creating problems in

25. After the dinner was over she refused to *foot the bill*.

- (a) to pay (b) to prepare (c) to destroy (d) to play trick

Exercise (C)

1. Caesar was *done to death* by the conspirators.

- (a) attacked (b) removed (c) eliminated (d) murdered

2. His boss was always *breathing down* his neck.

- (a) abusing and ill-treating him (b) watching all his actions closely
(c) shouting loudly at him (d) giving him strenuous work

3. He is *not worth his salt* if he fails at this juncture.

- (a) quite worthless (b) very proud of himself
(c) quite depressed (d) very strange



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4. After having finished the last project, I find myself at *a loose end*.
(a) happy (b) on vacation (c) free of troubles (d) with nothing to do
5. With the existing management, the future of the company is in *doldrums*.
(a) dull (b) bright (c) uncertain (d) secure
6. It was such a strange affair that I would not make *head or tail* of it.
(a) face it (b) tolerate it (c) remember (d) understand it
7. A good teacher should have the *gift of the gab*.
(a) a good personality (b) a blent for acting
(c) a talent for speaking (d) an interest in discipline
8. She exhibited remarkable *sang froid* during the crisis.
(a) temper (b) irritation (c) composure (d) anger
9. My father strained *every nerve* to enable me to get settled in life.
(a) worked very hard (b) spent a large amount
(c) tried all tricks (d) bribed several persons
10. Though she herself was *as ugly as sin*, she had the audacity to criticize the looks of her companion.
(a) sinfully ugly (b) very ugly (c) exceptionally ugly (d) quite ugly
11. He *bids fair* to be an excellent cricketer.
(a) seems likely (b) is ambitious (c) is confident (d) is unlikely
12. He does not like to be friendly with Sarla. He always gives *her a cold shoulder*.
(a) pushes her with his shoulder wherever they meet
(b) insult her in the presence of others
(c) tries to be unfriendly by taking no notice of her
(d) argues with her on any issue
13. It was he who put a *spoke in my wheel*.
(a) tried to cause an accident (b) helped in the execution of the plan



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- (c) thwarted the execution of the plan (d) destroyed the plan
14. The captain played with determination because the honour of the team was at *stake*.
(a) very tense (b) at the top (c) in danger (d) appropriate
15. His promotion is *on the cards*.
(a) due (b) evident (c) certain (d) probable
16. He resigned the post of *his own accord*.
(a) according to his judgement (b) which he liked
(c) voluntarily and willingly (d) according to his convenience
17. Being out of job, he is *down in the mouth* these days.
(a) out of spirits (b) always in a fighting mood
(c) become smelly (d) always telling lies.
18. He *faced the music* for reaching home late.
(a) faced punishment (b) faced entertainment
(c) faced reprimand (d) faced pleasure
19. While the ladies continued their *small talk* in the drawing room he felt bored.
(a) light conversation (b) gossip (c) backbiting (d) whispering
20. He was *carried off his feet* when he was declared to have won the prize.
(a) became delirious (b) danced on his toes
(c) was dizzy (d) was wild with excitement
21. The trial was so important that the entire proceedings were held in *camera*.
(a) photographed (b) made into film (c) secret (d) not open to the public
22. She was in a *brown study* and not notice my entrance.
(a) reverie (b) fear (c) sleep (d) dream
23. The authorities *took him to task* for his negligence.
(a) forced him to resign (b) suspended his assignment



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- (c) reprimanded him (d) gave him additional work

24. I did not know that he was *pulling my leg* all the time.

- (a) befooling me (b) degrading me
(c) defaming me (d) complimenting

25. To tell you in a *nutshell*, lust for power and money has almost spoiled him.

- (a) as objectively as possible (b) in simple and brief manner
(c) an actual experience described vividly (d) to take in confidence

Exercise (D)

1. He is a plain, simple and sincere man. He will always call a *spade a spade*.

- (a) say something to be taken seriously
(b) desist from making controversial statement
(c) find meaning or purpose in your action
(d) avoid controversial situations

2. She is a *cut above* other teachers in the schools.

- (a) inferior (b) worthy (c) superior (d) worthless

3. Harassed by repeated acts of injustice he decided to *put his foot down*.

- (a) resign (b) not to yield (c) withdraw (d) accept the proposal unconditional

4. At Christmas, even the elderly fathers paint *the town red*.

- (a) indulge in rioting (b) paint the house red
(c) spill red wine (d) have a lively time

5. His letters to his ward *speak volumes* for his forbearance and good sense.

- (a) show indications of (b) speak ill of
(c) are intended to impress (d) serve as strong testimony

