

1. **A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush:** means that it is better to keep what you have than to give it up and try to get something better.

Sentence: _____

2. **A blessing in disguise:** is a good thing that you don't recognize at first as a good thing.

Sentence: _____

3. **A dime a dozen:** If a thing is very common and easy to get, we say it is "a dime a dozen."

Sentence: _____

4. **A drop in the bucket:** is a something that is not important because it is very small.

Sentence: _____

5. **A fool and his money are easily parted** A "fool" is a person who is always joking and doing stupid things. "A fool and his money are easily parted" means that it is easy for a foolish person to lose his money. In this idiom it is "a" fool and "his" money that are easily parted.

Sentence: _____

6. **A leopard can't change his spots:** When people state that they can't change who they are--their nature--they sometimes use the phrase "A leopard can't change his spots" (it's used in much the same way as "you can't teach an old dog new tricks").

Sentence: _____

7. **A Method to my Madness:** Method" is the careful, systematic way that something intelligent is done. "Madness" is the strange, meaningless action of a crazy person. There is "method to one's madness" when what looks like strange and meaningless action (madness) is actually the result of a carefully reasoned plan (method).

Sentence: _____

8. **A penny saved is a penny earned:** means that little by little you will save money by not spending your money.

Sentence: _____

9. **A picture paints a thousand words:** This term which means a story told by pictures as well as a vast amount of descriptive text comes from the quotation 'One picture is worth ten thousand words'.

Sentence: _____

10. **A piece of cake:** Something that is very easy to do is "a piece of cake".

Sentence: _____

11. **A shot in the dark:** is a guess at the answer to a question when you do not feel that you know the facts.

Sentence: _____

12. **A wolf in sheep's clothing:** is a dangerous person pretending to be harmless.

Sentence: _____

13. **Absence makes the heart grow fonder:** means that the time you spend away from one you love makes you love that person even more.

Sentence: _____

14. **Absent without leave:** a military originated term which is often shortened to AWOL. Not present without permission is what this term has come to mean.

Sentence: _____

15. **Actions speak louder than words:** means that your actions (what you do) communicate more clearly than your words (what you say). It is as if they were louder than words. "Actions speak louder than words" means that if you want people to believe your words, you should "speak" with your actions.

Sentence: _____

16. **Add fuel to the fire:** You add fuel to the fire when you do something that makes a bad situation worse.

Sentence: _____

17. **All bark and no bite:** People who are all bark and no bite threaten to do things that they are not really willing or able to do.

Sentence: _____

18. **All Greek:** Something is all Greek to you when it is so hard to understand that it is like reading a foreign (Greek) language.

Sentence: _____

19. **All that glitters is not gold:** Something which seems valuable at first may turn out to be worthless. Example: "Be careful when shopping for your new car; all that glitters is not gold!" Just because something appears valuable does not mean that it really is valuable.

Sentence: _____

20. **Apple of my eye:** Often daughters or sons are referred to as the "apple" of their parent's eye.

Sentence: _____

21. **Back seat driver:** This idiom comes from the habit many people have of giving too much advice (unwanted advice) to the driver of an automobile from the backseat. this idiom means 'someone who watches and criticizes.'

Sentence: _____

22. **Ball and chain:** Believed to have originated in Britain, this term has come to mean 'wife'. Originating from the presumption that a man's wife has held him down thus, keeping him from doing the things he really wanted to do in life.

Sentence: _____

23. **Barking up the wrong tree:** When you are looking for something that is not where you are looking, you are "barking up the wrong tree."

Sentence: _____

24. **Between a rock and a hard place:** To say that one is stuck "between a rock and a hard place" stresses that there are two forces which are restricting one's movement. Often it is the opposite direction of these forces that causes the sticking point. One is unable for some particular reason to do something that one would like to do, such as act or not act in a certain way. "I'd like to help you but I am stuck between a rock and a hard place."

Sentence: _____

25. **Birds of a feather flock together:** means that people who are similar to each other often spend time together.

Sentence: _____

26. **Blind leading the blind:** Another common phrase is the "blind leading the blind", by which it is meant that the person in charge of the situation knows no more about it than those whom he is leading. This is Biblical in origin, coming from Jesus: "Let them alone; they are blind leaders of the blind. And if a blind man leads a blind man, both will fall in a pit."

Sentence: _____

27. **Brownie Points:** To get credit for a good deed.

Sentence: _____

28. **Burn your bridges:** If you burn your bridges, you do something that makes it impossible to go back from the position you have taken.

Sentence: _____

29. **Catch 22:** a frustrating situation in which one is trapped by contradictory regulations or conditions.

Sentence: _____

30. **Chip off the old block:** A child whose appearance or character closely resembles that of one or the other parent.

Sentence: _____

31. **Chip on his shoulder:** This idiom simply means to carry a grudge. It dates back to the 19th century. Fighters would put a chip on their shoulder and dare others to knock it off.

Sentence: _____

32. **Close but no cigar:** If you come close to achieving success but reach a disappointment due to failure you are 'close but no cigar'. Many years ago slot machines gave out cigars as prizes. Also, early carnival games also gave out cigars as prizes.

