

SSC Exams English Practice Challenge Quiz for Beginners

Direction (1-15): Four alternatives are given for the Idioms/Phrase printed in bold. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of Idiom/Phrase.

Q1. Come a cropper

- (a) Fail badly
- (b) End quarrel
- (c) To be undecided
- (d) Keep silence

S1. Ans.(a)

Sol. Come a cropper: Fail badly, usually when you are expected to do well.

Q2. Sweep under the rug

- (a) Blown out of proportion
- (b) Heavily publicized
- (c) Forgotten by the people easily
- (d) To avoid dealing with

S2. Ans.(d)

Sol. Sweep under the rug: To avoid discussing or dealing with (something negative or troubling).

Q3. Economical with the truth

- (a) Falsehood
- (b) To be truthful
- (c) To trust easily
- (d) Get hurt by speaking the truth

S3. Ans.(a)

Sol. Economical with the truth: Not fully truthful; deceitful, often by manipulating language or omitting certain details.

Q4. Egg on

- (a) In an untidy state
- (b) In a dilemma
- (c) To incite
- (d) In bodily form

S4. Ans.(c)

Sol. Egg on: To encourage, goad, or incite someone into action.

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Q5. Lay by

- (a) Save money
- (b) Dismiss temporarily
- (c) Plan building
- (d) Pardon

S5. Ans.(a)

Sol. Lay by: To save or reserve something, especially money, for future use.

Q6. The balloon goes up

- (a) To be attentive
- (b) A situation becoming critical
- (c) Something turning advantageous
- (d) To rise high in career

S6. Ans.(b)

Sol. The balloon goes up: The situation becomes serious, critical, chaotic, or troublesome.

Q7. From the horse's mouth

- (a) From a reliable source
- (b) From an illegal source
- (c) From a costly source
- (d) From an unreliable source

S7. Ans.(a)

Sol. From the horse's mouth: From the original or most reliable source.

Q8. Sitting duck

- (a) Vulnerable to an easy attack
- (b) To own a major share in a business partnership
- (c) Completely alone
- (d) A person having excessive emotional attachment to something

S8. Ans.(a)

Sol. Sitting duck: Something that is unprotected and vulnerable to an easy attack.

Q9. Drive home

- (a) Find one's roots
- (b) Make clearly understood
- (c) To delay a little longer
- (d) To withdraw something

S9. Ans.(b)

Sol. Drive home: Make something clearly and fully understood.

Q10. Wind up

- (a) Affect adversely
- (b) Bring to an end
- (c) Form a habit
- (d) Unusual

S10. Ans.(b)

Sol. Wind up: To bring something to a finish; end something.

Q11. All Thumbs

- (a) To give your best to achieve a difficult goal
- (b) Awkward and clumsy especially with one's hands
- (c) To examine thoroughly to reach a conclusion
- (d) To attend a function with all excitement

S11. Ans.(b)

Sol. All thumbs: Physically awkward, especially with respect to the hands.

Q12. Kick up a row

- (a) To serve in an exemplary manner
- (b) To be popular
- (c) To take a right decision
- (d) To start a fight

S12. Ans.(d)

Sol. Kick up a row: To be very vocal in one's displeasure about something; to make a scene.

Q13. Go round the houses

- (a) Criticize or scold severely
- (b) Unnecessarily long time to get to the point
- (c) To get utterly destroyed
- (d) Be ready for something

S13. Ans.(b)

Sol. Go round the houses: To waste one's time and energy saying unimportant things before getting to one's point.

Q14. Pull a rabbit out of a hat

- (a) To let something happen and have no control over it
- (b) To do something unexpected
- (c) To be someone worth having
- (d) To make a special effort

S14. Ans.(b)

Sol. Pull a rabbit out of a hat: To do something surprising and seemingly impossible.

Q15. Cast down

- (a) Make evident
- (b) Deject
- (c) To complete
- (d) To publish

S15. Ans.(b)

Sol. Cast down: to make (a person) discouraged or dejected

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Direction (16-30): In the following questions, sentences are given with blanks to be filled in with an appropriate word(s). Four alternatives are suggested for each question. Choose the correct alternative out of the four as your answer.

Q16. Grandmother has a good memory; she can remember things which _____ many years ago.

- (a) had happened
- (b) have happened
- (c) happened
- (d) happens to be

S16. Ans.(c)

Sol. Subject + V2(past form of verb)+ Object.....+ ago.

Q17. I _____ her among the crowd just now.

- (a) have glimpsed
- (b) had glimpsed
- (c) have been glimpsing
- (d) glimpsed

S17. Ans.(d)

Sol. When 'just now' means a very short time ago. It takes past form of the verb i.e.V2.

Q18. Lost time is _____ again, and what we call time enough always proves little enough.

- (a) found never
- (b) find never
- (c) never found
- (d) never been found

S18. Ans.(c)

Sol. 'Never', 'Seldom', 'Always' are used before the 'Main verb'. Also the sentence is in 'passive voice'. Hence option C is the correct choice.

Q19. To such a degree _____ that people rebuked him.

