

Applying Language Skills

Task F: Interpreting Common Sayings (Idioms)

Choose the correct meaning of each statement. The first one is done for you.

1. Stop beating around the bush.
 - a. Stop walking in circles.
 - b. Say what you mean.
 - c. Don't hit the roses!
2. Harold aced his Spanish test.
 - a. Harold didn't finish the test.
 - b. Harold got an A on the test.
 - c. Harold failed his Spanish test.
3. You'd better face the music.
 - a. Look at the piano now.
 - b. This is a good deal.
 - c. It's time to accept the punishment for what you did.
4. Ross flew off the handle.
 - a. Ross really got mad.
 - b. Ross was badly injured.
 - c. Ross laughed hysterically.
5. I'm going to play it by ear.
 - a. I'm going to follow the rules.
 - b. I'll listen carefully to the instructions.
 - c. I'll figure out what to do as I go.
6. We'd better toe the line at camp.
 - a. We need to pull hard on the rope.
 - b. We'd better draw a line on the ground.
 - c. We'd better do what we are supposed to do.
7. I beat you to the punch!
 - a. I got here first.
 - b. I drank all the punch.
 - c. I'm so mad at you.
8. Look before you leap!
 - a. Be cautious when starting something new or unknown.
 - b. Always have someone watch out for you when diving.
 - c. Be careful in leap years because they are unlucky.

I.E.P. Objective: The client will identify the meanings of idioms with 90% accuracy.

Applying Language Skills

Task F: Interpreting Common Sayings (Idioms), *continued*

Choose the correct meaning of each statement.

9. I lost my shirt on that deal.
 - a. My clothing got ripped off.
 - b. It was a great deal.
 - c. I lost a lot of money.

10. The cat's out of the bag now.
 - a. Hurry and catch the cat.
 - b. It's no longer a secret.
 - c. There's no cat food in the bag.

11. Don't put all your eggs in one basket.
 - a. Divide the eggs into two groups.
 - b. Don't put all your efforts into one project.
 - c. Be careful with fragile objects.

12. He's got a dozen irons in the fire.
 - a. He's in big trouble now.
 - b. He's moved around a lot.
 - c. He's got a lot of projects underway.

13. I can't help you. My back is to the wall.
 - a. I am leaning against the wall.
 - b. Move forward so I have more room.
 - c. There's nothing else I can do.

14. It's six of one, half a dozen of the other.
 - a. We have a dozen in all.
 - b. The choices are about the same.
 - c. You take half and I'll take half.

15. I had the rug pulled out from under me.
 - a. I was totally surprised.
 - b. I tripped and fell down.
 - c. I found what I was searching for.

16. We finished the parade float at the eleventh hour.
 - a. We finished the float at 11:00.
 - b. We finished the float at the last minute.
 - c. We finished the float too late for the parade.

I.E.P. Objective: The client will identify the meanings of idioms with 90% accuracy.

Applying Language Skills

Task F: Interpreting Common Sayings (Idioms), *continued*

Choose the correct meaning of each statement.

17. I ride the train once in a blue moon.
- a. I ride the train infrequently.
 - b. I ride the train only at night.
 - c. I ride the train daily.
18. I'll be at your wedding come rain or shine.
- a. I won't come to your wedding if it rains.
 - b. I'll come to your wedding if it doesn't rain.
 - c. I'll come to your wedding no matter what happens.
19. When the last bell rang, it was music to my ears.
- a. I was glad the bell rang.
 - b. I didn't hear the bell because of the music.
 - c. I listened to music until the bell rang.
20. Our hosts rolled out the red carpet for us.
- a. Our hosts cleaned their carpet before we came.
 - b. Our hosts did special things for us.
 - c. Our hosts were unfriendly to us.
21. Don't bite off more than you can chew.
- a. Don't take on more than you can handle.
 - b. Don't chew with your mouth open.
 - c. Don't spread rumors about others.
22. Chris got a dirty look from his mom.
- a. Chris's mom had mud on her face.
 - b. Chris's mom frowned at him.
 - c. Chris's mom likes to work in her garden.
23. Don't bite the hand that feeds you.
- a. Be nice to those who help you.
 - b. Be careful when feeding livestock.
 - c. Help others by giving them food.
24. People who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones.
- a. It is dangerous to throw stones at someone.
 - b. People shouldn't lie to each other.
 - c. You shouldn't criticize someone unless you are without fault.

L.E.P. Objective: The client will identify the meanings of idioms with 90% accuracy.