

Idioms G Strategy Bible



Hindi & English G Strategy Idioms 1

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#	English Idiom	Hindi Equivalent	Meaning
1.	When in Rome, do as the Romans do	Jaisa desh waisa bhash	Adapt to the culture of the place you are visiting.
2.	All's well that ends well	Anth bhala to sab bhala	If the outcome is good, the difficulties faced don't matter.
3.	Where there's a will, there's a way	Jahan chaah, wahaan raah	If you are determined, you will find a solution.
4.	As you sow, so shall you reap	Jaisi karni waisi bharni	You get what you give (karma).
5.	No use crying over spilt milk	Ab pachhtaye hot kya jab chidiya chug gayi khet	Don't regret past mistakes that cannot be fixed.
6.	A bad workman blames his tools	Naach na jaane aangan tedha	Blaming circumstances for one's own lack of skill.
7.	Empty vessels make the most noise	Thotha chana baaje ghana	People with little knowledge talk the most.
8.	The grass is always greener on the other side	Door ke dhol suhawane	Other people's situations always look better than your own.
9.	Familiarity breeds contempt	Ghar ki murgi daal barabar	We tend to undervalue things/people close to us.
10.	It takes two to tango	Ek haath se taali nahi bajti	Both parties are responsible for an argument/situation.

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11.	A drowning man catches at a straw	Doobe ko tinke ka sahara	Someone in trouble will accept any help, no matter how small.
12.	Between the devil and the deep blue sea	Aage kuan peeche khai	Stuck between two difficult situations.
13.	Barking dogs seldom bite	Jo garajte hain wo baraste nahi	People who threaten the most rarely take action.
14.	Diamond cuts diamond	Loha lohe ko kaat-ta hai	A strong opponent is needed to defeat a strong rival.
15.	The pot calling the kettle black	Ulta chor kotwal ko daante	A guilty person accusing someone else of the same fault.
16.	A nine days' wonder	Chaar din ki chandni phir andheri raat	Something that is popular for a very short time.
17.	Rome was not built in a day	Hatheli par sarson nahi jamti	Great work takes time and patience.
18.	Patience is a virtue	Sabar ka phal meetha hota hai	Waiting calmly brings good results.
19.	A little knowledge is a dangerous thing	Neem hakim khatra-e-jaan	Incomplete knowledge can lead to bad consequences.
20.	Cut your coat according to your cloth	Chadar dekh kar pair phailana	Live within your means/budget.
21.	Something is better than nothing	Bhaage bhoot ki langoti bhali	Salvage whatever you can from a loss.

22.	Once bitten, twice shy	Doodh ka jala chhachh bhi phook kar peeta hai	A bad experience makes you cautious for the future.
23.	Two kings cannot rule one kingdom	Ek miyan mein do talwarein nahi reh sakti	Two powerful leaders cannot coexist in the same position.
24.	In the land of the blind, the one-eyed man is king	Andhon mein kana raja	A slightly capable person is highly valued among incompetent ones.
25.	You cannot live in Rome and fight with the Pope	Paani mein rehkar magar se bair	You shouldn't make enemies with those you depend on.
26.	Sour grapes	Khatte angoor	Pretending to dislike something you cannot have.
27.	To add insult to injury	Jale par namak chidakna	Making a bad situation worse.
28.	Once in a blue moon	Eid ka chand	Something that happens very rarely.
29.	A drop in the ocean	Oont ke muh mein jeera	A very small amount compared to what is needed.
30.	Casting pearls before swine	Bandar kya jaane adrak ka swad	Offering something valuable to someone who doesn't understand its worth.
31.	Rod is the logic of fools	Laaton ke bhoot baaton se nahi maante	Some people only understand force/punishment, not words.
32.	A guilty conscience needs no accuser	Chor ki daadhi mein tinka	A guilty person often gives themselves away.

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33.	Might is right	Jiski laathi uski bhains	The powerful dictate the rules.
34.	Crying in the wilderness	Bhains ke aage been bajana	Trying to explain something to someone who won't understand.
35.	Kill two birds with one stone	Ek teer se do shikaar	Achieving two goals with a single action.
36.	Misfortune never comes alone	Garibi mein aata geela	Problems tend to come all at once.
37.	Health is wealth	Jaan hai to jahan hai	If you are alive/healthy, you have everything.
38.	Self-help is the best help	Apna haath jagannath	Relying on yourself is the best way to get things done.
39.	Much ado about nothing	Khoda pahaad nikli chuhiya	Big effort for a very small result.
40.	Building castles in the air	Mungeri lal ke haseen sapne	Daydreaming about impossible things.
41.	Tit for tat	Sau sunar ki ek lohar ki	One powerful blow is equal to a hundred weak ones.
42.	To talk big	Chota muh badi baat	Boasting or saying things beyond one's station.
43.	Something is fishy	Daal mein kuch kala hai	Something seems suspicious or wrong.
44.	Make a mountain out of a molehill	Raai ka pahaad banana	Exaggerating a small problem.
45.	Truth fears no test	Sanch ko aanch nahi	An honest person has nothing to worry about.
46.	To grind one's own axe	Apna ullu seedha karna	To act for personal gain/selfish reasons.

47.	Out of the frying pan into the fire	Aasman se gira khajoor mein atka	Escaping one problem only to fall into a worse one.
48.	Apple of one's eye	Aankh ka tara	Someone very precious and loved.
49.	A snake in the grass	Aasteen ka saanp	A hidden enemy or traitor.
50.	Short supply, huge demand	Ek anar sau bimar	One item wanted by many people.

Test based on the above Set.

1. Find the meaning of the idiom: A bad workman blames his tools

- A) A skilled worker always demands the best equipment
- B) Blaming external circumstances for one's own lack of skill
- C) Tools are essential for completing any difficult task
- D) A good leader takes responsibility for the team's failure

2. Find the meaning of the idiom: Empty vessels make the most noise

- A) People with little knowledge often talk the most
- B) A hungry person is always the loudest
- C) Rich people tend to show off their wealth
- D) Silence is golden, but speech is silver

3. Find the meaning of the idiom: The grass is always greener on the other side

- A) Nature is beautiful regardless of where you look
- B) Hard work always yields better results eventually
- C) Other people's situations always look better than your own
- D) You should take care of your own garden first

4. Find the meaning of the idiom: Between the devil and the deep blue sea

- A) Facing a dangerous enemy in a battle
- B) Stuck between two equally difficult situations
- C) Being lost at sea without a compass
- D) Choosing between good and evil

5. Find the meaning of the idiom: A nine days' wonder

- A) A miracle that changes history forever
- B) A long holiday that rejuvenates the soul
- C) Something that is popular for a very short time