6. He is in the habit of *chewing die cud*.

- (a) accusing other (b) crying over spilt milk
(c) forgetting things (d) to muse on

7. I just paid him a *left handed compliment*



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- (a) an honest (b) a well deserved (c) an insincere (d) a flattering
8. The new C.M. *stuck his neck out* today and promised 10 kgs free wheat a month for all rural families.
(a) extended help (b) took an oath
(c) caused embarrassment (d) took a risk
9. He *burnt his fingers* by interfering in his neighbour's affairs.
(a) got rebuked (b) got himself insulted
(c) burnt himself (d) got himself into trouble
10. When the police came, the thieves *took to their heels*.
(a) were taken by surprise (b) took to flight
(c) took shelter in a tall building (d) unconditionally surrendered
11. The dispute regarding the emoluments of junior doctors *came to a head* this week.
(a) settled amicably (b) reached a crisis
(c) took a turn for the better (d) resulted in senseless violence
12. He is a strange fellow, it is very difficult to deal with him, it seems that he has *a bee in his bonnet*
(a) an achievement to be proud of
(b) an obsession about something
(c) to face problems as a result of his senseless actions
(d) a peculiar habit of confusing others
13. It will be wise on your part to let the *bygones be bygones*.
(a) resist the past (b) ignore the past
(c) recollect the past (d) revive the past
14. The boy had a *hair-breadth* escape from a street accident.
(a) lucky (b) easy (c) narrow (d) quick
15. In spite of the efforts of all peace loving people, world peace is still a *far cry*.
(a) an abstract ideal (b) a long way off



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- (c) an impracticable idea (d) out of reach
16. The management dismissed him and *made no bones* about it.
(a) made no secret of it (b) did not consult anyone
(c) did not defend the act (d) had no scruple about it
17. He has reached present position in his job through *elbow grease*.
(a) his persistent fighting (b) his good connections
(c) flattering his superiors (d) his hard work
18. I am afraid there is something *fishy* about the Bofors deal.
(a) full of fish (b) very clear (c) black at the bottom (d) as lucid as water
19. Ram could not get to Kolkata for vacation since he was *banking on* his arrears of pay which he did not get in time.
(a) depending on his bank (b) sloping on
(c) relying on (d) calling on
20. In the organized society of today no individual or nation can *plough a lonely furrow*.
(a) remain unaffected (b) do without the help of others
(c) survive in isolation (d) remain non-aligned
21. He always follows *cut and dried* religious dogmas.
(a) works for religion (b) inflicts injuries
(c) unalterable (d) behaves honestly
22. The new economic policy is likely to *run into rough weather*.
(a) make things difficult (b) confuse matters
(c) encounter difficulties (d) create problems
23. Sumit thought he was very clever but found himself *in a soup*.
(a) involved (b) ruined (c) in trouble (d) stranded
24. He cannot make *both ends meet*
(a) work hard (b) manage the business
(c) earn enough (d) control affairs



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25. The soldiers laid *down their arms*.

- (a) put their arms on the ground (b) surrendered
(c) refused to obey orders (d) put the arms in their place

Exercise (E)

1. India was in a *pretty pass* over the question of signing the CTBT.

- (a) in a beautiful passage (b) a pretty way
(c) in a difficulty (d) in a Problem

2. The scenery of Kashmir *beggars* description.

- (a) beyond the power of description (b) beg for description
(c) describe a beggar (d) description of a beggar

3. As her result is likely to be declared in a day or so she is on *tenter hooks* these days.

- (a) sitting on hooks (b) confuse
(c) pleased (d) anxious suspense

4. It is a pity that our politicians are more interested in the *loaves and fishes* than with the uplift of the poor.

- (a) bread and butter (b) kinds of fishes
(c) worldly benefits (d) means of power

5. Eloquent lamentations regarding the fate of the flora and fauna are certain to be rendered as a *cry in the wilderness*.

