ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Idioms MCQ Test With Answers + PDF Exercise 02

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Explanations

1. To "call it a day" means _____.
✓ **A) to quit**
To **call it a day** means to stop working or stop an activity for now. Example: **We've done enough, let's call it a day.**

2. To "call the tune" means _____.
✓ **B) to give orders**
To **call the tune** means to be the person in control who gives the orders. Example: **He pays the money, so he calls the tune.**

3. To "carry off" means _____.
✓ **A) to take away**
To **carry off** means to take someone or something away. Example: **The thieves carried off the TV.** It can also mean to win a prize: **She carried off first prize.**

4. To put the "cart before the horse" means _____.
✓ **C) to do things in the wrong order**
To **put the cart before the horse** means to do things in the wrong order: the horse should pull the cart, so it must come first. Not **to plan ahead**, which is the opposite idea.

5. To "catch on" means _____.
✓ **A) to understand**
To **catch on** means to understand something, often after some time. Example: **He didn't get the joke at first, but he caught on.** It can also mean to become popular.

6. To "be caught short" means _____.
✓ **C) not to have enough of something when needed**
To **be caught short** means not to have enough of something, such as money, when you need it. Example: **I was caught short at the shop and couldn't pay.** It has nothing to do with being short in height.

7. "Cheapskate" means _____.
✓ **B) someone who doesn't spend much money**
A **cheapskate** is a person who doesn't like spending money, even when they should. Example: **He never buys anyone a drink. He's such a cheapskate!** Not **something that isn't expensive**, because it describes a person, not a thing.

8. To "check up" means _____.
✓ **B) to investigate**
To **check up** (on something or someone) means to investigate, to find out if everything is correct or all right. Example: **The police checked up on his story.**

9. To "cheer up" means _____.
✓ **A) to become happy**
To **cheer up** means to become happier, or to make someone happier. Example: **Cheer up! It's not that bad.**

10. "Chicken feed" means _____.
✓ **B) a small amount of money**
Chicken feed means a very small, unimportant amount of money. Example: **For a rich company, a thousand dollars is chicken feed.**

11. "I dare say" means _____.
✓ **C) I suppose**
I dare say means **I suppose** or **I think it is probably true**. Example: **I dare say you're tired after your journey.** Not **I definitely know**, because the speaker is not sure.

12. To "dash off" means _____.
✓ **A) to do, make, or draw something quickly**
To **dash off** means to do, write or draw something very quickly. Example: **She dashed off a quick email before the meeting.** It can also mean to leave in a hurry.

13. "Dead tired" means _____.
✓ **B) very tired**
Dead tired means extremely tired. Here **dead** just means **very**; it has nothing to do with dying.

14. To be in "deep water" means _____.
✓ **B) to be in serious trouble**
To be in **deep water** means to be in serious trouble or a difficult situation. Example: **If the boss finds out, you'll be in deep water.**

15. If something "dies down", it means it _____.
✓ **C) fades away**
If something **dies down**, it slowly becomes weaker or quieter until it fades away. Example: **The wind died down in the evening.**

16. To "die out" means _____.
✓ **C) to disappear slowly**
To **die out** means to disappear slowly until nothing is left. Example: **Dinosaurs died out millions of years ago.** Not **to die quickly**, because the process is gradual.

17. A "dime a dozen" means _____.
✓ **C) something is easy to get**
If something is **a dime a dozen**, it is very common and easy to get, so it has little value. Example: **Cheap phones like this are a dime a dozen.** It is mainly American English.

18. To "dish out" means _____.
✓ **A) to serve**
To **dish out** means to serve food, or to give out something to many people. Example: **Mum dished out the soup.**

19. To "do away with" something means _____.
✓ **B) to get rid of something**
To **do away with** something means to get rid of it or stop using it. Example: **The school did away with uniforms.**

20. If someone is "down to earth", he is _____.
✓ **B) practical**
A **down-to-earth** person is practical and realistic, and easy to talk to. Example: **Despite being famous, she's very down to earth.**

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