- (a) he made a noise
- (b) did he make a noise
- (c) he had made a noise
- (d) did he make noise

S19. Ans.(b)

Sol. Sentences beginning with 'To such a point, 'To such a degree', 'To such an extent' take inversion form i.e. "To such a degree + H.V. (auxiliary) +Subject + M.V." Moreover 'make a noise' is the correct idiomatic expression not 'make noise'.

Q20. I'm going to adopt her as _____ as Julie and I get married.

- (a) sooner
- (b) quickly
- (c) earlier
- (d) soon

S20. Ans.(d)

Sol. Soon means 'a short time after then' i.e. in or after a short time.

Early means 'near the beginning of a period of time we are talking about'. Early does not mean soon. Moreover, comparative degree is not needed.

While we use quickly to refer to the speed with which something is done.

Hence option D is the correct choice.

Q21. Now that she saw Justin again, he was _____ interesting and a little older than she had remembered him.

- (a) rather less
- (b) fairly less
- (c) rather lesser
- (d) absolutely quite less

S21. Ans.(a)

Sol. We use rather with more and less + an adjective or adverb to make a comparison with something. Fairly is used with 'pleasant positive degree of adjectives' while 'absolutely quite' is a wrong usage.

Q22. We prefer to work with a comparatively _____ number of clients.

- (a) smaller
- (b) fewer
- (c) small
- (d) lesser

S22. Ans.(c)

Sol. 'Comparatively + Positive Degree of Adjective' is the correct grammatical usage.

Q23. I guess so, but I wonder sometimes if heredity is _____ factor.

- (a) a more major
- (b) the most major
- (c) the more major
- (d) the major

S23. Ans.(d)

Sol. 'Major' is positive degree in form but a 'superlative degree' in sense. Hence it doesn't take 'more' or 'most' before itself.

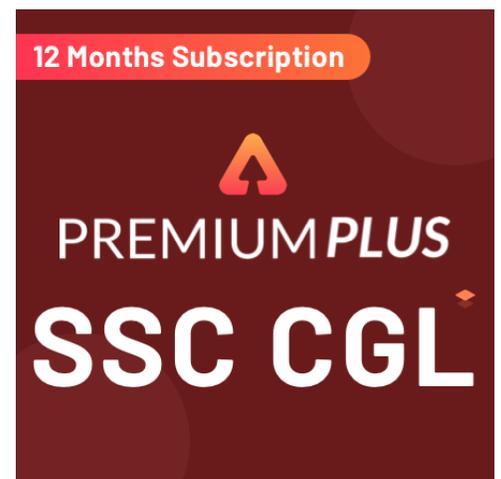
Q24. _____ the effect of heat waves is vital to ensuring a high turnout in the elections by making it safe for voters.

- (a) Vitiating
- (b) Mitigating
- (c) Laminating
- (d) Ruing

S24. Ans.(b)

Sol. Mitigate: to make something less severe or less unpleasant.

Hence option B is the correct choice.



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Q25. The contractors in turn _____ all labour laws and do not even pay minimum wages.

- (a) clout
- (b) rout
- (c) flout
- (d) lout

S25. Ans.(c)

Sol. Flout is a verb which means openly disregard (a rule, law, or convention).

Q26. He was _____ at being excluded from the meeting.

- (a) vanguard
- (b) peeved
- (c) upfront
- (d) savant

S26. Ans.(b)

Sol. Peeved: Aroused to impatience or anger.

Hence option B is the correct choice.

Q27. Many of these locations are still _____ in intrigue, with their goings-on staying behind closed doors.

- (a) shrieked
- (b) debatable
- (c) parched
- (d) shrouded

S27. Ans.(d)

Sol. Shriek: utter a high-pitched piercing sound or words, especially as an expression of terror, pain, or excitement.

Shroud: cover or envelop so as to conceal from view.

Hence option D is the correct choice.

Q28. Still a _____ of spots across the globe are entirely forbidden to outside travelers.

- (a) cast
- (b) bloat
- (c) slew
- (d) stench

S28. Ans.(c)

Sol. Slew: a large amount or number.

Stench: a strong and very unpleasant smell.

Hence option C is the correct choice.

Q29. I thought he _____ the part of Hamlet with great skill.

- (a) came off
- (b) fell through
- (c) put off
- (d) carried off

S29. Ans.(d)

Sol. Come off: become detached.

Fall through: fail.

Carry off: to perform or manage successfully.

Hence option D is the correct choice.

Q30. I'm _____ part of my wages every week to buy a bike.

(a) putting down

(b) putting by

(c) putting on

(d) putting out

S30. Ans.(b)

Sol. Put down: to insult.

Put by: to save money for a particular purpose.

Put on: to dress oneself.

Put out: to publish.

Hence option B is the correct choice.

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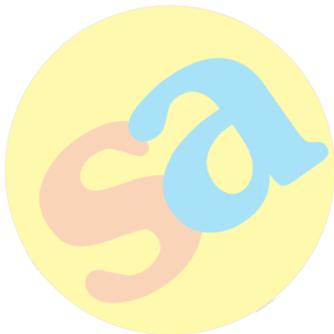


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