82 English Idioms and Expressions Tests

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1. **Adding Up**

**Q1** I cannot understand why she did that, it really *doesn't add up*.

(a) doesn't calculate  
(b) isn't mathematics  
(c) doesn't make sense  
(d) makes the wrong addition

**Q2** All the students got high marks in the test but Mary *stood out*.

(a) got a lot of marks  
(b) got higher marks than someone  
(c) got very good marks  
(d) got the most marks of all

**Q3** He has sold his house and has no job and so now he has *next to nothing*.

(a) he is unemployed  
(b) he has almost no money  
(c) he has a few things  
(d) he has nothing at all

**Q4** As a newspaper reporter she always wanted to get information *at first hand*.

(a) quickly  
(b) slowly  
(c) easily  
(d) directly

**Q5** I think we can safely say now that we have got our money back, we are *home and dry*.

(a) have not got wet  
(b) have got no water  
(c) have been successful  
(d) have got home dry

**Q6** He is the man who owns all the land and is *the big fish* around here.

(a) the fat man  
(b) the huge man  
(c) the important man  
(d) the enormous man

**Q7** She never stops talking about herself and is *full of herself*.

(a) is very fat  
(b) is too fat  
(c) is very full  
(d) is very conceited

**Q8** You will not slip over because the floor is *as dry as a bone*.

(a) completely hard  
(b) extremely flat  
(c) totally dry  
(d) completely cracked

**Q9** He kept saying he didn't do it but *in the end* he said he had done it.

(a) at the end  
(b) finally  
(c) at last  
(d) by the end

**Q10** I know you are very sorry that you broke the pot but *accidents will happen*.

(a) things will take place  
(b) things do occur  
(c) things take place often  
(d) things often go wrong
### Up to his ears

**Q1** He's _up to his ears in_ work and cannot possibly see you now.

(a) fully occupied with  
(b) very interested in  
(c) not involved with  
(d) concerned with

**Q2** If you _give me a hand_, then I shall be able to finish more quickly.

(a) take my hand  
(b) help me  
(c) take my fingers  
(d) pick me up

**Q3** I prefer to talk to people _face to face_ rather than to talk on the phone.

(a) in person  
(b) facing them  
(c) looking at them  
(d) seeing them

**Q4** The manager dismissed the new proposal _out of hand_ and said that it was not at all practical.

(a) quickly  
(b) utterly  
(c) directly  
(d) simply

**Q5** As she is new to the job I would ask you to _keep an eye on_ her for the time being.

(a) look at  
(b) consider  
(c) check  
(d) observe

**Q6** The opposition in parliament accused the government of _playing games_ and refusing to accept the seriousness of the situation.

(a) being light hearted  
(b) being heavy hearted  
(c) being down hearted  
(d) being faint hearted

**Q7** He accused her of _talking through her hat_ and refused to accept a word of what she said.

(a) talking sense  
(b) talking straight  
(c) talking nonsense  
(d) talking tough

**Q8** The police advised them to go down to the cellar in order to be _out of harm's way_.

(a) away from the noise  
(b) inside the area  
(c) into safety  
(d) away from danger

**Q9** I'd _give my right arm_ if I could get tickets for that concert.

(a) do absolutely anything  
(b) do something dangerous  
(c) do something stupid  
(d) do what you want

**Q10** You can always rely on Fred to _put his foot in it_ and come out with a remark like that.

(a) tread on somebody  
(b) fall over  
(c) say something embarrassing  
(d) put on the wrong shoe
### English Idioms and Expressions / Advanced level # 1

