

# 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. lipstick                            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 25<sup>th</sup> 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

*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