

BÀI TẬP THÀNH NGỮ (Idioms)

Exercise 1: Mark the letter A, B, C or D to indicate the correct answer to each of the following questions.

1. I just took it _____ that he'd always be available.
A. into consideration B. easy
C. into account D. for granted
2. I accidentally _____ Mike when I was crossing a street downtown yesterday.
A. kept an eye on B. lost touch with
C. paid attention D. caught sight of
3. I was glad when he said that his car was _____.
A. for my use B. for me use
C. at my use D. at my disposal
4. I really must go and lie down for a while; I've got a _____ headache.
A. cutting B. splitting C. ringing D. cracking
5. Stop _____ about the bush, John! Just tell me exactly what the problem is.
A. rushing B. hiding C. beating D. moving
6. I usually buy my clothes _____. It's cheaper than going to a dress-maker.
A. off the peg B. on the house
C. in public D. on the shelf
7. My father _____ when he found out that I'd damaged the car.
A. hit the roof B. saw pink elephants
C. made my blood boil D. brought the house down
8. If you want a flat in the centre of the city you have to pay through the _____ for it.
A. teeth B. back of your head
C. nose D. arm
9. I caught the last bus by the skin of my _____.
A. mouth B. leg C. neck D. teeth
10. It was a joke! I was pulling your _____.
A. thumb B. hair C. toe D. leg

Exercise 2: Mark the letter A, B, C or D to indicate the correct answer to each of the following questions.

1. I always get _____ in my stomach before visiting the dentist.
A. worms B. butterflies C. crabs D. hedgehogs
2. Those smart phones are selling like _____. If you want one, you'd better buy one now before they're all gone.
A. shooting stars B. fresh bread
C. hot cakes D. wild oats
3. I haven't had an accident yet but I've had a number of _____ shaves.
A. narrow B. near C. close D. tiny

4. My father refused to eat meat that had been fried. He had _____ in his bonnet about it causing cancer.

- A. a bug B. a bee C. a bull D. an ant

5. I can't stand Mr. Brian. He's always blowing his own _____ - telling everyone how good he is at everything.

- A. balloon B. breath C. mind D. trumpet

6. The escaped prisoner fought _____ before he was finally overpowered.

- A. head over heels B. tooth and nail
C. heart and soul D. foot and mouth

7. I didn't suspect anything at first, but when I noticed her going through the office drawers I began to smell _____.

- A. a rat B. a pig C. a thief D. a culprit

8. Peter was born and brought up in Hastings and knows it like the _____.

- A. nose on his face B. tip of his tongue
C. back of his hand D. hair on his head

9. I was already fed up with the job, but when the boss walked into my office and told me he expected me to work overtime that was the _____. I quit.

- A. final curtain B. last straw
C. end of the line D. last waltz

10. He has a quick temper and easily _____ off the handle.

- A. leaps B. goes C. runs D. flies

Exercise 3: Mark the letter A, B, C or D to indicate the correct answer to each of the following questions.

1. Before she left for Australia she promised her parents that she would drop them _____ at least once a month.

- A. a note B. a word C. the news D. a line

2. I was all set to take the job in Tokyo, but at the last minute I _____ and decided to stay in Britain.

- A. pulled my finger out B. got cold feet
C. held my horses D. called it a day

3. "What I've got to say to you now is strictly _____ and most certainly not for publication," said the government official to the reporter.

- A. beside the point B. for the time being
C. by the way D. off the record

4. I've never enjoyed going to the ballet or the opera; they're not really my _____.

- A. piece of cake B. chip off the old block
C. biscuit D. cup of tea

5. "What's wrong with Tom today? He's unusually quiet." "He's got something on his _____. I expect."

- A. brain B. mind C. thoughts D. brow
6. He was wearing very shabby, dirty clothes and looked very _____.
 A. easy-going B. down to earth
 C. out of shape D. down at heel
7. Since he started his own business he has been making money hand over _____.
 A. fist B. heel C. head D. palm
8. I can't see us beating them at tennis this year – we're so out of _____.
 A. step B. practice C. fitness D. breath
9. I'm not surprised that Tom is ill. He's been _____ for a long time. It was bound to affect his health sooner or later.
 A. having his cake and eating it B. burning the candle at both ends
 C. playing with fire D. going to town
10. I just couldn't remember her name even though it was on the _____ of my tongue.
 A. edge B. tip C. top D. front

Exercise 4: Mark the letter A, B, C or D to indicate the correct answer to each of the following questions.

