

## A PRACTICE OF PHRASES AND IDIOMS 3

### Exercise 1. Fill the gaps with the appropriate nouns.

air	ebb	night	storm	water
dust	ice	rain	thunder	weather
earth	moon	river	tide	wind

1. It was the students' organization that initiated the charity action, but the dean **stole their** ..... and received the most recognition.
2. Due to the recession, our business has been **at a low** ..... That's why we've had to lay off our workers.
3. **Come** ..... **or shine**, I will always stand by you. I promise.
4. Their excuses are just a pack of lies. None of the stories **holds** .....
5. Patrick invited everyone to his club for a party. I tell you we did **make a** ..... **of it**.
6. Irene's been **walking on** ..... because she's been given a role in a film. It's her first appearance in front of the film camera.
7. If you tell him his girlfriend is waiting for him at the gate, you **won't see him for** .....
8. The brilliant performance of the string quartet **took the audience by** ..... There were at least three encores before we left.
9. How about doing our shopping in a cheaper place? Everything **costs the** ..... in this posh shopping centre.
10. 'Did Paul like his Christmas presents?' - 'Well, he didn't say anything, but it seemed he wasn't **over the** ..... about them.'
11. Only Jenny said no to our proposals. Must she always **swim against the** .....
12. The foreman has warned me the task is going to be very difficult.' 'Oh, don't worry he tends to **make heavy** ..... **of** every job.'
13. When it turned out the Republican Party's candidate ruined his chance for a victory in the campaign, all his supporters **sold him down the** ..... by joining the Democrats.
14. Our plans of building the amusement park have been **put on** ..... as our application for EU funds has not been dealt with as yet.
15. Don't you think you are **sailing close to the** ..... by settling your private matters during your working hours?

### Exercise 2. Fill the gaps with the appropriate nouns.

apple	biscuit	fat	oats	pudding
bacon	cherry	fig	onions	salt
beans	egg	meal	pie	soup

1. We hoped to give the bicycle to Sue as a birthday surprise, but it turned out Max had **spilt the** ..... before the party.
2. He both runs the store and does the accounts. He also coordinates the supplies and supervises the distribution. He **has got a finger in every** .....
3. You've made up hundreds of extraordinary excuses, but this one really **takes the** ..... It's the strangest thing I've ever heard.
4. They say my application hasn't been successful. But I'm going to **have a second bite at the** ..... next year.
5. Stella may not excel at sports, but she certainly **knows her** ..... when mathematics is the case.
6. Stop telling me about your family problems! I **don't give a/an** ..... **for** your private matters.
7. Alan is known to make up the most incredible stories. Anything he says should be **taken with a pinch of** .....

8. When his poor father died, it was the young boy who had to work hard to **bring home the**.....
9. It's believed that it's good for a young man to **sow his wild** ..... before one settles down and gets married.
10. 'I reckon the Boltons have nothing to complain about living their extravagant lifestyle.' 'Certainly, not. They do **live off the** ..... **of the land.**'
11. We were to have left for Venice in May, but John's sudden illness **upset our** ..... **cart for good.**
12. I've heard Michael's wife has found out about his love affair. It looks like **he's in the**.....
13. Robin went furious reading the critical article about himself in one of the papers. It did leave him with ..... **on his face.**
14. Don't run away with any baseless opinions about the play before watching it. Don'T you know that **the proof of the** ..... **is in the eating?**
15. It's a waste of time writing such a long report on such a minor event. I wouldn't **make a/an** ..... **of it** if I were in your place.

**Exercise 3. Insert the paired expressions in the appropriate phrases.**

black and blue  
fair and square  
hale and hearty  
high and low  
hot and bothered

long and short  
safe and sound  
sick and tired  
straight and narrow  
thick and thin

1. Why don't you stop complaining for a while? I'm already ..... of your bellyaching all day long.
2. The prosecutor didn't comment much on the results of the investigation. He only said that the ..... of it was that the suspect would still be kept in detention.
3. Michael and Betty have been close friends for years. Always together through .....
4. The students were searching ..... for the book, but they could not find it in any of the libraries or bookshops.
5. Tom has learned his lesson in the prison and since that time he has stayed on the ..... . He's a pattern to follow now.
6. Despite his old age, my grandfather is still ..... . He can work all day round and never complains about his health.
7. The poor mother burst into tears seeing her dear son's face ..... all over after the assault.
8. Isn't Jason acting too nervous? It seems to me he is all ..... about something.
9. Fortunately, nothing happened to the sailors who got missing. They were found ..... in their lifeboat somewhere in the North Pacific.
10. Three of the players were shown the red card and there were even more yellow cards during the game. Certainly, the match was not played ..... by any of the teams.

**Exercise 4. Fill the gaps with the appropriate nouns.**

back  
blood  
breast

eye  
face  
feet

fist  
hair  
hand

heart  
mouth  
nose

skin  
spine  
stomach

1. My car broke down on the road, so I had to hitch a lift and only managed to arrive for the conference **by the** ..... **of my teeth.**

2. Tommy **pulled a long** ..... when his father told him to stay at home while the other children were taken to the cinema.
3. The boss of the mafia has promised to **make a clean** ..... **of** all his criminal activity if the police offer him a maximum protection.
4. Could you **lend me a/an** ..... **with** carrying the ladder to the garden? It's too heavy for a small woman like me.
5. At the beginning, Frank was a bit ashamed. But in the end, he **made a good** ..... **of** asking Sylvia out for a date.
6. Robbie wants to go on the rollercoaster ride, but I **have no** ..... **for** this kind of amusement, so I think I will give it up.
7. It sticks out a mile something wrong has happened to Mary recently. She has **been down in the** ..... for some time.
8. My brother's scary stories used to **make my** ..... **run cold** when I was a child. Now we only have a good laugh about them.
9. Much as everyone likes Sarah, she is often criticized for **poking her** ..... **into** other people's private matters.
10. Try not to panic before the performance even if you **get cold** .....
11. Alice is the kind of person who always **wears her** ..... **on her sleeve**.
12. Lisa has never **turned her** ..... **on** her friends and offers her help whenever they need it.
13. The weekend is the perfect time to **let your** ..... **down** for a while, so stop thinking about your job and relax.
14. Just watching the stuntmen performing their daring tricks **sends shivers down my** .....
15. Ben's sudden withdrawal from the declamation contest was **one in the** ..... **for** all his supporters, who believed he would succeed.

