

Modismos y expresiones fijas en inglés (C2) – Test 1

Nombre: _____ Clase: _____ Fecha: _____ Puntuación: / 30



Haz este examen en línea y comprueba tus respuestas al instante

Elige la única respuesta correcta (A, B, C o D) en cada pregunta.

Parte 1: Completar expresiones fijas

Elige la palabra que completa correctamente cada modismo o expresión fija.

- The two neighbours have been at _____ over the boundary fence for years.
A crossroads B loggerheads C tenterhooks D arm's length
- After winning the championship, she refused to rest on her _____ and began training for next season immediately.
A honours B merits C laurels D trophies
- The rumour about the merger turned out to be a red _____ intended to distract journalists from the real story.
A herring B flag C letter D carpet
- Unexpected delays like this are par for the _____ in the construction industry.
A game B field C track D course
- The new evidence put _____ to the prosecution's theory once and for all.
A end B paid C stop D rest
- He made no _____ about his dislike of the proposal and voted against it openly.
A words B minds C bones D claims
- The whole family waited with _____ breath for the exam results to arrive.
A baited B bated C held D drawn
- If we want to win the contract, we'll have to steal a _____ on our competitors.
A march B lead C glance D step

Parte 2: Significado en contexto

Lee cada oración y elige la opción que mejor explica el significado del modismo.

- "Whether the meeting is on Tuesday or Wednesday is neither here nor there; what matters is that everyone attends." What does the speaker mean about the day of the meeting?
A It has not yet been decided. B It is unimportant.
C It causes confusion. D It depends on the location.
- "The surgeon said it was touch and go for a while, but the patient pulled through." What does 'touch and go' mean here?
A The outcome was very uncertain.
B The operation was quick and routine.
C The patient was barely conscious.
D The doctors disagreed about the treatment.

11. "Daniel was at a loose end on Saturday, so he offered to help us paint the kitchen." What was Daniel's situation?
- A** He was confused about what to do. **B** He was in financial difficulty.
C He had nothing in particular to do. **D** He was tired after a long week.
12. "The chair of the committee gave the journalist's question short shrift." What did the chair do?
- A** answered it in great detail
B dismissed it quickly without serious consideration
C postponed answering it until later
D asked someone else to answer it
13. "By setting a trap for her colleague, Mia was hoist with her own petard when her manager discovered the plan." What happened to Mia?
- A** She was promoted for her clever plan.
B Her colleague took the blame instead.
C She was harmed by the scheme she had planned for someone else.
D She abandoned the plan before it worked.
14. "After their argument, Hana kept her former business partner at arm's length." This means Hana _____ him.
- A** worked very closely with **B** avoided becoming close to
C physically threatened **D** tried hard to win back
15. "Don't split hairs — the difference between 'nearly' and 'almost' isn't important here." The speaker is asking the listener not to _____.
- A** make unnecessarily fine distinctions **B** interrupt other people
C change the subject **D** exaggerate a problem
16. "Sofia's proposal flies in the face of everything we learned from the last project." This means the proposal _____ the lessons of the last project.
- A** is strongly supported by **B** directly contradicts
C is a summary of **D** was inspired by

Parte 3: Precisión y uso

Elige la oración correcta, la respuesta más adecuada, la palabra apropiada o la parte de la oración que contiene un error.

17. Which sentence is correct?
- A** After years of rivalry, the two chefs finally decided to bury the axe.
B After years of rivalry, the two chefs finally decided to bury the sword.
C After years of rivalry, the two chefs finally decided to bury the hammer.
D After years of rivalry, the two chefs finally decided to bury the hatchet.
18. Which part of the sentence contains an error? "She has / a chip in her shoulder / about not having / gone to university."
- A** She has **B** a chip in her shoulder
C about not having **D** gone to university

19. In which sentence is 'sail close to the wind' used correctly?
- A She sailed close to the wind and finished the marathon with ease.
 - B We sailed close to the wind to celebrate our anniversary.
 - C The firm is sailing close to the wind with some of its accounting practices.
 - D He always sails close to the wind whenever he feels relaxed.
20. The team won a _____ victory: the cost of winning was so high that it was hardly worth it.
- A landslide
 - B Pyrrhic
 - C sweeping
 - D resounding
21. A: "I've been putting off telling the client about the delay for weeks." B: "_____"
- A You should let sleeping dogs lie and call them today.
 - B You'll have to beat about the bush and call them today.
 - C You should jump the gun and call them today.
 - D You'll just have to bite the bullet and call them today.
22. Which part of the sentence contains an error? "The plan went down / like a lead balloon / with the staff, who thought it was / a damp squid."
- A The plan went down
 - B like a lead balloon
 - C with the staff, who thought it was
 - D a damp squid
23. In which sentence is 'cut the mustard' used correctly?
- A The new software simply doesn't cut the mustard; we need something more powerful.
 - B She cut the mustard and left the party early.
 - C They cut the mustard to save money on the project.
 - D He cut the mustard by apologising to everyone.

Parte 4: Modismos en un texto de lectura

Lee el texto. Elige la palabra que mejor completa cada hueco numerado y, a continuación, responde a las preguntas sobre el significado.

When Amara Osei took over the struggling design studio, few people gave her much chance of success. The business had been (1) ___ water for years, and its most talented designers were already thinking about jumping (2) ___.

Amara didn't mince her words. At her first staff meeting, she explained that the studio had its work (3) ___ out and that cutting corners would no longer be tolerated. Some long-serving employees felt she was throwing the baby out with the (4) ___, scrapping systems that had worked perfectly well for decades.