Sentence: _____

33. **Cock and bull story:** A Cock and Bull story is a form of Chinese whispers. It comes from a long time ago when the two most popular pubs in a village were The Cock and The Bull. If a story started in The Cock, by the time it got to The Bull it had been either twisted or exaggerated.

Sentence: _____

34. **Cry over spilled milk:** is to remain upset about a past loss. Example: "We came so close. Really. We almost won that game!" Reply: "There's no use crying over spilled milk."

Sentence: _____

35. **Cry wolf:** is to call for help when you are not really in danger. Example: "Mom, Dad! Can you come to my room? I think there is something under my bed!" Reply: "Son, you just go back to bed, and stop crying wolf."

Sentence: _____

36. **Curiosity killed the cat:** reminds us that being too curious can be dangerous.

Sentence: _____

37. **Dead Ringer:** A dead ringer is something that is exactly duplicated. A horse that is substituted to fraud bookies is a 'ringer'. The word 'dead' in this idiom means 'exact'.

Sentence: _____

38. **Devil is in the details:** When the hard part of what you are trying to do is in the many small details, you can say "the devil is in the details."

Sentence: _____

39. **Devil's Advocate:** The word "Devil's Advocate" actually comes from Canon Law. In the Vatican, when arguments are being presented to have a person declared a saint, the Church appoints an official to find flaws in this evidence. This official is called the "Devil's Advocate" and has come to mean a person who espouses a cause just for the sake of argument.

Sentence: _____

40. **Diamond in the rough:** A diamond in the rough means someone of good character who lacks social graces. Often will be expressed just as 'rough diamond.'

Sentence: _____

41. **Dog-eat-dog:** describes a world in which people fight for themselves only and will hurt other people.

Sentence: _____

42. **Don't count your chickens until they're hatched:** means that you can hope certain things happen in the future, but you cannot know for sure that they will happen until they actually do happen.

Sentence: _____

43. **Don't look a gift horse in the mouth and Beggars can't be choosers:** When given something don't be ungrateful. By counting the teeth you can tell the age of a horse. Checking whether a present of a horse was old would be considered impolite.

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Sentence: _____

48. **Don't shoot the messenger:** When someone brings bad news, but has nothing to do with the misfortune, one should not blame that person for the news they bring.

Sentence: _____

49. **Eighty-Six:** Eighty six is to refuse to serve an unwelcome customer at a bar or restaurant or to stop using something. It may have derived from Chumley's Bar and restaurant at 86 Bedford Street in Greenwich Village NYC.

Sentence: _____

50. **Every cloud has a silver lining:** means that you should never feel hopeless because difficult times always lead to better days.

Sentence: _____

51. **Fly on the wall:** A fly on the wall refers to someone who over sees something without the watched noticing him/her. This term comes from fly on the wall documentaries.

Sentence: _____

52. **Go out on a limb:** This idiom refers to taking a risk in order to support something or someone. It could have originated from the risk of climbing onto the limb of a tree.

Sentence: _____

53. **Haste makes waste:** says that when we act too quickly ("haste") we are more likely to make mistakes and end up with poor results ("waste").

Sentence: _____

54. **Idle hands are the devil's tools:** says that people (especially children) are more likely to get into trouble when they feel bored and have nothing to do.

Sentence: _____

55. **It takes two to tango:** means that two people in a fight are both responsible for that fight.

Sentence: _____

56. **Judge a book by its cover:** means that before you can judge something, you need to take a deeper, closer look at it.

Sentence: _____

57. **Knock on wood:** This idiom comes from people who tap their knuckles on wood in hopes of bringing good luck or better luck. This term may be associated with the mythology that trees bring good spirits. It may also have to do with the Christian religious cross which is also made of wood.

Sentence: _____

58. **Murphy's Law:** Generally meaning "if anything can go wrong, it will". It was coined in the late 1940's and refers to Captain Ed Murphy, a development engineer assigned to research on the rocket sleds.

Sentence: _____

59. **My brother's keeper:** Not as common as it used to be, you still hear people occasionally ask, "Am I my brother's keeper?" when they are asked the whereabouts of someone else.

Sentence: _____

60. **Not playing with a full deck:** If your 'not playing with a full deck' then you are stupid. This comes from lacking the required intelligence, as a card game being played with a missing card.

Sentence: _____

17. **Off The Cuff:** Traditionally thought to be a spontaneous statement or response (isn't amazing how he comes up with those ideas off the cuff like that

Sentence: _____

61. **On pins and needles:** when you are very nervous about something happening.

Sentence: _____

62. **One man's trash is another man's treasure:** What someone may throw away as trash, someone else may find value in.

Sentence: _____

63. **One man's loss is another man's gain:** Something that someone loses or gives up, can become valuable to someone else.

Sentence: _____

64. **Out of sight, out of mind:** There are some things which we think about only as long as we can see them in front of us; when we can no longer see them (out of sight) we forget about them (out of mind)

Sentence: _____

65. **Out of the frying pan and into the fire:** is to get out of one difficult situation only to end up in another.