1. That's exactly what I mean, Tom. You've _____!
 A. put your foot in it B. killed two birds with one stone
 C. put two and two together D. hit the nail on the head
2. "I'm going for an interview for a job this afternoon." "Good luck! I'll keep my _____ crossed for you."
 A. legs B. fingers C. arms D. hands
3. "If only I hadn't lent him all that money!" "Well, you did, so it's no good crying over _____ milk."
 A. split B. wasted C. sour D. goat's
4. The car swerved to avoid a cyclist and just missed hitting a passer-by by _____.
 A. a slight edge B. a narrow escape
 C. a close thing D. a hair's breath
5. Well, well, if it isn't Kathy Lewis! You're a sight for _____ eyes!
 A. old B. blue C. sore D. crocodile
6. I know times have been bad lately, Peter, but keep your _____ up; things are bound to get better soon.
 A. chin B. head C. socks D. mind
7. He may be shy now, but he'll soon come out of his _____ when he meets the right girl.
 A. shoe B. shell C. shed D. hole
8. I'm afraid you've caught me on the _____. I wasn't expecting you until this afternoon.
 A. stove B. grapevine C. spot D. hop

- A. stick insect B. rake C. finger D. wire
3. We can't eat this meat – it's as tough as _____!
- A. canvas B. old boots C. rubber D. stale bread
4. You shouldn't have frightened her like that. Poor thing! She went as white as _____!
- A. a sheet B. snow C. milk D. whitewash
5. Nothing ever seems to bother Colin. No matter what happens, he always seems to remain as cool as _____.
- A. cool feet B. ice-cream C. a cucumber D. Eskimo
6. You'll have to shout, I'm afraid. My father's as deaf as _____.
- A. a leaf B. a post C. a politician D. a stone
7. It's hard to believe Brian and Stephen are brothers, isn't? They're as different as _____.
- A. Mars from Jupiter B. milk from honey
C. chalk from cheese D. margarine from butter
8. Ever since I've given up smoking I feel as fit as _____!
- A. a fighter B. a fiddle C. a frog D. an athlete
9. Our dog looks very ferocious, but don't worry, Liz. It's gentle like _____.
- A. a pony B. snowflakes
C. a lamb D. washing-up liquid
10. "I hope the children didn't play you up, Doris?" "No, not at all, Mrs Gardener. They've been as good as _____"
- A. religion B. gold C. God D. brass

Exercise 7: Mark the letter A, B, C or D to indicate the correct answer to each of the following questions.

1. "The suitcase isn't too heavy, is it?" "No, it's as light as _____."
- A. dust B. lightning C. a feather D. a fish
2. "By the way, have you heard the one about the Welshman, the Irishman and the pig?" "Yes, we have. That joke's as old as _____."
- A. Solomon B. the hills C. a dinosaur D. Jupiter
3. Of course he loves you! It's as plain as _____.
- A. a pancake B. the knob on your door
C. the nose on your face D. a bell
4. Kate was as pleased as _____ when she heard she had passed the exam.
- A. Punch B. a poppy C. a sunflower D. pound notes
5. I hope the computer course starts this term. We're all as keen as _____ to get going.
- A. coffee B. mustard C. a gigolo D. cornflakes
6. He was a natural singer with a voice that was as clear as _____.
- A. a waterfall B. a lake C. a bell D. a mirror

7. After a good night's sleep he woke up feeling as fresh as _____ and eager to start work again.
 A. fruit B. a daisy C. a kitten D. a maiden
8. He might look kind and sympathetic, but deep down he's as hard as _____.
 A. nails B. a mountain C. a gangster D. an iceberg
9. Pauline can't have emigrated to New Zealand because I saw her last night at Peter's party, as _____ as life.
 A. true B. real C. good D. large
10. It's no use arguing with him, he won't listen. He's as stubborn as _____.
 A. a mule B. a spoilt child C. a strawberry D. a trade union

Exercise 8: Mark the letter A, B, C or D to indicate the correct answer to each of the following questions.

1. "You're drunk!" "No, I'm not. I'm as sober as _____."
 A. a priest B. Sunday C. a judge D. a Muslim
2. Am I nervous? Of course not. Look at my hand – it's as steady as _____.
 A. a bridge B. a rock C. steel bars D. a stepladder
3. As students, David, Kevin and William were as thick as _____.
 A. thieves B. boy scouts C. a team D. thistles
4. Whenever I feel embarrassed I always go as red as _____.
 A. a rose B. líptick C. a raspberry D. a beetroot
5. She was so tired last night that she slept like _____ until 10 o'clock this morning.
 A. a squirrel B. death C. a log D. a zombie
6. We'd better get some extra food in if your brother is coming to stay with us. He eats like _____!
 A. a lion B. a starving man
 C. an eagle D. a horse
7. Normally she smoked 15-20 cigarettes a day, but whenever she was worried or nervous she smoked like _____.
 A. a chimney B. a forest fire
 C. a steam engine D. a salmon
8. "Is the dress too big?" "No, not at all. It fits like _____."
 A. a mould B. a glove C. glue D. a pillowcase
9. News of the new pay agreement spread like _____ throughout the factory.
 A. wildfire B. butter C. the plaque D. a flood
10. From the moment they first met they got on like _____.
 A. two peas in a pod B. fish and chips
 C. a house on fire D. clockwork

Exercise 9: Mark the letter A, B, C or D to indicate the correct answer to each of the following questions.

1. _____ the weather forecast, Ha Long City should get more than fifteen inches of snow this rainy season.

- A. At will of B. According to C. Depending on D. Agreeing with

2. _____ the simplified characters used on the Chinese mainland, traditional Chinese characters are used for writing in Taiwan and Hong Kong.