- (a) a cry in vain (b) an unpleasant situation
(c) a cry with a laughter (d) a laughter having no end

6. India *carried the day* by defeating Australia in hockey series.

- (a) lose (b) loose (c) win (d) decisive victory

7. In modern democratic societies *lynch law* seems to have become a common feature in almost all the spheres of life.

- (a) law of the payment (b) law of the constitution
(c) law of the mob (d) law of the underworld

8. India must not expect any super power at the *beck and call* at the time of attack.

- (a) at the service (b) ask for service (c) at the back of (d) call to help



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9. The Principal proved to be a *wet blanket* at the party of the students.
(a) discouraged from enjoying (b) damp clothes
(c) blanket wet in the rain (d) cold blank
10. In a parliamentary democracy the Prime Minister is at the helm of *national affairs*.
(a) in the main position (b) in the centre
(c) helm of a boat (d) centre of attraction
11. The arrival of the mother-in-law in the family proved a *rift-in the lute*.
(a) brought about disharmony
(b) brought about a disciplined atmosphere
(c) caused unnecessary worries
(d) caused a pleasant atmosphere
12. Seema is a little *hard of hearing*.
(a) inaudible (b) disinterested (c) deaf (d) insensitive
13. The statement made by Pakistan about Kashmir problem was *Gall and Wormwood* to every Indian.
(a) woodworm (b) a source of anger (c) a great fuss (d) beyond reason
14. You cannot *have your cake and eat it too*.
(a) enjoy forever (b) have it both ways
(c) run away from responsibility (d) absolve yourself of guilt
15. He is an eloquent speaker and is never *at a loss* for a suitable word.
(a) under a loss (b) to lose something
(c) to be confused (d) suffer a loss
16. He is accused of *sitting on the fence*.
(a) confused (b) observing the scene
(c) hesitating between two options (d) resting on the fence
17. Mohan was over *head and ears* in love with Reena and insisted on marrying her.
(a) excessively (b) in the long run (c) with all efforts (d) with all might
18. This regular absenteeism is a *bad bussiness* since no work is being completed.
(a) bad for business (b) unbusiness like



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- (c) an unfortunate event (d) creating ill will
19. Why do you wish to tread *on their toes*?
- (a) to give offence to them (b) To follow them grudgingly
(c) To treat them indifferently (d) to be kicked by them
20. The people were *all agog* at the airport at the arrival of our victorious team.
- (a) all ready (b) in a state of excitement
(c) a ringing bell (d) nervous
21. On the sight of the thieves in the night, my neighbour developed *cold feet* and not even raise his voice.
- (a) to show indifference (b) to get afflicted with cold
(c) to fall down (d) to feel frightened
22. My friend *got the sack* from his first job.
- (a) resigned (b) got tired (c) was demoted (d) was dismissed
23. Our forces *made a mincemeat* of the enemy.
- (a) warned (b) did no care for
(c) appealed for cease-fire (d) destroyed completely
24. They have decided to go *hand in hand* in this business.
- (a) work in competition (b) keep parallel accounts
(c) move in unison (d) make joint venture with others
25. Qualities of character are *at a discount* in this material world.
- (a) not in demand (b) out of question
(c) at a disadvantage (d) unsuitable

Answers :

Idioms and Phrases

Exercise (A)

1. (d) 2. (a) 3. (c) 4. (b) 5. (b) 6. (a) 7. (b) 8. (a) 9. (d) 10. (c) 11. (b) 12. (c) 13. (a)
14. (b) 15. (c) 16. (b) 17. (b) 18. (d) 19. (b) 20. (a) 21. (b) 22. (d) 23. (b) 24. (c) 25. (c)



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Exercise (B)

1. (a) 2. (a) 3. (b) 4. (c) 5. (b) 6. (c) 7. (a) 8. (c) 9. (d) 10. (a) 11. (b) 12. (a) 13. (b)
14. (c) 15. (d) 16. (b) 17. (b) 18. (c) 19. (b) 20. (c) 21. (d) 22. (a) 23. (c) 24. (c) 25. (a)

Exercise (C)

1. (d) 2. (b) 3. (a) 4. (d) 5. (c) 6. (d) 7. (c) 8. (c) 9. (a) 10. (a) 11. (a) 12. (c) 13. (c)
14. (c) 15. (c) 16. (c) 17. (a) 18. (c) 19. (a) 20. (d) 21. (d) 22. (a) 23. (c) 24. (a) 25. (b)

Exercise (D)

1. (b) 2. (c) 3. (b) 4. (d) 5. (d) 6. (d) 7. (c) 8. (d) 9. (d) 10. (b) 11. (b) 12. (b) 13. (b) 14. (c)
15. (c) 16. (d) 17. (d) 18. (c) 19. (c) 20. (b) 21. (c) 22. (c) 23. (c) 24. (c) 25. (b)

Exercise (E)

1. (c) 2. (a) 3. (d) 4. (c) 5. (a) 6. (c) 7. (c) 8. (a) 9. (a) 10. (a) 11. (a) 12. (c) 13. (b)
14. (b) 15. (c) 16. (c) 17. (a) 18. (c) 19. (a) 20. (b) 21. (d) 22. (d) 23. (d) 24. (c) 25. (c)



Shakthi