A PRACTICE OF PHRASES AND IDIOMS 2

I. Fill the gaps with the appropriate words.

bell	drum	note	tango
chord	fiddle	song	trumpet
dance	music	sound	tune

1. Doesn't Richard ever appreciate other people's merits? Does he only blow his own .....?

2. I think the critics have gone too far with their praises for Ms Henley. In fact, she played second ..... in the performance.

3. Judging by the way he banged the ..... for Alice, he must be very fond of the girl.

4. The lyrics of the song struck a ..... with Sue and she became sad.

5. It was horrible how she led us a merry ..... by leaving the house without telling us where she was going.

6. One of the boys blames his companion for the wrongdoing, but everyone knows that it takes two to .....

7. In his sermon the Pope struck the right..... It was exactly what the people needed to hear: the words of hope.

8. If I tell you his family name is Nigel, does it ring a ..... ?

9. The dishonest accountant will have to face the ..... for having embezzled so much of the company funds.

10. 'You must have spent a fortune on the silver cigar box.' 'Oh no, I bought it for a ..... at a flea market.'

11. The Prime Minister must be the President's puppet. He seems to dance to the President's ..... and does not implement his own policy.

12. 'Someone's told me you're ill in hospital.'

'I don't have a clue why someone should have told you this rubbish. I am as ..... as a bell.

II. Fill the gaps with the appropriate words.

black	blue	brown	colour	green	grey
pink	red	silver	white	yellow	

1. Crowds of people are expected at the .....**-carpet** welcome ceremony, so tight security will be needed at the airport.

2. William was ..... **with envy** when I told him about my date with Muriel.

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3. ‘Hi Ben! How is your health?’ ‘Thank you. I'm **in the** ..... I've never felt better.’

4. Our neighbours don't take much care of the staircase. They only clean it **once in a** ..... **moon.**

5. I've got no more money left. The tax collector has **bled me** …….. .

6. People say that John Milton, the millionaire, is stingy and selfish. But I know he's **not as** ..... **as he is painted.** He spends loads of money on charity in Africa, but he does it without much publicity.

7. You can rely on Paul's intelligence. His ..... **matter** is most admirable.

8. I didn't go to school this morning as I was **feeling a bit off** ..... .

9. There is no need to worry, Mrs Simpson. Your bank account is still **in the** …….. .

10. The question of overdue bills arouse **out of the** ..... I'd known nothing about them before.

11. November the 12th was **a** .....**-letter day** for our family. Our father regained consciousness after two years in a coma, then.

12. She was standing there in the corner ..... **about the gills** as if she had seen a ghost.

13. You can scream **until you're** ..... **in the face** but he'll never hear you. He is as deaf as a post.

14. It was Brian's idea to **paint the town** ..... because he wanted to celebrate his promotion.

15. At first, no one believed she was a pilot, but her documents **lent** ..... **to** her statements.

16. To achieve a lasting success in politics and win people's favour, one must be **whiter than** ..... .

17. Frankie's going to **be tickled** ..... when I tell him we're going to have a baby.

18. The prime minister's resignation came **like a bolt from the** ..... No member of the cabinet had expected such a decision.

19. Don't even ask her to accompany us through the forest. She is so .....**- bellied** that she wouldn't stay at home alone.

20. I was sure my boss would **see** ..... if I told him about the missing files, so I preferred to keep it secret.

21. My father does not like to be disturbed when he is **in a** ..... **study** in his office.

22. I know it's been a pretty tough situation for you after the divorce. But as they say **every cloud has a** ..... **lining.** Now, you're starting a new life.

23. The question of taxation for the pensioners who take on casual jobs is still **a** ..... **area.** The ministry of finance has not issued any directives as yet.

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24. If you bring a gift only to Tommy, his twin brother, Christopher, will **scream** ..... **murder.** You should buy something for both of them.

25. Only when the EU funds are allocated, will the projects be **given the** ..... **light** and the building of the new car factory will begin.

26. I have never seen David so drunk before. He was so inebriated that he could probably **see** ..... **elephants.**

27. When Jack mentioned Alice's former relationships, it was **like a** ..... **rag to a bull.** She went mad.

28. We're bankrupt and have no money, no accommodation, not even friends to ask for help. Things really **look** ..... now.

29. Before we start renovating your big house, I'd like to **see the** ..... **of your money,** sir. I don't want to end up with you telling me that you're broke.

30. Jessica's been so vain and conceited because she got everything **handed to her on a** ..... **platter.** She doesn't know how it is to work on your position and fortune from the start.

III. Put the nouns in the appropriate phrases and match them with their definitions

arms	castles	icing	needle	sting
bolt	feather	manger	pan	straw
bull	fly	millstone	spanner	suit

1. the cause of failure of a plan, action *etc.*
2. naked
3. something sudden and unpleasant
4. a short-lived success
5. someone who selfishly prevents others from enjoying something
6. something too small to be found
7. smth that someone can be proud of
8. something that is unnecessarily added to something else that is good enough
9. dreams or plans that cannot be achieved
10. something that limits someone's freedom
11. someone clumsy in a delicate place
12. someone who lacks experience or needs help
13. a sign of a possible future occurrence
14. something or someone that spoils something good or pleasant
15. an unpleasant feature at the end of an event or story

A a babe in .....
B a/an ..... in the ointment
C a/an ..... in the tail
D a/an ..... in the wind
E in one's birthday .....
F a/an ..... round one's neck
G ..... in the air
H a/an .....in the works
I a/an .....in a china shop
J a/an .....from the blue
K the ..... on the cake
L a flash in the .....
M a/an ..... in a haystack
N a/an ..... in one's cap
O a dog in the .....

