

**Idioms**

**Directions:** Determine the meaning of the bolded expression. Choose the best answer.

1. After going to the zoo, the mall, and the movies, Tania was sick of **bending over backwards** to entertain her nieces.
  - a. Tania was doing very little to entertain her nieces.
  - b. Tania was making small efforts to entertain her nieces.
  - c. Tania was trying very hard to entertain her nieces.
  - d. Tania was not trying at all to entertain her nieces.
  
2. Timmy would have been playing ball **until the cows came home** if it hadn't been for Buffy dragging him home for dinner.
  - a. Timmy was just about to stop playing ball.
  - b. Timmy didn't even want to play ball to begin with.
  - c. Timmy prefers nature to athletics.
  - d. Timmy would have continued playing ball for a long time.
  
3. Mr. Ahmed was very particular about the arrangement of his classroom, so the thing he hated most was when his students caused a ruckus with their wild **horseplay**.
  - a. Mr. Ahmed hated when his students pretended to be animals.
  - b. Mr. Ahmed hated when his students played sports.
  - c. Mr. Ahmed hated when his students wrestled around with each other.
  - d. Mr. Ahmed hated when his students made animal noises.

4. Rehan wanted to fix his cousin's computer, but he was already having problems setting up his Aunt's Wi-Fi network and he didn't want to **open a whole new can of worms**.

- a. Rehan was sick of spending his time helping his family.
- b. Rehan wanted to go fishing instead of working on computers.
- c. Rehan was having difficulties untangling the computer wires.
- d. Rehan was not ready to begin working on a complicated new problem.

5. Even though Jane already had a new job, she submitted her two week notice and conducted herself in a professional way at her old job because she didn't want to **burn bridges**.

- a. Jane didn't want to ruin her positive relationship with her old employer.
- b. Jane wasn't ready to start her new job.
- c. Jane was really going to miss her old job.
- d. Jane was waiting until her last day to rub it in everyone's face that she was leaving.

6. World renowned country western super group The Mountain Boys can sell out an arena **at the drop of a hat**.

- a. The Mountain Boys may be able to sell out an arena, but it will take a long time.
- b. The Mountain Boys can sell out an arena very quickly.
- c. The Mountain Boys are always willing to perform at charity events.
- d. The Mountain Boys enforce a dress code at all of their shows.

7. Pete expected Sean to sob uncontrollably when she broke up with him; however, Sean **kept a stiff upper lip**.

- a. Sean cried even more than Pete had expected.
- b. Sean cried about as much as Pete had expected.
- c. Sean cried a little less than Pete had expected.
- d. Sean did not cry.

8. Mrs Zaheer expects Tania and my presentation to be good, but we have been working on it every night for the last week, so we are really going to **knock her socks off**.

- a. Tania and the speaker are not prepared to give a good presentation.
- b. Tania and the speaker intend on hitting Mrs Zaheer rather than presenting.
- c. Tania and the speaker's presentation will far exceed Mrs Zaheer's expectations.
- d. Tania and the speaker's presentation will meet Mrs. Robison's expectations.

9. Over the summer Ben was really excited about being placed in the advanced math class, but after getting his syllabus on the first day and seeing the workload, he was ready to **jump ship**.

- a. Ben was even more excited about the math class than he was over the summer.
- b. Ben wanted to start working on his math assignments right away.
- c. Ben did not want to be in the advance math class anymore.
- d. Ben wanted to cause some trouble in the advanced math class.

10. Jenny had a hard time comparing the iPhone to the Samsung phone because to him they were **apples and oranges**.

- a. Jenny can hardly tell the difference between the two phones because they are so similar.
- b. Jenny believes that the phones are so different from one another that they cannot be compared.
- c. Jenny doesn't know anything about phones so he may as well be thinking about fruits.
- d. Jenny is too hungry to think about phones at this time.

11. When Ben felt pretty good about getting the a pair of roller-skates for his birthday, until he saw his twin brother Keith open up his Game Box X-9000, and then Ben felt like he **got the short end of the stick**.

- a. Ben felt like Keith received a better gift than he.
- b. Ben was quite pleased with his roller skates.
- c. Ben wanted a long stick that he could use to support himself on hikes.
- d. Ben feels bad for Keith because Keith wanted roller-skates.

12. After Ms. Wilson caught Sally chewing gum for the third time, Ms. Wilson scheduled a parent teacher conference with Sally's mother. When Sally's mother

came into Ms. Wilson's classroom, she was chewing gum. Ms. Wilson thought to herself, "the apple doesn't fall far from the tree."

- a. Ms. Wilson thinks that Sally dresses like her mother.
- b. Ms. Wilson thinks that Sally acts a lot like her mother.
- c. Ms. Wilson is surprised to see that Sally's mother came.
- d. Ms. Wilson thinks that Sally's mother lives very close to the school.

13. Zack was accusing us of stealing his phone until he found it, and now he's trying to **sweep it under the rug**.

- a. Zack thinks that his phone will be safer if he hides it under the rug.
- b. Zack wants to do something to make up for his mistake.
- c. Zack is trying to locate a signal for his phone so that he can use it.
- d. Zack wants to pretend that the incident never happened.

14. Shelly got up and started yelling at Ron and threatening him but Ron didn't even flinch because he knew that her **bark was worse than her bite**.

- a. Ron thinks that Shelly will get in trouble for yelling.
- b. Ron thinks that Shelly has bad breath.
- c. Ron thinks that Shelly is loud but not dangerous.
- d. Ron thinks that Shelly has a crush on him.

15. You might think that Sean Conner is the kid who has everything, but if you saw the list of chores his parents give him, I guarantee that you wouldn't want to **be in his shoes**.

- a. You wouldn't want your shoes to get as dirty as Sean's when he's doing his chores.
- b. If you have to do as many chores as Sean, you'll want a pair of comfortable shoes.
- c. Sean's shoes are so uncomfortable that doing his chores is really unpleasant.
- d. Sean has so many chores to do that it is unpleasant to imagine doing them all.