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- D) A project that takes exactly nine days to complete
6. Find the meaning of the idiom: Cut your coat according to your cloth
- A) Live within your financial means or budget
 - B) Dress appropriately for the occasion
 - C) Do not waste materials when working
 - D) Be generous and share what you have
7. Find the meaning of the idiom: Casting pearls before swine
- A) Feeding animals with expensive food
 - B) Offering something valuable to someone who doesn't understand its worth
 - C) Wasting money on unnecessary luxury items
 - D) Treating everyone with equal respect regardless of status
8. Find the meaning of the idiom: Much ado about nothing
- A) Making a big fuss or effort for a very small result
 - B) Doing nothing while others are working hard
 - C) A story that has no clear ending
 - D) Celebrating a victory before winning
9. Find the meaning of the idiom: To grind one's own axe
- A) To prepare tools for a difficult job
 - B) To work hard for the benefit of the community
 - C) To act for personal gain or selfish reasons
 - D) To solve a problem without asking for help
10. Find the meaning of the idiom: A snake in the grass
- A) A danger that is clearly visible
 - B) A hidden enemy or traitor
 - C) A person who loves nature and wildlife
 - D) A slippery path that is hard to walk on

3. Correct Option: C

Rationale: Corresponds to the Hindi proverb "Door ke dhol suhawane". It highlights the human tendency to believe that others have it better than us, even if it isn't true.

4. Correct Option: B

Rationale: Corresponds to the Hindi idiom "Aage kuan peeche khai". It describes a dilemma where one is caught between two equally unpleasant dangers or choices.

5. Correct Option: C

Rationale: Corresponds to the Hindi idiom "Chaar din ki chandni phir andheri raat". It refers to a novelty or event that generates excitement for only a brief period before being forgotten.

6. Correct Option: A

Rationale: Corresponds to the Hindi proverb "Chadar dekh kar pair phailana". It advises one to spend money or live only according to what they can afford.

7. Correct Option: B

Rationale: Corresponds to the Hindi proverb "Bandar kya jaane adrak ka swad". It means giving something of high value or quality to someone who lacks the ability to appreciate it.

8. Correct Option: A

Rationale: Corresponds to the Hindi proverb "Khoda pahaad nikli chuhiya". It describes a situation where a lot of fuss or effort results in something insignificant.

9. Correct Option: C

Rationale: Corresponds to the Hindi idiom "Apna ullu seedha karna". It refers to doing something primarily to serve one's own private interests or selfish motives.

10. Correct Option: B

Rationale: Corresponds to the Hindi idiom "Aasteen ka saanp". It describes a deceitful person who pretends to be a friend but secretly intends to harm you.

Answer Key & Explanations

1. Correct Option: B

Rationale: Corresponds to the Hindi proverb "Naach na jaane aangan tedha". It refers to someone who makes excuses for their own incompetence rather than admitting their lack of skill.

2. Correct Option: A

Rationale: Corresponds to the Hindi proverb "Thotha chana baaje ghana". It implies that those who lack substance or wisdom are often the ones who speak the loudest or most frequently.

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Hindi & English G Strategy Idioms 2

#	English Idiom	Hindi Equivalent	Meaning
1.	A bird in hand is worth two in the bush	Nau nagad na terah udhaar	It is better to have a lesser certainty than a greater possibility.
2.	A wolf in sheep's clothing	Muh mein Ram bagal mein chhuri	A dangerous person pretending to be harmless and friendly.
3.	Actions speak louder than words	Kathni se karni bhali	What you do is more important than what you say.
4.	All that glitters is not gold	Har chamakti cheez sona nahi hoti	Things are not always as valuable or good as they appear.
5.	An idle brain is the devil's workshop	Khali dimaag shaitan ka ghar	Evil thoughts enter our minds when we are lazy or unemployed.
6.	Better late than never	Der aaye durust aaye	It is better to arrive or do something late than not at all.
7.	Birds of a feather flock together	Ek hi thali ke chatte batte	People with similar character or interests stick together.
8.	Blood is thicker than water	Apna apna paraya paraya	Family bonds are stronger than relationships with friends or others.
9.	Charity begins at home	Pehle apna phir paraya	You should take care of your own family before helping others.
10.	Do good and cast it into the river	Neki kar dariya mein daal	Do good deeds without expecting a reward or recognition.

11.	Every cloud has a silver lining	Har kaali ghata ke peeche sunehra savera hota hai	There is something good in every bad situation.
12.	Excess of everything is bad	Ati sarvatra varjayet	Too much of anything (even good things) is harmful.
13.	Face is the index of the mind	Chehra man ka darpan hota hai	Your expressions reveal your thoughts.
14.	God helps those who help themselves	Himmat-e-marda madad-e-khuda	You must work hard yourself before expecting divine help.
15.	Great cry little wool	Unchi dukaan pheeka pakwan	Grand appearance or promises but very little substance/result.
16.	Haste makes waste	Jaldi ka kaam shaitan ka	Rushing through a task often leads to mistakes.
17.	Honesty is the best policy	Imandari sabse achi niti hai	Being truthful is always the best way to behave.
18.	Hunger is the best sauce	Bhookh mein rookha sookha bhi meetha lagta hai	Food tastes better when you are truly hungry.
19.	Kill the snake also save the stick	Saanp bhi mar jaye aur lathi bhi na toote	Solve a problem without causing collateral damage.
20.	Like father, like son	Jaisa baap waisa beta	Children often resemble their parents in behavior.
21.	Look before you leap	Phook phook kar kadam rakhna	Think carefully about the consequences before acting.

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22.	Many a little makes a mickle	Boond boond se sagar bharta hai	Small savings or efforts add up to something big.
23.	Money makes the mare go	Daam banaye kaam	Money has the power to get things done.
24.	Necessity is the mother of invention	Avashyakta avishkar ki janani hai	Difficult situations inspire ingenious solutions.
25.	One flower makes no garland	Ek chana bhaad nahi phod sakta	A single person cannot accomplish a massive task alone.
26.	Out of sight, out of mind	Aankh ojhal pahad ojhal	You soon forget people or things that are no longer visible.
27.	Practice makes a man perfect	Karat karat abhyas ke jadmati hot sujan	Regular practice leads to mastery.
28.	Prevention is better than cure	Parhez ilaaj se behtar hai	It is better to stop a problem from happening than to fix it later.
29.	Strike the iron while it is hot	Loha garam hai maar do hathoda	Take advantage of an opportunity immediately.
30.	The child is father of the man	Honhaar birwan ke hot chikne paat	Early traits in a child predict their future character.
31.	Think of the devil and the devil is here	Naam liya aur shaitan haazir	Said when someone appears just as you were talking about them.
32.	Too many cooks spoil the broth	Jahan bahut chaudhary wahan satyanash	If too many people try to control a task, it will fail.
33.	Truth needs no evidence	Haath kangan ko aarsi kya	What is obvious needs no proof.

