

Expressions idiomatiques anglaises courantes – Test 1



Faites ce test en ligne
et vérifiez vos
réponses
immédiatement

Nom: Classe: Date: Score: / 30

Pour chaque question, choisissez la meilleure réponse (A, B, C ou D).

Partie 1 : Que signifie l'expression ?

Lisez chaque phrase et choisissez le sens de l'expression en gras.

1. I'm sorry I can't come tonight. I'm feeling a bit under the weather. What does 'under the weather' mean?
A slightly ill
B very busy
C in a bad mood because of the rain
D stuck outside in the cold
2. Everyone was worried, but the final exam was a piece of cake. What does 'a piece of cake' mean?
A very stressful
B very easy
C badly organised
D surprisingly long
3. We've been working for ten hours. Let's call it a day. What does 'call it a day' mean?
A make a phone call
B celebrate the end of the day
C stop working for now
D plan the next day
4. Hiro let the cat out of the bag about Mia's surprise party. What did Hiro do?
A He planned the party carefully.
B He forgot about the party.
C He cancelled the party.
D He told people about the secret by mistake.
5. I'd love a new laptop, but a good one would cost an arm and a leg. What does 'cost an arm and a leg' mean?
A be extremely expensive
B be physically painful
C take a long time
D be difficult to carry
6. Amara has been on cloud nine since she got the job. How does Amara feel?
A very tired
B extremely happy
C confused
D worried about the future
7. Go and buy your coffee. I'll keep an eye on your bag. What will the speaker do?
A carry it for you
B look inside it
C take it home
D watch it carefully
8. When you said the project failed because of poor planning, you hit the nail on the head. What did the person do?
A made a serious mistake
B worked very hard
C described the situation exactly right
D changed the subject
9. Don't worry about the delay. We're all in the same boat. What does 'in the same boat' mean?
A facing the same difficult situation
B travelling together
C working for the same company
D going on the same holiday

10. I usually cycle to work. I take the bus only once in a blue moon. How often does the speaker take the bus?

- A** every weekend
B very rarely
C only at night
D when the weather is bad

Partie 2 : Complétez l'expression

Choisissez le mot qui complète correctement chaque expression.

11. I always get _____ in my stomach before a job interview.

- A** bees **B** butterflies **C** birds **D** worms

12. Could you give me a ———? This box is really heavy.

- A** arm **B** finger **C** hand **D** leg

13. Please don't _____ around the bush. Just tell me what happened.

- A** beat **B** hit **C** kick **D** walk

14. I really don't know the answer. It's just a _____ in the dark.

- A** jump **B** step **C** light **D** shot

15. Carlos works all day and studies all night. He's burning the candle at both _____.

- A** sides **B** ends **C** tips **D** corners

16. Driving was difficult at first, but now it's second _____ to me.

- A** habit **B** skill **C** nature **D** hand

17. Just before Lina went on stage, her friend whispered, 'Break a —————!'

- A** leg **B** foot **C** arm **D** neck

18. The offer came completely out of the _____. Nobody expected it.

- A** dark **B** sky **C** air **D** blue

19. I'm not sure yet. Can I _____ on it and give you my answer tomorrow?

- A** dream **B** sleep **C** lie **D** rest

20. You broke the printer, so you'll have to face the _____ and tell the manager.

- A** song **B** noise **C** music **D** sound

Partie 3 : Employer les expressions correctement

Choisissez la phrase correcte, repérez l'erreur ou choisissez la réponse la plus appropriée.

21. Which sentence uses the idiom correctly?

- A** I was exhausted, so I was on cloud nine all evening.
B Let's call it a day. We've only just started.
C The repair was really cheap. It cost an arm and a leg.
D The test was a piece of cake, so I finished early.

22. Find the error: My grandfather is still as fit as a violin, even at ninety.

- A** My grandfather **B** is still **C** as fit as a violin **D** even at ninety

23. Find the error: It's raining cats and dog outside, so take an umbrella.

- A** It's raining **B** cats and dog **C** outside, so **D** take an umbrella

24. A: I finally passed my driving test! B: _____
A Well done! You must be over the moon. **B** Break a leg!
C That's the last straw! **D** Don't cry over spilt milk.
25. A: I failed my chemistry test and I can't stop thinking about it. B: _____
A You're pulling my leg.
B That rings a bell.
C There's no use crying over spilt milk. Just prepare better next time.
D Don't put all your eggs in one basket.