#### English Animal Idioms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Q1</th>
<th>There are times when you must decide and <strong>take the bull by the horns</strong>.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(a) make the right decision</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(c) make a bold decision</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Q2</th>
<th>He <strong>leads a dog's life</strong> really because his freedom is always curtailed.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(a) never knows what to do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(c) never goes out</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Q3</th>
<th>No-one ever mentions him because he's regarded as <strong>the black sheep of the family</strong>.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(a) the one with a sense of humour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(c) the one who is always late</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Q4</th>
<th>I shouldn't go outside without a raincoat because <strong>it's raining cats and dogs</strong>.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(a) it's just started to rain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(c) it's raining very heavily</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Q5</th>
<th>You shouldn't sign there I think he's about <strong>to make a monkey out of you</strong>.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(a) to make a fool of you</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(c) to make you feel stupid</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Q6</th>
<th>It's a lovely house and very big but nobody uses it so it's <strong>a bit of a white elephant</strong>.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(a) something very beautiful and useful</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(c) something very cheap and useless</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Q7</th>
<th>When the business folded, he took <strong>the lion's share</strong> of the assets.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(a) the easiest part</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(c) the biggest part</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Q8</th>
<th>Without my glasses I can't see where I'm going in fact I'm <strong>as blind as a bat</strong>.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(a) very short sighted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(c) very far sighted</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Q9</th>
<th>I get very irritated sometimes because they're always <strong>up with the lark</strong> and I like to lie in.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(a) up very easily</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(c) up very often</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Q10</th>
<th>I would advise you to do that as well and in that way you'll <strong>kill two birds with one stone</strong>.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(a) get things done twice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(c) get two things done at the same time</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
English Idioms and Expressions
(Answer Keys)
### Adding Up

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Sentence</th>
<th>Answer</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A1</td>
<td>I cannot understand why she did that, it really doesn't make sense.</td>
<td>(c) doesn't make sense</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A2</td>
<td>All the students got high marks in the test but Mary got the most marks of all.</td>
<td>(d) got the most marks of all</td>
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<td>A3</td>
<td>He has sold his house and has no job and so now he has almost no money.</td>
<td>(b) he has almost no money</td>
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<td>A4</td>
<td>As a newspaper reporter she always wanted to get information directly.</td>
<td>(d) directly</td>
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<td>I think we can safely say now that we have got our money back, we are have been successful.</td>
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<td>He kept saying he didn't do it but finally he said he had done it.</td>
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<td>I know you are very sorry that you broke the pot but things do occur.</td>
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### Up to his ears

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<tr>
<th>Q.</th>
<th>Sentence</th>
<th>Correct Answer</th>
<th>Explanation</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>A1</td>
<td>He's <strong>fully occupied with</strong> work and cannot possibly see you now.</td>
<td>(a) fully occupied with</td>
<td></td>
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<td>A2</td>
<td>If you <strong>help</strong> me, then I shall be able to finish more quickly.</td>
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<td>The manager dismissed the new proposal <strong>utterly</strong> and said that it was not at all practical.</td>
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<td>As she is new to the job I would ask you to <strong>observe</strong> on her for the time being.</td>
<td>(d) observe</td>
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<td>The opposition in parliament accused the government of <strong>being light hearted</strong> and refusing to accept the seriousness of the situation.</td>
<td>(a) being light hearted</td>
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<td>He accused her of <strong>talking nonsense</strong> and refused to accept a word of what she said.</td>
<td>(c) talking nonsense</td>
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<td>The police advised them to go down to the cellar in order to be <strong>away from danger</strong>.</td>
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<td>I'd <strong>do absolutely anything</strong> if I could get tickets for that concert.</td>
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<td>(c) say something embarrassing</td>
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**English Animal Idioms**

**A1** There are times when you must decide and **make a bold decision**.
answer: (c) make a bold decision

**A2** He **never does what he wants** really because his freedom is always curtailed.
answer: (d) never does what he wants

**A3** No-one ever mentions him because he's regarded as **the one with a bad reputation**.
answer: (b) the one with a bad reputation

**A4** I shouldn't go outside without a raincoat because **it's raining very heavily**.
answer: (c) it's raining very heavily

**A5** You shouldn't sign there I think he's about **to make a fool of you**.
answer: (a) to make a fool of you

**A6** It's a lovely house and very big but nobody uses it so it's **something very expensive and useless**.
answer: (d) something very expensive and useless

**A7** When the business folded, he took **the biggest part** of the assets.
answer: (c) the biggest part

**A8** Without my glasses I can't see where I'm going in fact I'm **very short sighted**.
answer: (a) very short sighted

**A9** I get very irritated sometimes because they're always **up very early** and I like to lie in.
answer: (b) up very early

**A10** I would advise you to do that as well and in that way you'll **get two things done at the same time**.
answer: (c) get two things done at the same time