

## Are you Idiomatic?

### 1 Tick the right answer :

1. After going to the zoo, the mall, and the movies, Cassie was sick of bending over backwards to entertain her nieces.

- A. Cassie was doing very little to entertain her nieces.
- B. Cassie was making small efforts to entertain her nieces.
- C. Cassie was trying very hard to entertain her nieces.
- D. Cassie was not trying at all to entertain her nieces.

2. Bobby would have been playing ball until the cows came home if it hadn't been for Suzie dragging him away to eat dinner.

- A. Bobby was just about to stop playing ball
- B. Bobby didn't even want to play ball to begin with.
- C. Bobby prefers nature to athletics.
- D. Bobby would have continued playing ball for a long time.

3. Mr. Johnson was very particular about the arrangement of his classroom, so the thing he hated most was when his students caused a ruckus with their wild horseplay.

- A. Mr. Johnson hated when his students pretended to be animals.
- B. Mr. Johnson hated when his students played sports.
- C. Mr. Johnson hated when his students wrestled around with each other.
- D. Mr. Johnson hated when his students made animal noises.

4. Eric wanted to fix his cousin's computer, but he was already having problems setting up his Aunt's wi-fi network and he didn't want to open a whole new can of worms.

- A. Eric was sick of spending his time helping his family.
- B. Eric wanted to go fishing instead of working on computers
- C. Eric was having difficulties untangling the computer wires
- D. Eric was not ready to begin working on a complicated new problem

5. Even though Candace already had a new job, she submitted her two week notice and conducted herself in a professional way at her old job because she didn't want to burn bridges.

- A. Candace didn't want to ruin her positive relationship with her old employer.
- B. Candace wasn't ready to start her new job.
- C. Candace was really going to miss her old job.
- D. Candace was waiting until her last day to rub it in everyone's face that she was leaving.

6. World renowned country western super group 'The Mountain Boys' can sell out an arena at the drop of a hat.

- A. The Mountain Boys may be able to sell out an arena, but it will take a long time.
- B. The Mountain Boys can sell out an arena very quickly.
- C. The Mountain Boys are always willing to perform at charity events.
- D. The Mountain Boys enforce a dress code at all of their shows.

7. Vivian expected Craig to sob uncontrollably when she broke up with him; however, Craig kept a stiff upper lip.

- A. Craig cried even more than Vivian had expected.
- B. Craig cried about as much as Vivian had expected.
- C. Craig cried a little less than Vivian had expected.
- D. Craig did not cry

8. Mrs. Robinson expects Cassie and my presentation to be good, but we have been working on it every night for the last week, so we are really going to knock her socks off.

- A. Cassie and the speaker are not prepared to give a good presentation.
- B. Cassie and the speaker intend on hitting Mrs. Robinson rather than presenting.
- C. Cassie and the speaker's presentation will far exceed Mrs. Robinson's expectations.
- D. Cassie and the speaker's presentation will meet Mrs. Robinson's expectations.

9. Over the summer Brian was really excited about being placed in the advanced math class, but after getting his syllabus on the first day and seeing the workload, he was ready to jump ship.

- A. Brian was even more excited about the math class than he was over the summer.
- B. Brian wanted to start working on his math assignments right away.
- C. Brian did not want to be in the advance math class anymore.
- D. Brian wanted to cause some trouble in the advanced math class.

10. Jose had a hard time comparing the iPhone to the Samsung phone because to him they were apples and oranges.

- A. Jose can hardly tell the difference between the two phones because they are so similar.
- B. Jose believes that the phones are so different from one another that they cannot be compared.
- C. Jose doesn't know anything about phones so he may as well be thinking about fruits.
- D. Jose is too hungry to think about phones at this time

### 2 Read each sentence slowly and carefully. Try to guess the meaning. Finally use a dictionary to find out the real meaning.

1. When the politician was caught stealing from the taxpayers, everyone thought he would receive a severe punishment, but all he got was a **slap on the wrist**.  
What is the meaning of this idiom?

2. We thought that our neighbor's, the Jones family, were rich **beyond our wildest dreams**, but it turns out that we're all in the same boat.  
What is the meaning of this idiom?

3. If Kim thinks that I'm going to let her copy my math homework, she's **barking up the wrong tree**.  
What is the meaning of this idiom?

4. The Vikings thought that they would easily beat the other team, but when it was tied with a minute left in the fourth quarter, they knew that this game was really **coming down to the wire**.  
What is the meaning of this idiom?

5. I thought Janet would be a good worker, but it turns out that she can't **cut the mustard**.  
What is the meaning of this idiom?