**Exercise 5. Choose the correct answer.**

1. Mark's trying to persuade us to accept his own way of reasoning, but what we need is an independent opinion from someone who has no ..... to grind.  
A axe                                      B stone                                      C hammer                                      D tool
2. Who do you think is going to.....the day at the races this time? Would you bet your money on Gordon Simpson?  
A succeed                                      B run                                      C carry                                      D take
3. Since the engineers at the service station failed to repair my car, I have ..... all my hopes on my neighbour, Mr Tanner.  
A clipped                                      B nailed                                      C stuck                                      D pinned
4. - 'Can we ..... it quits if I give you back ten pounds?' - 'Forget it. You will still owe me ten more.'  
A name                                      B call                                      C consider                                      D state
5. The boss said something that I didn't fully understand. Only when I talked about it to my manager did the ..... drop.  
A pound                                      B coin                                      C quid                                      D penny
6. It would be silly to reject their proposal without learning anything about it ..... first. Why not give them the ..... of the doubt?  
A right                                      B point                                      C benefit                                      D value
7. I am not usually that nervous, but I did have ..... in my stomach when it came to interpreting for the president himself.  
A butterflies                                      B insects                                      C moths                                      D spiders
8. Don't you think you live your lifestyle in much too extravagant way? Hadn't you better think about saving some money for a ..... day, Josh?  
A windy                                      B cloudy                                      C rainy                                      D foggy
9. Mike is the best swimmer in his age group. He can.....spots off every other competitor easily.  
A win                                      B knock                                      C draw                                      D beat

10. The colour is wonderful and the jacket fits like a ..... but it's the price that really puts me off buying it.

A suit                                      B sock                                      C glove                                      D shirt

11. - 'Is it the.....thing to ask the bride for the first dance?' - 'Certainly not. First, she will dance with the groom.'

A made                                      B found                                      C done                                      D held

12. Ted won a thousand pounds in the lottery last Saturday. It was really money for old.....

A rope                                      B line                                      C string                                      D wire

13. You look rather sad, Joan. I think the letter from your boyfriend will ..... your day. Here it is.

A please                                      B make                                      C cheer                                      D wake

14. It surprises me that Peter has got his ..... in Arthur. He doesn't know him at all, yet he hates the boy.

A dagger                                      B knife                                      C hatchet                                      D axe

15. Don't move from here. Just.....put until I come back.

A be                                      B hold                                      C keep                                      D stay

16. However upsetting the captain's remarks were, I managed to keep a ..... upper lip and continued doing my duties.

A hard                                      B tight                                      C stiff                                      D loose

17. I cannot think who had ..... the gaff, but it seems everyone knows that Nicole and I are planning to get married.

A burst                                      B. blown                                      C split                                      D banged

18. *Gone With the Wind* is one of the old films that has ..... the test of time.

A stood                                      B lived                                      C borne                                      D endured

19. I like reading romantic stories whereas my boyfriend goes for fantasy. However, when music is the case, we are on common ..... as we both love rock.

A base                                      B term                                      C ground                                      D field

20. Keep off the grass! Mrs. Turnip will.....off the handle if she sees you walking on her lawn.

A rush                                      B jump                                      C move                                      D fly

**Exercise 6. Fill the gaps with the appropriate nouns.**

bee	cat	dogs	horse	pig
bird	cows	duck	lion	rat
bull	dodo	goat	monkey	turkey

1. Will you show me the watch first, please? It just want to make sure I'm not **buying a .....**  
**in a poke.**

2. Peter was mad. It was the disturbing message that **got his .....**

3. You could ask for a rise **till the .....** **come home.** They will never give one to an unskilled worker.

4. 'I took the second place and only got a hundred pounds as the prize.' 'Not bad anyway. **A .....**  
**in the hand is worth two in the bush**'.

5. You'll be **flogging a dead .....** if you keep persuading everyone to read that book. Nobody's interested in it.

6. I think I can **smell a .....** . Someone's trying to get me out of the business by spreading those nasty gossips about me.

7. Royalist ideology is **as dead as the .....** . Don't tell me we need to reinstate the monarchy to make order in the country.

8. Robin thinks he can **make a .....** **out of me** and sell me his old car at such a high price. I know how much it is worth.

9. The .....**'s share** of the media mogul's fortune will go to his juvenile daughter. The rest will be inherited by his three ex-wives..

10. Simon **has got a .....** **in his bonnet about** his model airplanes. He will talk about them for hours.

11. I'd rather you didn't say a thing about Alice's divorce in her presence. It's better to **let sleeping ..... lie**. We don't need another argument, do we?
12. His company went bankrupt and not much later his wife walked out on him. How ever he managed to **take the ..... by the horns** and make a fresh start in his life is a mystery to me.
13. Will wouldn't listen to our warnings. It was all **like water off a ..... 's back**. Now, he's got only himself to blame for the accident.
14. We have got a few serious company problems that need to be solved. I suggest we meet in my office and **talk .....**
15. Cindy will never forgive you for **letting the ..... out of the bag**. You have just revealed her dearest secret.