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IV. Fill the gaps with the appropriate adjectives.

big	dead	flat	hot	trump
blind	deep	fresh	tall	short
close	easy	full	tight	stiff

1. After her second divorce, Lucy said she would try to **make a/an** ..... **start** in life again.
2. Jack's a joker. He is fond of **telling** ..... **stories** that no one believes.
3. Henry's plans of becoming a successful businessman and a millionaire at the age of twenty may sound funny, but I like people who **think** ..... .
4. Couldn't we switch to another channel, daddy? I'm **bored** ..... with watching the Olympics all day round.
5. Don't get too impressed by his promises. They are just ..... **air.**
6. The English coach is going to **play his** ..... **card** by putting the brilliant Jenkins in the defence line.
7. Hellen almost let out a cry when she found her brother lying unconscious on the floor in the room. She had no idea he was ..... **drunk.**
8. Eddie's father owns a huge factory in Dallas, so he needn't worry about money. He will forever be **on** ..... **street,** I guess.
9. Watch out! There's a lorry coming for us! Thank God, we're still alive. It was **a/an** ..... **shave,** indeed.
10. Our New Year's Eve party was **in** ..... **swing** when the lights suddenly went out in the whole neighbourhood.
11. The Browns are both unemployed. With their six children they must be n**in a/an** ..... **corner** these days.
12. My son's been working twelve hours a day since April and that's why he is so ..... **beat** in the evenings.
13. The idea to spend the day in the museum **fell** ..... as everyone preferred to have fun on the beach.
14. Now, I've **been thrown in at the** ..... **end** having to take over all the chairman's duties so unexpectedly.
15. Even Mr Bay's elaborate concept was **given** ..... **shrift** by the boss. I wonder if anyone is going to work out a better design.

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V. Fill the gaps with the appropriate nouns.

bee	hills	Larry	pie	sheep
cucumber	houses	lord	rain	sheet
eel	ice	mouse	rake	sin
grave	lamb	peas	rock	word

1. Don't be afraid. You are ***as safe as***.....in here.
2. He won't support you. He is ***as poor as a church***..... .
3. Isn't she ill? She is ***as white as a(n)*** ..... .
4. I will never date him. He is ***as ugly as***..... .
5. I'm feeling very well. I'm ***as right as***..... .
6. He cannot be trusted. He is ***as slippery as a(n)***..... .
7. I didn't hear a whisper in the cellar. It was ***as silent as the***..... .
8. They are twins. They're **as *like as***..... ***in a pod.***
9. I've never heard her shout. She's ***as gentle as a(n)***..... .
10. Leave him alone. He's ***as drunk as a(n)***..... .
11. He will never let you down. He's ***as solid as a(n)***..... .
12. She always keeps her promises. She's **as *good as her***..... .
13. She isn't intelligent at all. She is **as *silly as a(n)***..... .
14. He's been working a lot lately. He's been **as *busy as a(n)***..... .
15. He never panics. He can be ***as cool as a(n)***..... .
16. It's an old joke. It is ***as old as the***..... .
17. She looks excited. She is ***as happy as***..... .
18. Hasn't she been dieting for too long? She's ***as thin as a(n)***..... .
19. I'll do it in no time at all. It's ***as easy as***..... .
20. I've forgotten my gloves. My hands are **as *cold as*** ..... .

VI. Fill the gaps with the appropriate names of items of clothing.

belt	hat	shirt	sock
boots	knickers	shoes	suit
coat	pants	sleeve	trousers

1. It's quite clear he hasn't told us the whole truth. He must be **keeping something under his** ..... .
2. Considering Lucy's bossy character, you can tell who **wears the** ..... in their house.
3. I've had to **tighten my** ..... since I have been saving the money for a new car.

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4. Would you mind **putting a** ..... **in it** while I am watching the interview? I can't hear a thing they are saying.

5. Peter doesn't like his timetable to be rearranged without informing him in advance. If we do it, he may **get his** ..... **in a twist.**

6. It is hardly probable that they will take to each other. They are both **too big for their** ..... .

7. Statistically, our national team don't win too many matches. So, I wouldn't **put my**..... **on** them if I were you.

8. It's up to the director to decide who is going to **fill Ann's** ..... when she takes a year's leave.

9. Andrew is afraid of the exam because history has never been **his strong** …….. .

10. The Mexican boxing champion says he' going to **beat the** ..... **off** his American opponent. But the truth is his chances are rather slim.

11. My fortune's gone and I can't afford to live the same extravagant lifestyle as I did for the last ten years. I have to **cut my** ..... **according to my cloth.**

12. Jane must have known something else about the occurrence judging by the way she **laughed up her** .....

13. You're being unkind, Mark. Your remarks about my sister's appearance are rather **below the** ..... .

14. We couldn't decide which film to watch in the cinema, so we **picked** the drama **out of** ..... .

15. The criminals were **caught with their** ..... **down** by the police. They didn't even suspect the officers had been observing them for weeks.

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