Numbers Idioms

Sentences 1 – 20 all contain an idiom or other expression in bold that uses a cardinal number (1, 2, 3, etc) or an ordinal number (first, second, third, etc). If you complete the grid correctly, you will reveal a four-word expression in the shaded vertical column. This expression can be used to complete sentence 21.

1. If you decide to sell your car, could you give me **first** _____? (*to give someone the opportunity to buy something before offering it to anyone else*)

2. She paid me a **two-edged** _____: she said that I was very good looking for a fat person! (*capable of being understood in two different ways, or of having both good and bad effects*)

3. Tom has got a **one-_____ mind**. He just thinks about girls all the time! (*Tom thinks about the same thing all the time*)

4. She sometimes arrives early, but **nine _____ out of ten** she's late. (*nearly always*)

5. "Do you think we'll win the match tomorrow?" "Maybe. We've got a _____-_____ **chance**." (*our chances are equal. Note that the same word is used twice in this expression. You only need to write it once in the grid*)

6. "I've failed my driving test twice, but I'm going to try again tomorrow." "Oh, well, good luck. **Third time** _____, right?" (*a spoken expression that is used for saying that the third time you try something you will be successful when the first two times you were not successful*)

7. When he asked me to marry him I said yes immediately, but now I'm **having second** _____. (*to begin to doubt a decision that you have made*)

8. I went to a party last night and had **one too** _____. (*to drink too much alcohol*)

9. "I haven't got any money." Well, **that** _____ **two of us**!" (*a spoken expression used for telling someone that you are in the same situation as they are*)

10. You're so **two**-_____! You tell me that I work hard and get good results, then you tell everyone else that I'm lazy and incompetent! (*dishonest about your feelings, thoughts and beliefs, and tending to tell people whatever you think will please them*)

11. Redheads Wine Bar is popular with **thirty**_____ professionals. (*an adjective used to describe people between the ages of 30 and 39*)

12. When I was young, we moved from the city to a **one** _____ **town** in East Anglia. (*a place that is small and boring*)

13. It was a very formal dinner party, so everyone **was** _____ **up to the nines**. (*wearing extremely fashionable or, in this case, formal clothes*)

14. OK, everyone, we've worked really well and got a lot achieved in the last couple of hours. Let's _____ **five**. (*a spoken expression which means 'stop working for a short period of time'*)

15. How did you know I was in the house? You must have a **sixth** _____! (*a special ability to feel or see things without using sight, hearing, touch, smell or taste*)

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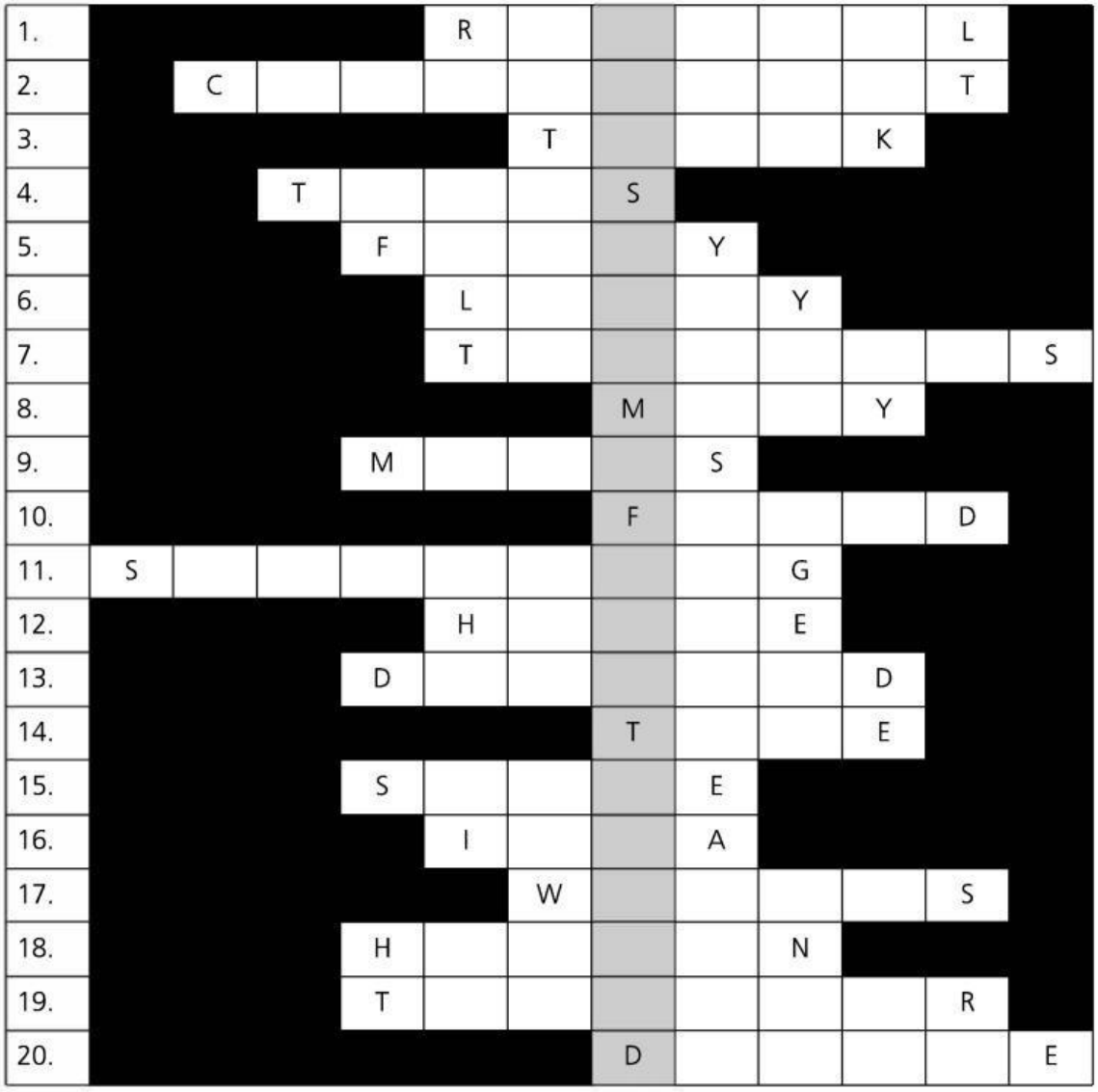
16. Holly thinks she's an expert on computers, but she **hasn't got the first _____ about them**. (*to not know anything about a subject, or not have the skills to do something*)

17. "She hit me, so I hit her." "That was stupid. **Two _____ don't make a right**." (*a spoken expression used for saying that you should not react to someone's wrong behaviour by doing something wrong yourself*)

18. She's been **in seventh** _____ ever since she got the job. (*to feel extremely happy*)

19. When I saw my girlfriend coming out of a restaurant with a strange man, I naturally **put two and two** _____. (*to guess what is happening or what something means based on what you have seen or heard*)

20. I was supposed to come home by 10 o'clock, but I didn't get back until 4 in the morning. Naturally my mother **gave me the third** _____ and demanded to know where I had been. (*to ask someone a lot of questions in a determined way*)



Use the expression to complete this sentence:

21. Tickets for the concert will be allocated on a _____ _____, _____ _____ basis. (*a four-word expression which is used for saying that if you arrive before other people, you will be given or sold something before them*)

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