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(PRACTICE SET)

Directions : In questions 1 to 300, four alternatives are given for the idiom/ phrase **underlined** in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the idiom/phrase and mark it in the Answer Sheet.

- ✓ 1. **To strain every nerve**
(A) to make utmost efforts
(B) to feel weak and tired
(C) to be a diligent worker
(D) to be methodical in work
2. **To flog a dead horse**
(A) to whip a dead horse
(B) attempt to do the possible
(C) waste one's efforts
(D) to take advantage of a weakness
3. **To show a clean pair of heels**
(A) to hide (B) to escape
(C) to pursue (D) to follow
4. **To die in harness**
(A) premeditated murder
(B) dying young in an accident
(C) to die while in service
(D) to be taken by surprise
5. **To feather one's nest**
(A) to make a residential house
(B) something that lasts for a short time
(C) to profit in a dishonest way
(D) none of the above
6. **To doctor the accounts** ✓
(A) to make changes in account books
(B) to clear the doctors' bill
(C) to verify the accounts in detail
(D) to manipulate the accounts
7. She could never **measure up to her parent's expectations.**
(A) Reach the level
(B) Work as hard
(C) Assess the amount
(D) Increase her height
8. **The little girl with her flawless performance stole the show.**
(A) Stole something from the show
(B) Crept into the show
(C) Won everybody's praise
(D) Disappeared from the show
9. **The thief was on good terms with the police.**
(A) Kept terms and conditions
(B) Was friendly
(C) Followed the rules
(D) Agreed with them
10. **John's offer of help was turned down by the police.**
(A) Sent back
(B) Twisted around
(C) Refused
(D) Handed over
11. **To be all at sea** ✓
(A) a family voyage
(B) lost and confused
(C) in the middle of the ocean
(D) a string of islands

12. **To take to one's heels** x 2
 (A) to walk slowly
 (B) to run away
 (C) to march forward
 (D) to hop and jump
13. **To bite the dust** x 2
 (A) eat voraciously
 (B) have nothing to eat
 (C) eat roots
 (D) to fail
14. **A bolt from the blue**
 (A) a delayed event
 (B) an inexplicable event
 (C) an unexpected and unpleasant event
 (D) an unpleasant event
15. **Cold comfort** ✓ 22
 (A) absurdity
 (B) deception
 (C) slight satisfaction
 (D) foolish proposal
16. **The reputed company is in the red due to the recession.** 23
 (A) making money
 (B) losing money
 (C) in danger
 (D) spending money
17. **When the Principal was entering the class, all my friends quietly disappeared, leaving me alone to face the music.** 24
 (A) to listen to him
 (B) to enter into the class
 (C) to bear the criticism
 (D) to listen to a favourable comment
18. **The Kenyan team proved to be the dark horse in the ICC World Cup Cricket.** 25.
 (A) a strong intruder
 (B) a skilled team
 (C) the most powerful
 (D) an unexpected winner
19. **Having no arguments to defend his point, the speaker began to beat about the bush.** 26.
 (A) wander across the words
 (B) speak in a haphazard manner
 (C) speak in a round-about manner
 (D) make use of irrelevant reference

(C) boycott him

(D) dismiss him

22. The noble man gave up the ghost.

(A) left the ghost

(B) lived like a ghost

(C) invited ghost

(D) died

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23. A Prime Minister cannot ride roughshod over his ministerial colleagues for long.

(A) deal unkindly with

(B) take for granted

(C) be high-handed with

(D) exploit wilfully

24. He was down in the mouth as he was defeated in the elections.

(A) unable to speak

(B) very depressed

(C) very angry

(D) very confused

25. They say, join the Army to drink life to the lees.

(A) to have the best of fun and fortune

(B) to enjoy a life of drinking and dancing

(C) to have a life full of adventures

(D) to have the best of life

26. The car in the backyard is proving to be a white elephant.

(A) very huge item

(B) costly and useless possession

(C) very expensive investment

(D) useful material

27. He takes leave once in a blue moon.

(A) regularly

(B) often

(C) rarely

(D) once a fortnight

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28. The meeting has been put off indefinitely.

(A) cancelled

(B) postponed

(C) advanced

(D) announced

29. The rules of the deal are set forth in the brochure.

(A) stated

(B) accepted

(C) contradicted

(D) printed

30. She bought her new house for a song.

(A) very cheaply

(B) on loan

(C) at a loss

(D) very easily

31

Ravi had given up doing