Within a year, however, the tide had (5) ___. Two major clients signed long-term contracts, and the studio's reputation as a safe pair of hands began to spread. Rather than letting success go to her head, Amara invested the profits in training, arguing that complacency was the surest way to end up back at square one.

Today the studio is thriving, and even those who once doubted her are the first to admit that she has more than earned her stripes.

24. Gap (1): The business had been _____ water for years.
- A swimming
 - B treading
 - C holding
 - D testing
25. Gap (2): Its most talented designers were already thinking about jumping _____.
- A boat
 - B train
 - C ship
 - D board

26. Gap (3): The studio had its work _____ out.
A cut **B** torn **C** chopped **D** sliced
27. Gap (4): She was throwing the baby out with the _____.
A bucket **B** washing **C** rubbish **D** bathwater
28. Gap (5): Within a year, however, the tide had _____.
A risen **B** turned **C** rolled **D** flowed
29. In paragraph 2, 'Amara didn't mince her words' suggests that she _____.
A chose her words carefully to avoid upsetting anyone
B said very little at the meeting
C spoke frankly and directly, even though the message was unwelcome
D spoke slowly so that everyone could understand
30. In the final paragraph, 'she has more than earned her stripes' means that Amara has _____.
A proved her ability through hard work and achievement
B received a large financial reward
C been given an official title
D become unpopular with her staff

Soluciones – Modismos y expresiones fijas en inglés (C2) – Test 1

1 B	2 C	3 A	4 D	5 B	6 C	7 B	8 A	9 B	10 A
11 C	12 B	13 C	14 B	15 A	16 B	17 D	18 B	19 C	20 B
21 D	22 D	23 A	24 B	25 C	26 A	27 D	28 B	29 C	30 A

Explicaciones

- B** – 'To be at loggerheads' significa estar en un desacuerdo fuerte y prolongado.
- C** – 'To rest on your laurels' significa dejar de esforzarse por los éxitos pasados (dormirse en los laureles).
- A** – Un 'red herring' es algo que despista o desvía la atención (una pista falsa).
- D** – 'Par for the course' significa lo normal o lo habitual en una situación concreta.
- B** – 'To put paid to something' significa acabar con algo o arruinarlo; 'end' necesitaría el artículo 'an'.
- C** – 'To make no bones about something' significa decir algo abiertamente y sin titubeos.
- B** – La expresión fija es 'with bated breath'; 'baited' es un error ortográfico frecuente.
- A** – 'To steal a march on someone' significa adelantarse a alguien para obtener ventaja.
- B** – 'Neither here nor there' significa irrelevante o sin importancia.
- A** – 'Touch and go' describe una situación de desenlace muy incierto o arriesgado.
- C** – 'At a loose end' significa no tener nada que hacer y sentirse algo aburrido.
- B** – 'To give something short shrift' significa despachar algo rápidamente y sin apenas prestarle atención.
- C** – 'Hoist with your own petard' significa salir perjudicado por el propio plan para perjudicar a otros.
- B** – 'To keep someone at arm's length' significa evitar una relación cercana o amistosa con alguien.
- A** – 'To split hairs' significa discutir sobre diferencias mínimas e insignificantes (buscarle tres pies al gato).
- B** – 'To fly in the face of something' significa contradecir algo u oponerse a ello.
- D** – El modismo fijo es 'to bury the hatchet', que significa poner fin a una disputa (enterrar el hacha de guerra).
- B** – El modismo es 'a chip on your shoulder', no 'in'.
- C** – 'To sail close to the wind' significa hacer algo arriesgado que roza lo ilegal o lo inaceptable.
- B** – Una 'Pyrrhic victory' es una victoria conseguida a un coste tan alto que casi equivale a una derrota (victoria pírrica).
- D** – 'To bite the bullet' significa afrontar con valentía una situación desagradable, lo que encaja con el contexto.
- D** – La expresión correcta es 'a damp squib', que significa un anticlímax decepcionante.
- A** – 'To cut the mustard' significa estar a la altura o cumplir el nivel exigido.
- B** – 'To tread water' significa no avanzar, aunque se consiga mantenerse a flote.
- C** – 'To jump ship' significa abandonar una organización, sobre todo cuando atraviesa dificultades.
- A** – 'To have your work cut out' significa enfrentarse a una tarea muy difícil.
- D** – El modismo es 'throw the baby out with the bathwater', que significa desechar algo valioso junto con lo que no se quiere.
- B** – 'The tide has turned' significa que una situación ha cambiado de forma notable, en este caso para mejor.
- C** – 'Not to mince your words' significa hablar con claridad y franqueza, aunque se ofenda a alguien (no tener pelos en la lengua).
- A** – 'To earn your stripes' significa demostrar la propia competencia a base de experiencia y esfuerzo.

Notas para el profesor: Utilice este test como prueba diagnóstica o de repaso con alumnos de nivel avanzado que se preparan para exámenes como el C2 Proficiency. Muchos distractores reproducen errores típicos del nivel C2: palabras clave mal recordadas (damp squid, baited breath), preposiciones incorrectas (a chip in your shoulder) y modismos usados con un significado equivocado (sailing close to the wind, cutting the mustard). Como actividad de seguimiento, pida a los alumnos que escriban un relato breve o un correo electrónico en el que empleen correctamente al menos seis de los modismos, o que los busquen en artículos auténticos.