34.	Union is strength	Ek aur ek gyarah hote hain	Working together makes you stronger.
35.	Walls have ears	Deewaron ke bhi kaan hote hain	Be careful what you say; someone might be listening.
36.	Where there is smoke there is fire	Bina aag ke dhuhan nahi uthta	Rumors usually have some basis in fact.
37.	Wolves may lose their teeth but not their nature	Rassi jal gayi par bal nahi gaya	Bad habits or arrogance are hard to change even in ruin.
38.	A word to the wise is sufficient	Samajhdaar ko ishara kaafi	Intelligent people understand things quickly without long explanations.
39.	As the king, so are the subjects	Yatha raja tatha praja	Leaders influence the behavior of their people.
40.	Don't dig a pit for others	Jo doosron ke liye gadda khodta hai wo khud usme girta hai	If you plan to harm others, you will harm yourself.
41.	A friend in need is a friend indeed	Mitra wahi jo musibat mein kaam aaye	A true friend helps you when you are in trouble.
42.	Add fuel to the fire	Aag mein ghee dalna	To make an angry person angrier or a bad situation worse.
43.	Don't count your chickens before they hatch	Khayali pulao pakana	Don't make plans based on something that hasn't happened yet.
44.	To be on cloud nine	Satvein aasman par hona	To be extremely happy.

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45.	To die a dog's death	Kutte ki maut marna	To die a shameful or miserable death.
46.	To leave no stone unturned	Koi kasar na chodna	To do everything possible to find something or solve a problem.
47.	To move heaven and earth	Aakash-paatal ek karna	To make a supreme effort to achieve something.
48.	To wash dirty linen in public	Ghar ki baat bahar le jana	To discuss private family quarrels/secrets in public.
49.	To turn over a new leaf	Naya jeevan shuru karna	To start behaving in a better way.
50.	To hit the bull's eye	Nishane par lagana	To achieve exactly what was intended.

Here is a 10-question test based on the hardest idioms from the list of 50 English-Hindi equivalents provided above.

English-Hindi Idioms Proficiency Test: Advanced

1. Find the meaning of the idiom: Great cry little wool

- A) A situation where someone complains loudly about a small problem
- B) Grand appearance or promises but very little substance or result
- C) A sheep that produces very little wool despite being loud
- D) Working hard for a very small amount of money

2. Find the meaning of the idiom: A bird in hand is worth two in the bush

- A) It is better to have a lesser certainty than a greater possibility
- B) Hunting is easier when you can see the bird clearly
- C) Don't count your profits before you have sold your goods
- D) One true friend is better than many fake ones

3. Find the meaning of the idiom: Money makes the mare go

- A) Horses run faster when they are fed well

B) You need to spend money to travel long distances
C) Money has the power to influence people and get things done

D) Rich people often have expensive hobbies like horse riding

4. Find the meaning of the idiom: One flower makes no garland

- A) A single person cannot accomplish a massive task alone
- B) You need variety to make life interesting
- C) Beauty lies in the eyes of the beholder
- D) Do not judge the quality of a garden by a single flower

5. Find the meaning of the idiom: Wolves may lose their teeth but not their nature

- A) Wild animals can never be truly tamed
- B) Old people often become grumpy and difficult
- C) A dangerous person becomes harmless when they lose power
- D) Bad habits or arrogance are hard to change even in ruin

6. Find the meaning of the idiom: To wash dirty linen in public

- A) To do laundry outside where everyone can see
- B) To discuss private family quarrels or secrets in public
- C) To apologize for a mistake in front of a crowd
- D) To spread rumors about other people's hygiene

7. Find the meaning of the idiom: Kill the snake also save the stick

- A) To be cruel to animals while pretending to be kind
- B) To take revenge on an enemy without getting caught
- C) To solve a problem without causing collateral damage
- D) To gain two advantages from a single action

8. Find the meaning of the idiom: Truth needs no evidence

- A) Honest people never have to explain themselves
- B) What is obvious and true requires no further proof
- C) In a court of law, truth is more important than evidence
- D) Liars often provide too much evidence for their stories

9. Find the meaning of the idiom: Think of the devil and the devil is here

- A) Evil people often show up where they are not wanted
- B) If you think negative thoughts, bad things will happen
- C) Said when someone appears just as you were talking about them
- D) You should never speak ill of the dead

10. Find the meaning of the idiom: To leave no stone unturned

- A) To search for hidden treasure in a rocky area
- B) To do everything possible to find something or solve a problem
- C) To destroy everything in your path to achieve a goal
- D) To build a strong foundation for a house

Answer Key & Explanations

1. Correct Option: B

Rationale: Corresponds to the Hindi proverb "Unchi dukaan pheeka pakwan". It refers to something that has a lot of hype or "noise" (cry) but delivers very little actual value (wool).

2. Correct Option: A

Rationale: Corresponds to the Hindi proverb "Nau nagad na terah udhaar". It means it is better to hold onto what you definitely have than to risk it for something better that you might not get.

3. Correct Option: C

Rationale: Corresponds to the Hindi proverb "Daam banaye kaam". It highlights the influence of money in speeding up processes or solving problems.

4. Correct Option: A

Rationale: Corresponds to the Hindi proverb "Ek chana bhaad nahi phod sakta". Just as a single flower cannot form a garland, a single person is often insufficient for a large, collective task.

5. Correct Option: D

Rationale: Corresponds to the Hindi proverb "Rassi jal gayi par bal nahi gaya". It means that a person's inherent nature (often arrogance or wickedness) remains the same even if they lose their power or status (teeth).

6. Correct Option: B

Rationale: Corresponds to the Hindi idiom "Ghar ki baat bahar le jana". It criticizes the act of airing private, embarrassing matters in a public setting.

7. Correct Option: C

Rationale: Corresponds to the Hindi proverb "Saanp bhi mar jaye aur lathi bhi na toote". It refers to handling a delicate situation where you remove the threat (snake) without suffering any loss or damage (breaking the stick).

8. Correct Option: B

Rationale: Corresponds to the Hindi proverb "Haath kangan ko aarsi kya". It means that something that is visibly true needs no external proof or mirror to verify it.

9. Correct Option: C

Rationale: Corresponds to the Hindi idiom "Naam liya aur shaitan haazir". It is a coincidence used when a person walks into the room right when you are discussing them.

10. Correct Option: B

Rationale: Corresponds to the Hindi idiom "Koi kasar na chodna". It means to make every possible effort and try every option available to achieve a result.

Idioms & Origins G Strategy 1

Idiom	History	Meaning
1. Achilles' heel	Greek hero Achilles was dipped in the River Styx, but his heel (where he was held) remained dry and vulnerable.	A small but fatal weakness despite overall strength.
2. Apple of my eye	Ancients thought the pupil was a solid, apple-shaped object. As sight was precious, it was the most protected part.	Someone cherished above all others.