6. Tom wanted to **get down to brass tacks**, but the lawyer kept chatting about the weather.  
What is the meaning of this idiom?

7. The lawyer knew that **beating around the bush** would get Tom all worked up.  
What is the meaning of this idiom?

8. After playing for three straight quarters, the quarterback was **running out of steam**.  
What is the meaning of this idiom?

9. Don't get so worked up, buddy. She's only **pulling your leg**.  
What is the meaning of this idiom?

10. Jane decided that she would **go out on a limb** and ask Byron to the Spring Fling dance.  
What is the meaning of this idiom?

### ANSWER KEY TO THE LAST EIS PAGE ACTIVITIES (DATED APRIL 6, 2015)

EXERCISE 1  
1. who 2. who 3. that 4. that 5. who 6. that 7. that 8. what 9. what 10. what 11. what 12. that

EXERCISE 2  
1. Here is the book that contains pictures. 2. The bicycle that Hari rode was a new one. 3. The bus we got into was full of people. 4. His well-known friend, who is a clever friend is the talk of the town. 5. This is the cat that killed the rat. 6. The grapes you brought were very sweet. 7. He, who is a cowardly boy is despised by all. 8. Give me the ruler that is on the desk. 9. Hari spoke to the soldier whose arm was in a sling. 10. A man who came running up heard me calling. 11. He is a well-known man whose generosity is the talk of the town. 12. Kalidas who wrote some fine dramas is famous.

EXERCISE 3  
1. me 2. who 3. his 4. their 5. his 6. its 7. his 8. its 9. them 10. he 11. me, him

EXERCISE 4  
1. What 2. What 3. Who 4. Which 5. Who 6. Which 7. Who 8. What 9. Who 10. Who

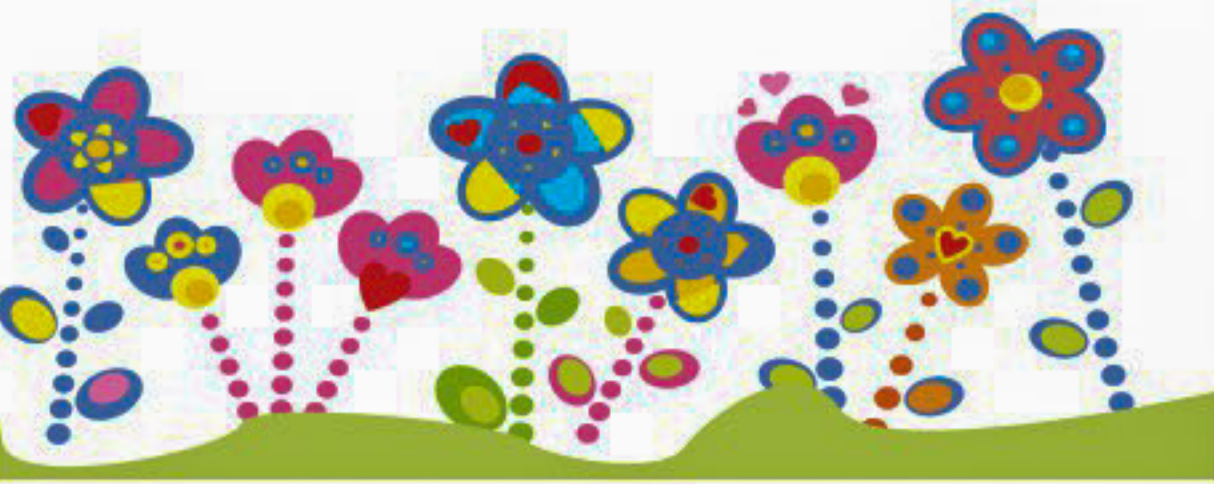
EXERCISE 5  
1. as 2. who 3. that 4. who 5. who 6. that 7. as 8. what 9. that 10. which 11. who 12. who

EXERCISE 6  
1. who 2. who 3. who 4. what 5. whom 6. which 7. what/which 8. who 9. who 10. which 11. what 12. What

EXERCISE 7  
1. (The boy gave a loud shout. It was heard across the river.) 2. (She lived in a hut. It was wretched.) 3. (The elephant was sick. It died.) 4. (The French honoured Napoleon. He died at St Helena.) 5. (John is my cousin. He is a diligent boy.) 6. (I have found the book. I lost it.) 7. (You saw the boy there. He made the top score last month.) 8. (He is a poet. His works are widely known.) 9. (Last year we visited Moti Masjid. It was a mosque of great architectural beauty.) 10. (The meeting was held in the Town Hall. It was a great success.)