- A. As far as B. On behalf of C. In regards to D. In contrast to

3. Storeowners removed outdoor signs and decorations in _____ of the windstorm.

- A. damages B. relation C. recovering D. anticipation

4. For technical questions _____ the website, please email this address or call our help desk.

- A. after B. toward C. regarding D. throughout

5. Airline passengers may board the plane with only one carry-on bag _____ a purse or laptop.

- A. as far as B. on behalf of C. in addition to D. with regard to

6. Motorists were cautioned to _____ using the highway during rush hour.

- A. avoid B. decide C. quickly D. purchase

7. A bachelor's degree and at _____ five years of experience is required for this position.

- A. last B. times C. least D. stake

8. Mark's Warehouse Clearance Store is having a sale with savings up to 40 percent off on a clothing this weekend _____ celebration of its 25th anniversary.

- A. in B. at C. on D. of

9. Everybody was busy with the spring cleaning, except Stanley, who always refused to pull his _____.

- A. weight B. socks C. finger D. share

10. _____ the flood has receded, people can move back into their homes.

- A. Now that B. For C. So D. As much as

Exercise 10: Mark the letter A, B, C or D to indicate the correct answer to each of the following questions.

1. The players' protests _____ no difference to the referee's decision at all.

- A. caused B. created C. made D. did

2. Poor management brought the company to _____ of collapse.

- A. the edge B. the foot C. the ring D. the brink

3. Computers are said to be _____ for the development of mankind.

- A. here today, gone tomorrow B. here and there
C. here to stay D. neither here nor there

4. _____, dolphins have no sense of smell.

- A. As known as far B. As far as is known
C. It is known as far D. Known as far it is

5. Recently, the company has received a _____ of complaints from the customers about poor products.
 A. pack B. barrage C. pool D. bank
6. When I got my case back, it had been damaged _____ repair.
 A. over B. further C. above D. beyond
7. Unsalted butter is best for this recipe, but _____ that, margarine will do.
 A. except B. failing C. for all of D. given
8. We were _____ looking for a manager when the impeccable candidate showed up.
 A. in view of B. in the hopes of
 C. with a view towards D. in the process of
9. Many habitats change _____ the types of plants and animals that live there.
 A. with respect to B. in respect for
 C. as for D. as against
10. To buy this type of product, you must pay half of the money _____, and pay the rest on the day of delivery.
 A. in advance B. in cheque C. in cash D. in charge

Exercise 11: Mark the letter A, B, C or D to indicate the correct answer to each of the following questions.

1. Unfortunately, _____ room is available on June 16.
 A. none B. both C. some D. neither
2. _____ Travel Smart Magazine, August is the best month to travel in Australia.
 A. Prior to B. Inside of C. As well as D. According to
3. _____ regular inspections, accidental system problems arise from time to time.
 A. In spite of B. Prior to C. However D. Yet
4. _____ attention we pay to commercials, we cannot avoid being influenced by the constant repetition of a brand name or image.
 A. Only a little B. In spite of the C. However little D. No matter what
5. He didn't _____ to help her, even though she was very ill.
 A. open an eye B. lift a finger C. bend his arm D. shake a leg
6. Sara brought in a lot of business last month; she should ask for a pay rise while she is still on a _____.
 A. roll B. roam C. run D. rush
7. He bought the cottage _____ renovating it and then selling at a large profit.
 A. with a view to B. with a target of
 C. his goal being D. aiming to
8. Unemployment is on the rise again, which means that good jobs are _____.
 A. far and away C. few and far between

B. far from it D. as far as they go

9. He is a nice guy, always ready to do somebody a good _____.

A. present B. play C. turn D. pleasure

10. Through the Internet people are discovering new ways to share relevant information with _____.

A. the other B. another C. other D. one another

Exercise 12: Mark the letter A, B, C or D to indicate the correct answer to each of the following questions.

1. The company you work for is willing to take advantage of new technology, but _____ are concerned about adverse consequences.

A. other B. others C. the other D. another

2. Like everyone else, Susan has her _____, but on the whole, she's quite satisfied with life.

A. ups and downs B. the ins and outs
C. safe and sound D. odds and ends

3. You will have to _____ if you want to pass the final exam.

A. pull your socks up B. work miracles
C. take the trouble D. have a hand in

4. These days, I only see Morgan once in a _____ moon.

A. green B. blue C. grey D. white

5. This job requires a good _____ for figures.

A. mind B. brain C. hand D. head

6. For lunch, I always have something quick and easy: a sandwich, a salad, toast and the _____.

A. same B. similar C. like D. rest

7. I have seen that famous actor on television, but I have never seen him _____ person.

A. by B. on C. of D. in

8. You have to move this box to _____ the new television set.

A. lose touch with B. make room for
C. pay attention to D. take notice of

9. I was in such a hurry that I left one of my bags _____.

A. out B. behind C. on D. aside

10. Mr. Simkins is the big _____ in the company as he has just been promoted to the position of Managing Director.

A. bread B. meat C. cheese D. apple