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3. Bite the dust	From Homer's <i>Iliad</i> ; warriors falling face-first from chariots would literally taste the dirt as they died.	To fail, be defeated, or die.
4. Checkmate	From Persian "Shah Mat," meaning "the King is helpless" (or dead) in chess.	Total victory or defeat with no escape.
5. Hair of the dog	Medieval cure claiming that placing a hair from the rabid dog into the bite wound would cure the infection.	Consuming alcohol to cure a hangover.
6. Knock on wood	Pagans touched trees (wood) to ask resident spirits for protection or thank them.	Superstition to prevent bad luck after bragging.
7. Scapegoat	Biblical (Leviticus); a goat was symbolically burdened with sins and sent to the desert to cleanse the people.	A person blamed for others' wrongdoings.
8. Swan song	Based on the Greek myth that usually silent swans sing beautifully just before death.	A final performance or effort before retirement/death.
9. The writing is on the wall	Biblical (Daniel); a hand appeared and wrote the doom of King Belshazzar on a wall during a feast.	Clear signs that something bad will happen.
10. Wolf in sheep's clothing	Aesop's Fable about a wolf wearing a sheepskin to sneak into a flock and eat lambs.	A dangerous person pretending to be harmless.
11. Burn your bridges	Commanders burned bridges after crossing to force soldiers to fight to the death with no retreat.	Action making it impossible to return to a previous state.
12. Dead as a doornail	14th-century nails were bent over (clenched) to secure	Unequivocally dead or finished.

	doors, making them unusable ("dead") for anything else.	
13. Feather in your cap	Warriors in various cultures received a feather for their headgear for every enemy killed or brave deed.	An achievement to be proud of.
14. Flash in the pan	Gunpowder in a musket pan flaring up without igniting the main charge.	Brief success that is not repeated; disappointment.
15. Loose cannon	Cannons on ships breaking loose during storms and rolling wildly, causing damage.	An unpredictable person likely to cause damage.
16. Run the gauntlet	Swedish military punishment (<i>gatlopp</i>) where a soldier ran between rows of men striking him.	To go through a severe trial or punishment.
17. Shotgun wedding	Fathers forced men to marry their pregnant daughters while holding a shotgun to prevent escape.	A forced or hurried compromise/agreement.
18. Son of a gun	Babies born on British naval ships were often delivered between the cannons (guns) on the gundeck.	A rogue or rascal (often affectionate).
19. Throw in the towel	Boxing managers throw a towel into the ring to signal their fighter's defeat.	To quit or admit defeat.
20. Upper crust	The bottom crust of bread baked in stone ovens got ashy; the clean "upper crust" was for nobility.	The highest social class; aristocracy.
21. Bandwagon	Politicians rode circus bandwagons in parades; people jumped on to support the winner.	To join a popular trend or activity.

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22. Big wig	17th-century wigs indicated status; bigger, more powdered wigs meant more importance/wealth.	An important or influential person.
23. Black sheep	Black wool couldn't be dyed and was worth less, making the sheep a financial burden.	A disgraced or odd member of a group.
24. Blue blood	Spanish aristocrats (<i>sangre azul</i>) had pale skin (no manual labor), making blue veins visible.	Of noble or aristocratic descent.
25. Bob's your uncle	PM Robert "Bob" Cecil appointed his nephew to a high post, making success seem easy due to his uncle.	It is easily achieved; "and there you have it."
26. Clean slate	Tavern/school slates were wiped clean to remove debt or start a new lesson.	A fresh start; no past mistakes.
27. Draw the line	Early tennis/court boundaries were drawn in dirt; stepping over broke the rules.	To set a limit on what one accepts.
28. Mind your P's and Q's	Bartenders marked tabs with P (pints) and Q (quarts) and warned rowdy patrons to watch them.	Behave well and be polite.
29. Pay through the nose	Vikings (Danes) slit the noses of Irish people who refused to pay the poll tax.	To pay an exorbitant price.
30. Red tape	16th-century officials bound important legal documents with red ribbon; access required cutting it.	Excessive bureaucracy or rigid rules.
31. Back to square one	Early radio football commentary divided the pitch into squares;	To start over from the beginning.

	Square 1 was the start/goal area.	
32. Bone to pick	A dog trying to get meat off a bone takes focus, time, and chewing.	A grievance that needs discussion/argument.
33. Break the bank	In gambling, winning more chips than the table (bank) held stopped the game.	To cost more money than one can afford.
34. Chip on your shoulder	19th-century boys placed a wood chip on their shoulder, daring others to knock it off to start a fight.	Being angry and looking for a fight.
35. Cut to the chase	Silent film audiences got bored with plots and wanted to skip to the exciting chase scenes.	Get to the main point immediately.
36. Dead ringer	A fast horse ("ringer") substituted for a slow lookalike to cheat bookies; "dead" meant exact.	An exact duplicate or lookalike.
37. Don't look a gift horse in the mouth	Horse age is checked via teeth; checking a free horse's teeth implies checking its value.	Don't criticize the value of a gift.
38. Get the sack	Tradesmen were handed their tool sack and sent away when fired.	To be fired from a job.
39. Go haywire	Tension-loaded wire binding hay bales would snap and spring uncontrollably.	To go out of control or stop working.
40. In the nick of time	"Nick" was a notch on a time-keeping tally stick; hitting the deadline at the nick was just in time.	Just in time; last possible moment.
41. Cold feet	Soldiers with poor circulation (cold feet) moved slowly or hesitated to charge.	Loss of courage before a big event.

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42. Dressed to the nines	Tailors supposedly used nine yards of fabric to make a perfect, high-quality suit.	Dressed very fashionably/elaborately.
43. Eat humble pie	Lords ate venison; servants ate "umble pie" made from entrails (umbles).	To apologize and accept humiliation.
44. Hands down	Jockeys far ahead could drop their hands and relax the reins, winning easily.	Winning easily or indisputably.
45. Head over heels	Originally "heels over head" (cartwheel); language corruption reversed the logical order.	Falling deeply in love.
46. Paint the town red	The Marquis of Waterford drunkenly painted a tollgate and town buildings red in 1837.	To go out and celebrate wildly.
47. Pipe dream	Hallucinations and fantasies experienced by opium pipe smokers.	An unrealistic hope or fantasy.
48. Pot calling the kettle black	Cast iron pots and kettles both turned black from fire; criticizing the other was hypocritical.	Criticizing someone for a fault you also have.
49. Sleep tight	Ropes on bed frames had to be tightened regularly to prevent sagging.	Sleep well.
50. Turn the tables	In board games like backgammon, reversing the board gave the loser the winning position.	To reverse a situation to gain advantage.

Directions: For each question, choose the option that best expresses the meaning of the idiom.