EXERCISE 8  
1. Jane's father 2. The boys' clothes 3. women's club 4. Jones Brothers' shop 5. My sister-in-law's name 6. St. James' park 7. William and Mary's wedding 8. Ladies' hats 9. She's done the whole day's work. 10. Within two or a week's time.

Reading Comprehension BB  
1.D 2.C 3.B 4.B 5.A 6.A 7.C 8.B 9.C 10.A



Find the answers in next MONDAY issue

### The following passage is divided into 4 paragraphs. On the right-hand box, write the main summary points.

#### 3

1. The English were not the first Europeans to land their ships on American soil. The Vikings had discovered North America in the 11th century. Columbus landed in the Bahamas in 1492 for Spain, and the French began expeditions to the New World in 1524. But the first English presence in North America is important because the thirteen English colonies that would later be established eventually became the country now known as the United States of America.

2. In April of 1585 Sir Walter Raleigh, under the authority of Queen Elizabeth of England, sent an expedition of seven ships carrying 600 men, half of them soldiers, to found an English colony in North America. The colony was to be used to establish an English presence in the New World as well as a base from which English privateers, or pirates, could attack and plunder Spanish treasure fleets. Raleigh's cousin, Sir Richard Grenville, led the expedition.

3. In July of that year the bulk of the fleet reached a small island off the coast of Virginia that was called Roanoke. After building a small fort on the north side of the island, the colonists initiated relations with a Native American tribe that lived on the island, the Aquascogoc. These natives showed little interest in building relations with the English colonists, and they soon parted company. After this encounter, however, the English noticed that one of their silver cups had gone missing, and they attributed its disappearance to the Aquascogoc. Grenville, the English captain, was furious. He believed that the Aquascogoc had stolen the silver cup. Whether or not this was true, angry exchanges followed and soon the English burned the Aquascogoc village. The English held their fort against the subsequent attacks of the natives.

4. Despite their success in battle, the colonists had a miserable time because they were mainly soldiers and adventurers, not farmers. They were hungry. They missed the comforts of England, such as soft feather beds and dainty foods. Also they had expected to find gold and silver on the island, and were disappointed when they found none. Grenville soon tired of these conditions and set out on his ship to plunder Spanish treasure fleets and return to England. The colony was gradually abandoned.

### 4 Simile & Metaphor

"A simile is a comparison between two different things using the word 'like' or 'as' to make the comparison. Similes are generally easier to identify than metaphors, but not always. Sometimes a speaker or writer may use the word 'like' or 'as' and not make any comparison. These are not similes. For example if I said, 'I like pizza.' I am expressing a preference for pizza not making a comparison."

### Circle the similes in the following sentences :

- a. "Food?" Chris inquired, popping out of his seat like a toaster strudel.
- b. Grandpa lounged on the raft in the middle of the pool like an old battleship.
- c. If seen from above the factory, the workers would have looked like clock parts.
- d. The truth was like a bad taste on his tongue.
- e. The people who still lived in the town were stuck in place like wax statues.
- f. Cassie talked to her son about girls as though she were giving him tax advice.
- g. Alan's jokes were like flat soda to the children, surprisingly unpleasant.
- h. My mother's kitchen was like a holy place: you couldn't wear your shoes, you had to sit there at a certain time, and occasionally we'd pray.
- i. The bottle rolled off the table like a teardrop.
- j. The handshake felt like warm laundry.
- k. She hung her head like a dying flower.
- l. Arguing with her was like dueling with hand grenades.
- m. The classroom was as quiet as a tongue-tied librarian in a hybrid car.
- n. Janie's boyfriend appreciated her as an ape might appreciate an algebra book.
- o. The clouds were like ice-cream castles in the sky.

### 5 Underline the metaphors in the following sentences :

"A metaphor is a comparison between two unlike things not using the word 'like' or 'as' to make the comparison. Metaphors can be powerful, but they can also be tricky to identify at times."

- a. The detective listened to her tales with a wooden face.
- b. She was fairly certain that life was a fashion show.
- c. The typical teenage boy's room is a disaster area.
- d. What storms then shook the ocean of my sleep.
- e. The children were roses grown in concrete gardens, beautiful and forlorn.
- f. Kisses are the flowers of love in bloom.
- g. His cotton candy words did not appeal to her taste.
- h. Kathy arrived at the grocery store with an army of children.
- i. Her eyes were fireflies.
- j. He wanted to set sail on the ocean of love but he just wasted away in the desert.
- k. I was lost in a sea of nameless faces.
- l. John's answer to the problem was just a Band-Aid, not a solution.
- m. The cast on Michael's broken leg was a plaster shackle.
- n. Cameron always had a taste for the fruit of knowledge.

Good Luck With Your Writing !

