ENGLISH VOCABULARY TESTS

Using Idioms Correctly: Fixed and Flexible Parts, with Quiz

15 questions · Choose the correct answer. Online test and answer key with explanations:
https://englishtestsonline.com/using-idioms-correctly-fixed-and-flexible-parts-with-quiz/

Name: _____ Date: _____ Score: _____ / 15

1. Which sentence uses “kick the bucket” in a suitable way?
A) The priest said Mrs Ford had kicked the bucket peacefully.
B) Our deepest sympathy: we hear your mother kicked the bucket.
C) The bucket was finally kicked by our old printer.
D) My old laptop kicked the bucket the night before my deadline.

2. I hate phoning the bank, but tomorrow I’ll ___ and call them.
A) bite the bullet **B)** bite a bullet
C) bite the bullets **D)** chew the bullet

3. The newspaper ___ and announced the winner before the votes were counted.
A) shot the gun **B)** jumped the pistol
C) jumped the gun **D)** fired the gun

4. Our flight was eight hours late and, ___, the airline lost our bags.
A) to add injury to insult
B) to add insult to injury
C) to add salt to injury
D) adding injury to insult

5. If you are burning the candle at both ends, what are you doing?
A) working late and getting up early for too long
B) spending money on two things at once
C) telling two people different stories
D) finishing a job very quickly

6. “I think Jo got the wrong end of the stick.” What happened?
A) She was treated unfairly.
B) She chose the worse of two jobs.
C) She started at the wrong moment.
D) She misunderstood what someone said.

7. The news that two branches would close really ___ among the pigeons.
A) put the dog **B)** set the cat
C) put the fox **D)** threw the cat

8. There is so much detail in this report that we can’t see the ___ for the trees.
A) woods **B)** leaves
C) wood **D)** branches

9. Every politician fears that a journalist will find a ___.
A) skeleton in the cupboard
B) skeleton in the wardrobe
C) ghost in the cupboard
D) bone in the closet

10. Don’t ask who should pay for the broken fence; that would ___.
A) open a box of worms **B)** open a tin of snakes
C) open a can of worms **D)** open a can of beans

11. Our engagement was meant to be a secret, but my brother ___ at dinner.
A) spilled the milk **B)** let the beans out
C) dropped the beans **D)** spilled the beans

12. Police say that ___ in the search for the missing walker.
A) no stone will be turned
B) no stone will be left unturned
C) every stone will be left unturned
D) no rock will be left unturned

13. Ten reported cases may be ___: experts think hundreds more go unreported.
A) only the tip of the iceberg
B) only the top of the iceberg
C) only the tip of the mountain
D) only the edge of the iceberg

14. The expensive watch left at the scene was ___: the burglar had dropped it to fool the police.
A) a red fish **B)** a white herring
C) a red herring **D)** a dark horse

15. The study ___ by testing the drug on teenagers, but the jury ___ on whether it is safe.
A) broke new soil … is still out
B) broke new ground … is still out
C) broke new ground … is still in
D) made new ground … has gone out

Finished? Your score and the answer key with explanations:
https://englishtestsonline.com/using-idioms-correctly-fixed-and-flexible-parts-with-quiz/