1. Find the meaning of the idiom: *Achilles' heel* A) A strong and muscular physical appearance B) A small but fatal weakness despite overall strength C) A history

of winning battles easily D) A painful injury that heals quickly

2. Find the meaning of the idiom: *Bite the dust* A) To clean a very dirty room B) To survive a difficult situation C) To fail, be defeated, or die D) To build something from the ground up

3. Find the meaning of the idiom: *Scapegoat* A) A person blamed for the wrongdoings of others B) An animal used for farming in desert regions C) A leader who takes credit for the team's success D) A person who escapes from prison

4. Find the meaning of the idiom: *Wolf in sheep's clothing* A) A person who loves animals and nature B) A shy person who tries to be brave C) A dangerous person pretending to be harmless D) A fashion trend that looks cheap but is expensive

5. Find the meaning of the idiom: *Burn your bridges* A) To light a fire to keep warm during travel B) To build strong connections with new people C) To forgive and forget past arguments D) To take an action that makes it impossible to return to a previous situation

6. Find the meaning of the idiom: *Flash in the pan* A) A cooking technique used for frying quickly B) A brief success that is not repeated; a disappointment C) A brilliant idea that changes the world D) A sudden explosion of anger

7. Find the meaning of the idiom: *Cut to the chase* A) To edit a film to make it shorter B) To run after someone quickly C) To get to the main point immediately D) To stop doing something dangerous

8. Find the meaning of the idiom: *Cold feet* A) Loss of courage before a big event B) Suffering from frostbite in winter C) A condition caused by poor circulation D) Walking barefoot on a tiled floor

9. Find the meaning of the idiom: *Pot calling the kettle black* A) Cooking two different meals at the same time B) Criticizing someone for a fault you also possess C) Trying to clean old kitchenware D) A situation where everything goes wrong

10. Find the meaning of the idiom: *Turn the tables* A) To redecorate a room by moving furniture B) To reverse a situation to gain the advantage C) To serve dinner to guests D) To lose a game gracefully

Answer Key & Explanations

1. Correct Option: B Rationale: Originating from the Greek myth of Achilles, whose heel was left dry and vulnerable when dipped in the River Styx, it refers to a specific weakness in an otherwise strong person.
2. Correct Option: C Rationale: From Homer's *The Iliad*, warriors falling face-first would literally taste the dirt ("dust") upon death or defeat.
3. Correct Option: A Rationale: Based on the Biblical practice where a goat was symbolically burdened with the community's sins and sent away; now refers to someone unfairly blamed for others' mistakes.
4. Correct Option: C Rationale: From Aesop's Fables, where a wolf disguised itself in a sheepskin to hunt lambs; refers to an enemy disguised as a friend.
5. Correct Option: D Rationale: Military commanders would burn bridges after crossing to prevent retreat; refers to cutting off the way back to a former state.
6. Correct Option: B Rationale: Refers to old muskets where the gunpowder might flare (flash) without firing the bullet; signifies a success that is short-lived or disappointing.
7. Correct Option: C Rationale: In silent films, audiences wanted to skip the boring plots and get to the exciting "chase" scenes; means to skip details and get to the point.
8. Correct Option: A Rationale: A military term for soldiers whose poor circulation or fear made them hesitate to charge; refers to backing out due to nervousness.
9. Correct Option: B Rationale: Since both pots and kettles turned black from fire, one mocking the other is hypocritical; refers to judging others for one's own flaws.
10. Correct Option: B Rationale: In board games like backgammon, reversing the board ("tables") could turn a losing position into a winning one.

Idioms & Phrases Bible



Idioms & Origins G Strategy 2

Idiom	History	Meaning
1. Break the ice	Small "ice-breaker" ships were sent ahead of trade ships to clear a path through winter ice.	To start a conversation or relieve tension.
2. Butter someone up	Ancient Indians threw balls of ghee (butter) at statues of gods to seek favor.	To flatter someone to get something.
3. Cost an arm and a leg	18th-century painters charged more to paint limbs than just the head and shoulders.	Very expensive.
4. Crocodile tears	Based on a myth that crocodiles weep while eating their prey to lure victims.	Fake sympathy or sorrow.
5. Give the cold shoulder	Medieval hosts served a cold shoulder of meat to signal guests it was time to leave.	To deliberately ignore someone.
6. Read the Riot Act	A real 18th-century legal document read aloud to disperse rowdy crowds.	To reprimand or warn someone severely.
7. Resting on your laurels	Ancient Greek champions who stopped striving for new victories after winning a laurel wreath.	Relying on past success; stopping effort.
8. Spill the beans	Ancient Greek voters used beans; knocking over the jar	To reveal a secret.

	revealed the secret vote early.	
9. Turn a blind eye	Admiral Nelson put a telescope to his blind eye to ignore a signal to stop fighting.	To pretend not to notice something.
10. White elephant	Siam Kings gifted sacred white elephants to enemies; the upkeep cost ruined them.	A useless, expensive possession.
11. Bite the bullet	Soldiers bit on bullets during surgery before anesthesia was invented.	To force oneself to do something difficult.
12. Blockbuster	WWII bombs powerful enough to destroy a city block; later applied to big movies.	A huge commercial success.
13. Bury the hatchet	Native American tribes buried weapons to symbolize a peace treaty.	To make peace.
14. Close quarters	Wooden barriers on ships used to protect sailors during close-range combat.	Being very near; crowded.
15. Die hard	A wounded officer at the Battle of Albuera told his men to "die hard" rather than surrender.	Stubborn; changing very slowly.
16. Flash in the pan	Gunpowder in a musket pan flaring up without firing the bullet.	Shows potential but fails to deliver.
17. Long shot	Early naval cannons were inaccurate, so	An attempt with little chance of success.

Idioms & Phrases Bible



	firing from far away rarely hit.	
18. Pushing the envelope	Aviation term for the mathematical boundary of a plane's performance.	To go beyond limits; innovate.
19. Show your true colors	Pirate ships flew friendly flags to get close, then raised their true pirate flag to attack.	To reveal one's true character.
20. Three sheets to the wind	If all three sail ropes (sheets) came loose, the ship staggered like a drunk.	Very drunk.
21. Baker's dozen	Medieval bakers added a 13th loaf to avoid penalties for selling underweight dozens.	Thirteen.
22. Barking up the wrong tree	Hunting dogs barking at a tree after the prey had already jumped to another.	Pursuing a mistaken line of thought.
23. Beat around the bush	Hunters beat bushes carefully to flush birds without hitting bee nests inside.	Avoiding the main point.
24. Burning the candle at both ends	Lighting both ends of an expensive candle meant wasting resources and working late/early.	Exhausting oneself by overworking.
25. Caught red-handed	Old law stating poachers could only be punished if caught with blood on their hands.	Caught in the act of doing wrong.

