ENGLISH VOCABULARY TESTS

Idiom Origins: Sea, Sport and Shakespeare Idioms, with Quiz

15 questions · Choose the correct answer. Online test and answer key with explanations:
https://englishtestsonline.com/idiom-origins-sea-sport-and-shakespeare-idioms-with-quiz/

Name: _____ Date: _____ Score: _____ / 15

1. The restaurant has a wedding party of 200 tonight, so it's ___.
A) everyone on board **B)** all arms on deck
C) all hands on board **D)** all hands on deck

2. Which of these idioms comes from boxing?
A) par for the course **B)** plain sailing
C) throw in the towel **D)** a wild-goose chase

3. He seemed generous, but when the bill came he ___ and refused to pay his share.
A) showed his true colours
B) showed his real flags
C) wore his true colours
D) raised his colours

4. In the idiom "in one fell swoop", the old word fell meant:
A) fallen **B)** cruel **C)** single **D)** quiet

5. The lift is broken again. Sadly, that's ___ in this building.
A) plain sailing
B) par for the course
C) below the belt
D) the be-all and end-all

6. Sales are falling and a hard winter is coming, so the company has decided to ___.
A) batten down the hatches
B) batten up the hatches
C) batten down the windows
D) fasten the doors down

7. "Our accountant gives the office printer a wide berth." What does he do?
A) He avoids it.
B) He repairs it.
C) He uses it a lot.
D) He moves it somewhere bigger.

8. The interview was going badly, but then the fire alarm rang. I was ___.
A) saved by the gong **B)** saved by the alarm
C) rescued by the bell **D)** saved by the bell

9. Calling her old-fashioned in front of her own students was ___.
A) under the belt **B)** below the belt
C) below the waist **D)** under the waist

10. After months of arguments, the band is finally back ___.
A) on a flat keel **B)** on an equal keel
C) on an even keel **D)** on a level ship

11. The directions sent us on ___ round the old town.
A) a wild-geese chase **B)** a wild-goose hunt
C) a wild-gander run **D)** a wild-goose chase

12. In Othello, the green-eyed monster is a name for which feeling?
A) anger **B)** jealousy
C) greed **D)** fear

13. Mo cries at adverts and laughs out loud in libraries. He ___.
A) wears his heart on his sleeve
B) wears his heart in his pocket
C) has his heart on his hand
D) shows his heart on his shirt

14. Money isn't ___ of a job; I want to enjoy my work too.
A) the start-all and finish-all
B) the all-in-all
C) the be-all and end-all
D) the be-all and finish-all

15. The café's first year wasn't all ___, but I've sent the bank my plan, so now ___.
A) plain boating … the ball's at their feet
B) plain sailing … the ball's in my court
C) plain sailing … the ball's in their court
D) easy rowing … the ball's in their field

Finished? Check your answers online

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