Sentence: _____

66. **Par for the course:** is what is normal and acceptable for a particular situation.

Sentence: _____

67. **Passing the buck:** is the action of transferring responsibility or blame unto another person.

Sentence: _____

68. **Penny-wise, pound-foolish:** A penny is a small amount of money and a pound is a larger amount. "Penny-wise, pound-foolish" is to be cautious (wise) with small amounts of money but wasteful (foolish) with larger amounts.

Sentence: _____

69. **People who live in glass houses should not throw stones:** reminds us that we should be careful how we treat other people (with our words and actions) because we can all be easily hurt. People "throw stones" at other people to try to hurt them, and one way that people try to hurt other people is by saying bad things about them. If you lived in a "glass house" it would be very easy for other people to hurt you by throwing stones at you. "People who live in glass houses should not throw stones"

Sentence: _____

70. **Practice what you preach:** To "preach" is to tell others the right way to do something; to "practice" is to do the thing yourself. You "practice what you preach" when you yourself do something the same way you tell others to do it.

Sentence: _____

71. **Pull the Wool over His Eyes:** Dates back to 1839, meaning "to deceive". "Wool" refers to a powdered wig, such as men used to wear. Pulling down the wool wig would temporarily blind the person wearing it.

Sentence: _____

72. **Push The Envelope:** This term originated in the airplane industry and means to go the limits. Planes performances used to be marked on a 2 dimensional graph. The area of the graph that indicated safe usage was the envelope. This all started in the late 1970's.

Sentence: _____

73. **Put all your eggs in one basket:** is to risk losing everything all at one time.

Sentence: _____

74. **Rain check:** first used when baseball games were rained out and fans were issued vouchers that allowed them to return and watch another game.

Sentence: _____

75. **Rule of thumb:** A rule of thumb is a basic rule that is usually but not always correct. It is believed that it came about because once a husband was legally allowed to punish his wife by hitting her with a stick that measured no larger in diameter than his thumb.

Sentence: _____

76. **Scapegoat:** A scapegoat is someone who gets the blame for a scandal/mistake; typically, the scapegoat is either completely innocent, or at least is only one of many guilty people.

Sentence: _____

77. **Skin of Your Teeth:** This saying means to barely escape from a harrowing situation.

Sentence: _____

78. **Slip of the tongue:** when you say something by accident - something which you did not mean to say - you have made a slip of the tongue.

Sentence: _____

79. **Spare the rod, spoil the child:** This was a common phrase in the previous century, and still exists today. It refers to the practice of spanking your children in discipline; the phrase "spare the rod, spoil the child" means that if you don't punish your children when they do wrong, you'll spoil them.

Sentence: _____

80. **Still waters run deep:** something that you say which means people who say very little often have very interesting and complicated personalities. He's quiet and shy, it's true, but still waters run deep.

Sentence: _____

81. **Straight from the horse's mouth:** This also is a misquote of a Biblical passage. In the book of Numbers, God speaks to the prophet Balaam through a donkey; the phrase "straight from the donkey's mouth" has now become the phrase "straight from the horse's mouth". The phrase is used to indicate that something is definitely true, or heard firsthand; for example, "Yeah, it happened to Mark! I heard it straight from the horse's mouth!"

Sentence: _____

82. **The early bird catches the worm:** means that the person who arrives early will be successful.

Sentence: _____

83. **The ends justify the means:** The "ends" are our end goals and the "means" are the specific actions we take to achieve those goals. "The ends justify the means" when the actions we take are considered acceptable because of the specific end results we want to achieve.

Sentence: _____

84. **The grass is always greener:** People are never satisfied with their own situation; they always think others have it better.

Sentence: _____

85. **The pot calling the kettle black:** You are the pot calling the kettle black when you point to another person and accuse that person of doing something that you are guilty of doing yourself. Example: "You are accusing me of being lazy? Ha! That's the pot calling the kettle black!"

Sentence: _____

86. **To bite the hand that feeds you:** is to harm someone who has been helping you.

Sentence: _____

87. **To wish to have one's cake and eat it too:** is to want more than one can handle or deserve, or to try to have two incompatible things.

Sentence: _____

88. **Toss-up:** When something is a "toss-up", we are not sure what the result will be. The analogy is to tossing a coin as a way of making a decision. When "flipping" (or "tossing") a coin there is a 50 percent chance that the toss will end up one way and a 50 percent chance that the toss will end up another way.

Sentence: _____

89. **Turning over a new leaf:** When you decide to do something different to change your life for the better, you are turning over a new leaf.

Sentence: _____

90. **Water under the bridge:** to refer to past experiences and conflicts which we have decided to forget. This idiom compares these memories of the past to water which has passing under [the] bridge.

Sentence: _____

91. **Wear your heart on your sleeve:** People who wear their heart on their sleeve express their emotions freely and openly, for all to see.

Sentence: _____

92. **You can catch more flies with honey than with vinegar:** you can win people to your side more easily by gentle persuasion and flattery than by hostile confrontation.

Sentence: _____