26. Don't throw the baby out with the bathwater	Families shared bathwater; by the time the baby bathed, the water was so dirty the baby might be lost in it.	Don't discard the good with the bad.
27. Go the whole nine yards	WWII ammo belts were 9 yards; using it all meant giving maximum effort.	To do everything possible.
28. Heard it through the grapevine	Civil War telegraph lines looked like grapevines and carried unreliable news.	To hear rumors or gossip.
29. Mad as a hatter	Mercury used in hat-making caused poisoning, tremors, and madness.	Completely crazy.
30. Pull out all the stops	Pulling all knobs on a pipe organ creates the loudest volume.	Using every resource for success.
31. Bee's knees	Originally slang for "insignificant," evolved into a nonsense rhyme for "excellent."	Outstanding or excellent.
32. Cat got your tongue?	The "Cat o' nine tails" whip caused pain so severe victims couldn't speak.	Why are you not speaking?
33. Dog days of summer	The star Sirius (Dog Star) rising with the sun was thought to add extra heat.	The hottest days of summer.
34. It's raining cats and dogs	Animals sleeping on slippery thatched roofs would slip off during heavy rain.	Raining very heavily.

Idioms & Phrases Bible



35. Let the cat out of the bag	Farmers swapped pigs for cats in bags; opening the bag revealed the trick.	To accidentally reveal a secret.
36. A little birdie told me	Biblical reference to birds carrying voices to the king.	Information from a secret source.
37. One trick pony	Small circuses could only afford ponies trained for a single trick.	Someone good at only one thing.
38. Quit cold turkey	Withdrawal skin resembles the goosebumps of a plucked, cold turkey.	Stopping a habit abruptly.
39. Running amok	Malay tribesmen (amok) going on violent rampages under the influence of opium.	Behaving wildly or violently.
40. Wild goose chase	Horse race formation resembling geese; evolved to mean chasing something erratic.	A hopeless search.
41. Above board	Gamblers kept hands above the table to prove they weren't cheating.	Honest and legal.
42. At the drop of a hat	Referees dropped a hat to start a race; participants had to move instantly.	Immediately; without hesitation.
43. Break a leg	Actors passing the "leg" (curtain line) onto the stage meant they got paid.	Good luck (for performers).
44. By the skin of your teeth	Biblical reference (Job) to escaping death with	Just barely making it.

	nothing left, not even flesh.	
45. Face the music	Disgraced officers were drummed out of the army, literally facing the band.	Accepting unpleasant consequences.
46. In the limelight	Burning lime was used to create spotlights in theaters before electricity.	Being the center of attention.
47. Pass the buck	A buckhorn knife marked the dealer in poker; passing it shifted the duty.	Shifting responsibility to others.
48. Rule of thumb	Old legal principle allegedly allowing wife-beating with a stick the width of a thumb.	A rough, practical guideline.
49. Saved by the bell	In boxing, the round ending can save a knocked-down fighter from losing.	Saved at the last moment.
50. Steal one's thunder	A playwright's thunder sound effect was stolen for <i>Macbeth</i> after his play failed.	Taking credit for another's idea.

Directions: For each question, choose the option that best expresses the meaning of the idiom.

- Find the meaning of the idiom: Die hard
 A) To fight with physical force until the end
 B) To pass away peacefully after a long life
 C) Stubborn; disappearing or changing very slowly
 D) To suffer a sudden and painful defeat
- Find the meaning of the idiom: Three sheets to the wind
 A) Sailing dangerously fast in a storm
 B) Very drunk
 C) Completely lost and without direction
 D) Losing one's temper violently
- Find the meaning of the idiom: Pushing the envelope
 A) To go beyond established limits; to innovate
 B) To break the rules of a contract illegally
 C) To mail a letter with urgent priority
 D) To pressure someone into making a decision

Idioms & Phrases Bible



4. Find the meaning of the idiom: Pass the buck A) To donate a large sum of money B) To give up one's turn in a card game C) To shift responsibility to someone else D) To avoid paying a debt
5. Find the meaning of the idiom: Running amok A) Escaping from a confined space B) Behaving in a wild, out-of-control manner C) Organizing a large public protest D) Running a long distance very quickly
6. Find the meaning of the idiom: Flash in the pan A) A sudden explosion of anger B) A brilliant idea that solves a major problem C) Something that shows potential but fails to deliver D) A cooking accident involving hot oil
7. Find the meaning of the idiom: Rule of thumb A) A strict law that must be followed precisely B) A rough, practical method or guideline C) A gesture indicating approval or success D) A measurement exactly equal to one inch
8. Find the meaning of the idiom: Read the Riot Act A) To reprimand someone severely or warn them B) To incite a crowd to protest against authority C) To read a long legal document in court D) To announce a declaration of war
9. Find the meaning of the idiom: Baker's dozen A) A group of twelve expert bakers B) Thirteen; one more than a standard dozen C) A very large, uncounted amount D) A specific type of bread sold in medieval times
10. Find the meaning of the idiom: Blockbuster A) A military operation to destroy a city B) A huge commercial success C) A financial disaster that ruins a company D) A strict barrier preventing trade

- pilots "pushed" this boundary. It means to innovate or exceed normal limits. Difficulty: Hard
4. Correct Option: C Rationale: In poker, a knife (buckhorn handle) marked the dealer. Passing it meant shifting the duty to deal. It now means shifting blame or responsibility. Difficulty: Medium
 5. Correct Option: B Rationale: Derived from the Malay word *amok*, describing tribesmen going on a violent, indiscriminate rampage. It means acting wildly or violently. Difficulty: Hard
 6. Correct Option: C Rationale: Refers to muskets where gunpowder in the pan flared (flashed) but failed to fire the bullet. It describes something that looks promising at first but turns out to be a failure. Difficulty: Medium
 7. Correct Option: B Rationale: Often linked to an old principle allowing a man to beat his wife with a stick no wider than his thumb (or simply using a thumb for rough measurement). It refers to a practical, approximate guide, not a precise rule. Difficulty: Hard
 8. Correct Option: A Rationale: The Riot Act was a real legal document read to unruly crowds to warn them to disperse. The idiom means to give someone a severe warning or scolding. Difficulty: Medium
 9. Correct Option: B Rationale: Medieval bakers added a 13th loaf to a dozen (12) to ensure they weren't penalized for selling underweight bread. It specifically means the number thirteen. Difficulty: Easy
 10. Correct Option: B Rationale: Originally a WWII bomb that could destroy a "block," the term was adopted by the entertainment industry to describe a movie or product that is a massive financial success. Difficulty: Medium

Answer Key & Explanations

1. Correct Option: C Rationale: Originating from the Battle of Albuera where an officer urged men to "die hard" (resist death), the idiom now refers to habits, beliefs, or people that are stubborn and resist change or disappearance (e.g., "old habits die hard"). Difficulty: Hard
2. Correct Option: B Rationale: A nautical term where "sheets" are ropes controlling sails. If they come loose, the ship staggers; metaphorically applied to a person staggering from drunkenness. Difficulty: Hard
3. Correct Option: A Rationale: From aviation math, the "flight envelope" is the limit of performance. Test

Idioms & Phrases Bible



Idioms & Origins G Strategy 3

Idiom	Meaning	Story / Historical Origin
A big cheese	An important or powerful person.	Derived from the Urdu/Hindi word <i>chiz</i> , meaning "thing." British colonials in India picked it up (e.g., "The real chiz"). It evolved into "The big cheese" to mean the most important thing or person.
A cock and bull story	A story/explanation that is obviously not true.	Believed to originate from two rival coaching inns in Stony Stratford, England: <i>The Cock</i> and <i>The Bull</i> . Travelers stopping there would swap exaggerated stories, and the rivalry produced unbelievable tales.
A litmus test	A method which clearly proves something.	From chemistry. Litmus paper turns red in acid and blue in alkali. It became a metaphor for a decisive test with a clear result.
Air dirty laundry	Make public something embarrassing .	Before indoor plumbing, people hung clothes on lines outside. Hanging stained or "dirty" linens where neighbors could see them was considered shameful.
At sixes and sevens	In disorder / lost and bewildered.	Originated from a dispute between two London trade guilds (Merchant Taylors and Skinners) over who was 6th or 7th in the procession.
At the eleventh hour	Just before it is too late.	From the Bible (Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard). Workers hired at the "eleventh hour" (5 PM) received the same wage as those who started in the morning.

Baker's dozen	13 instead of 12.	Medieval laws fined bakers heavily for short-changing customers on weight. To be safe, bakers added an extra loaf to every dozen to avoid punishment.
Bite the bullet	To face a difficult situation bravely.	Before anesthesia, soldiers undergoing surgery on the battlefield were given a lead bullet to bite down on to help them endure the pain and prevent screaming.
Black sheep	The worst member of the family.	Black wool cannot be dyed other colors, making it less valuable to a farmer than white wool.
Blue blood	Belonging to a high social class.	From the Spanish <i>sangre azul</i> . Aristocrats avoided the sun (unlike peasants), so their skin was pale, making their blue veins clearly visible.
Break the ice	To make people comfortable; start a conversation .	Refers to special "icebreaker" ships sent ahead of trade vessels in winter to smash through frozen rivers, allowing trade and social interaction to flow.
Burn the midnight oil	To study/work late into the night.	Before electricity, oil lamps were expensive. Working late meant burning costly oil, implying serious dedication.
Bury the hatchet	To make peace.	A literal custom among Native American tribes. When negotiating peace, the chiefs would physically bury their weapons (tomahawks/hatchets) to symbolize the end of hostilities.

Idioms & Phrases Bible



Carry coals to Newcastle	To take something where it is already plentiful.	Newcastle, England, was a massive coal-producing center. Bringing coal there was pointless and redundant.	Elephant in the room	A problem everyone ignores.	A concept from the 1950s—if an elephant were in a small room, you couldn't miss it. Ignoring it requires active effort.
Cat and dog life	Always arguing.	In 16th-century Europe, stray cats and dogs were often forced to fight over garbage scraps in the streets, creating a noisy racket.	Face the music	To accept punishment.	Likely military origin. When a soldier was dismissed for dishonor, he was "drummed out" of the regiment. He had to walk away facing the drums (the music).
Cold shoulder	To ignore someone.	In medieval England, if a host wanted a guest to leave, they would serve a cold piece of shoulder meat (a cheap cut) instead of a hot meal, signaling that hospitality had ended.	Flash in the pan	Brief success that doesn't last.	Flintlock muskets had a "flash pan." If the gunpowder flared up but the bullet didn't fire, it was a "flash in the pan"—light but no action.
Donkey's years	A very long time.	A pun on "Donkey's ears," which are very long. It also rhymes in British cockney dialect.	French leave	Absent without permission.	In the 18th century, it was French custom to leave a party without saying goodbye. The British (who disliked the French) called this rude habit "French leave."
Don't cry over spilt milk	Don't worry about past accidents.	Folklore suggests that fairies liked milk. If you spilled it, it was a treat for the fairies, so there was no need to be sad.	Get the sack	To be fired.	In the days of tradesmen, workers brought their own tools in a sack. If they were fired, the boss handed them their sack so they could pack up and leave.
Don't throw bricks in a glass house	Don't criticize others if you are vulnerable.	Popularized by Geoffrey Chaucer, but gained fame when King James I of England said it to the Duke of Buckingham to warn him against hypocrisy.	Gift of the gab	Talent for speaking.	"Gab" is an old variation of "gob" (mouth). It implies the ability to use one's mouth effectively.
Dressed to the nines	Wearing fancy clothes.	Likely from "dressed to his eyes" (Old English), or the amount of fabric (9 yards) used to make a perfect suit.	Graveyard shift	Working very late at night.	Possibly refers to the quietness of the shift, but folklore says watchers had to sit in graveyards to listen for bells attached to "safety coffins" in case someone was buried alive.
Eat humble pie	To apologize humbly.	From "Umble pie," a pie made from the "umbles" (innards/organs) of a deer. It was food for servants, while the lords ate the good meat.	Hear it on the grapevine	Hear a rumor.	During the US Civil War, telegraph lines were strung loosely from tree to tree like vines. The

Idioms & Phrases Bible



		messages were often garbled or false, like rumors.	Once in a blue moon	Very rarely.	A "blue moon" is the second full moon in a calendar month. This happens approximately every 2.7 years—rarely.
Hit the nail on the head	Do/Say something exactly right.	From carpentry. You must hit the nail's head exactly for it to work; missing it causes damage.	Pull out all the stops	Do everything possible to succeed.	From playing a church organ. Pulling out all the "stops" (knobs) allows air to flow through every pipe, creating the maximum volume of sound.
In the doghouse	In disgrace/trouble.	Literally, if a dog misbehaves, it is sent outside to its kennel. If a husband made his wife angry, he was metaphorically sent to sleep with the dog.	Read between the lines	Find the hidden meaning.	Originated from cryptography. Spies would write secret messages in invisible ink (like lemon juice) between the visible lines of a normal letter.
Jack of all trades	Can do many jobs.	"Jack" was a generic name for a commoner/worker. Originally a compliment, the second part "master of none" was added later to make it an insult.	Red herring	A distraction from the real issue.	Smoked herring (fish) turns red and has a strong smell. It was used to train hunting dogs to follow a scent, or by escaping convicts to distract bloodhounds from their trail.
Jump the bandwagon	Join a popular trend.	Politicians used to parade on a wagon carrying a band. People would jump on the wagon to show support for the winning candidate.	Rule of thumb	A general principle/guide.	(Often debated) It is widely believed to come from an old law allowing a man to beat his wife with a stick no wider than his thumb. It more likely refers to using the thumb as a rough measuring tool for carpenters.
Kick the bucket	To die.	Not a water bucket! A "bucket" was a wooden beam used to hang pigs for slaughter. When the pig struggled, it would "kick the bucket" (beam).	Salt of the earth	Good, reliable people.	From the Bible (Matthew 5:13). Salt was valuable for preserving food. Calling someone salt meant they were essential and valuable.
Let the cat out of the bag	Reveal a secret.	Dishonest market traders would put a worthless cat in a bag and sell it as a piglet. If the buyer opened the bag, the cat jumped out, revealing the scam.	Show your true colors	Reveal real character.	Ships carried flags of many nations to deceive enemies. Before firing, the rules of war required them to hoist their "true colors" (actual flag).
Mad as a hatter	Crazy or eccentric.	Hat makers in the 18th/19th century used mercury to cure felt. Mercury poisoning damaged their nervous systems, causing tremors and aggressive behavior (madness).			

Idioms & Phrases Bible



Spill the beans	To reveal a secret.	In Ancient Greece, members of secret societies voted by dropping beans into a jar (white for yes, black for no). If the jar was knocked over, the beans would spill, revealing the secret vote prematurely.
Steal someone's thunder	Take credit for someone's idea.	Playwright John Dennis invented a thunder sound effect. His play failed, but he later heard <i>Macbeth</i> using his effect and shouted, "They steal my thunder!"
Three sheets to the wind	Drunk.	Nautical term. A "sheet" is a rope controlling a sail. If the ropes are loose (to the wind), the ship wobbles around, much like a drunk person.
Turn a blind eye	To knowingly ignore something.	Admiral Horatio Nelson, who was blind in one eye, put his telescope to his blind eye during the Battle of Copenhagen to ignore a signal from his superior ordering him to retreat.
Under the weather	Feeling ill.	Sailors who felt seasick were sent below deck (under the weather rail) to recover, away from the storm.
Wet behind the ears	Inexperienced / Young.	When a calf or foal is born, the last place to dry off is the indentation behind the ears.
White elephant	A possession that is useless/expensive to keep.	The Kings of Siam (Thailand) would gift a sacred white elephant to courtiers they disliked. The animal could not work and required expensive food, ruining the recipient financially.

Win hands down	To win easily.	From horse racing. If a jockey was so far ahead of the others that he didn't need to pull the reins tight to encourage the horse, he could ride with his "hands down."
Wrong end of the stick	To misunderstand a situation.	In Roman times, a "stick" with a sponge was used as toilet paper in public latrines. If you grabbed the "wrong end," it was messy. (Alternatively, it may refer to a walking stick).
Yeoman's service	Excellent, efficient service.	Yeomen were land-owning farmers in England who also served as archers in the army. They were renowned for being the most reliable and hardworking backbone of the military.

Idiom Proficiency Test 3

1. Find the meaning of the idiom: At sixes and sevens

- A) To be very lucky in gambling
- B) To arrive at a party late
- C) In a state of total confusion or disorder
- D) To be consistently accurate

2. Find the meaning of the idiom: Carry coals to Newcastle

- A) To do hard, manual labor for little pay
- B) To supply something where it is already plentiful
- C) To start a heated argument over nothing
- D) To make a profit from a bad investment

3. Find the meaning of the idiom: Eat humble pie

- A) To apologize and accept humiliation
- B) To live in poverty without complaint
- C) To enjoy a simple, home-cooked meal
- D) To hide one's true talent from others

4. Find the meaning of the idiom: Flash in the pan

- A) A sudden, brilliant idea that solves a problem
- B) A cooking disaster involving hot oil
- C) A brief success that is not repeated

Idioms & Phrases Bible



- D) A signal used to warn others of danger
5. Find the meaning of the idiom: French leave
- A) To leave without saying goodbye or permission
B) To take a long, luxurious vacation
C) To surrender gracefully in a battle
D) To retire from work earlier than expected
6. Find the meaning of the idiom: Red herring
- A) A rare and valuable opportunity
B) A distraction from the real issue
C) A clear warning sign of danger
D) A person who is easily embarrassed
7. Find the meaning of the idiom: Three sheets to the wind
- A) Sailing dangerously in a storm
B) Extremely intoxicated
C) Hanging laundry out to dry
D) Running very fast to escape
8. Find the meaning of the idiom: White elephant
- A) A possession that is useless and expensive to keep
B) A rare gift that brings good luck
C) A very large and obvious problem
D) A person who never forgets a grudge
9. Find the meaning of the idiom: Yeoman's service
- A) A mandatory military duty
B) Excellent, efficient, and reliable help
C) Minimal effort applied to a task
D) Work done specifically on a farm
10. Find the meaning of the idiom: Wrong end of the stick
- A) To lose a relay race at the last second
B) To be punished unfairly for a crime
C) To use a tool incorrectly
D) To completely misunderstand a situation

Rationale: Newcastle was a massive coal-producing center in England, so bringing coal there was considered pointless and redundant.

3. Correct Option: A

Rationale: Derived from "Umble pie," a dish made from deer innards (umbles) served to servants while lords ate the good meat; metaphorically, it means lowering oneself to apologize.

4. Correct Option: C

Rationale: Refers to flintlock muskets where the gunpowder flared in the pan but failed to fire the bullet, symbolizing a showy start with no result.

5. Correct Option: A

Rationale: Based on an 18th-century custom where it was acceptable in France to leave a party without saying goodbye, a habit the British considered rude.

6. Correct Option: B

Rationale: Smoked herring turns red and has a strong smell; it was historically used to train dogs to follow a scent or to distract bloodhounds from a trail.

7. Correct Option: B

Rationale: A nautical term where "sheets" are ropes controlling sails; if the ropes come loose, the ship wobbles uncontrollably, much like a drunk person.

8. Correct Option: A

Rationale: Kings of Siam gifted sacred white elephants to enemies; since the animals couldn't work and were expensive to feed, they ruined the recipient financially.

9. Correct Option: B

Rationale: Yeomen were land-owning farmers and archers who formed the reliable, hardworking backbone of the English military, known for their excellent service.

10. Correct Option: D

Rationale: In Roman latrines, a sponge on a stick was used for wiping; grabbing the "wrong end" was a messy mistake, symbolizing a total misunderstanding.

Answer Key & Explanations

1. Correct Option: C

Rationale: Originating from a dispute between two London trade guilds (Merchant Taylors and Skinners) over who was 6th or 7th in a procession, it refers to a state of confusion or disorder.

2. Correct Option: B