Partie 4 : Les expressions dans un texte

Lisez le texte et choisissez le sens le plus juste de chaque expression telle qu'elle est employée dans le texte.

When Priya moved to a new city for her first full-time job, she felt like a fish out of water. Everything was unfamiliar: the streets, the office, even the way people spoke in meetings. Her manager, Tomás, told her to relax. 'It takes everyone a few weeks to learn the ropes,' he said. 'Ask as many questions as you like.'

During her second month, Priya offered to organise a large conference on her own. Although she was enthusiastic, she soon realised she had bitten off more than she could chew. She was working late every night and still falling behind. Just before the event, she almost got cold feet and considered asking Tomás to give the project to someone else.

Instead, she asked two colleagues for help. Working as a team, they made sure everyone was on the same page, and the conference went off without a hitch. Looking back, Priya thinks her difficult start was a blessing in disguise. 'I learned that asking for help isn't a weakness,' she says. 'Now, when a new colleague joins, I'm the first to offer support.'

26. Tomás says it takes everyone a few weeks to 'learn the ropes'. This means to _____.
A work long hours without complaining
B understand how things are done in a new job
C find their way around a new city
D make friends with their colleagues
27. Priya realised she had 'bitten off more than she could chew'. This means _____.
A she had eaten too much at work
B she had argued with her manager
C she had taken on more work than she could manage
D she had made a careless mistake
28. Before the event, Priya 'almost got cold feet'. This means she _____.
A became nervous and nearly decided not to continue
B felt ill because the office was cold
C forgot to send the invitations
D lost interest in her job
29. The conference 'went off without a hitch'. This means it happened _____.
A with a few small delays **B** later than planned
C without any problems **D** without any guests

30. Priya thinks her difficult start was 'a blessing in disguise'. This means it was _____.

- A** a secret she kept from her colleagues
- B** a lucky event that she had planned
- C** a problem that she never solved
- D** something that seemed bad but turned out to be good

Corrigé – Expressions idiomatiques anglaises courantes – Test 1

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

Explications

- A** – « Under the weather » signifie se sentir un peu malade, patraque.
- B** – « A piece of cake » désigne quelque chose de très facile (l'équivalent de « du gâteau »).
- C** – « Call it a day » signifie arrêter de travailler pour le moment.
- D** – « Let the cat out of the bag » signifie révéler un secret par inadvertance (« vendre la mèche »).
- A** – Quelque chose qui « costs an arm and a leg » est très cher (« coûte les yeux de la tête »).
- B** – « On cloud nine » signifie être extrêmement heureux (« être aux anges »).
- D** – « Keep an eye on » quelque chose signifie le surveiller et s'en occuper.
- C** – « Hit the nail on the head » signifie dire exactement ce qui est vrai ou juste (« mettre le doigt dessus »).
- A** – « In the same boat » signifie partager la même situation difficile (« être dans le même bateau »).
- B** – « Once in a blue moon » signifie très rarement (« tous les trente-six du mois »).
- B** – L'expression est « have butterflies in your stomach » et signifie se sentir nerveux, avoir le trac.
- C** – « Give someone a hand » signifie aider quelqu'un (« donner un coup de main »).
- A** – « Beat around the bush » signifie éviter de dire les choses directement (« tourner autour du pot »).
- D** – « A shot in the dark » est une supposition faite sans beaucoup d'informations, au hasard.
- B** – « Burn the candle at both ends » signifie trop travailler et ne pas assez se reposer (« brûler la chandelle par les deux bouts »).
- C** – « Second nature » désigne quelque chose que l'on fait facilement, sans y penser (« une seconde nature »).
- A** – « Break a leg! » est une façon de souhaiter bonne chance à quelqu'un, surtout avant un spectacle (« merde ! »).
- D** – « Out of the blue » signifie soudainement et de manière inattendue.
- B** – « Sleep on it » signifie attendre le lendemain avant de prendre une décision (« la nuit porte conseil »).
- C** – « Face the music » signifie assumer les conséquences désagréables de ses actes.
- D** – Finir en avance correspond à un test très facile ; les autres expressions contredisent leur contexte.
- C** – L'expression figée est « as fit as a fiddle », et non « a violin ».
- B** – L'expression est figée : « raining cats and dogs », avec les deux noms au pluriel.
- A** – « Over the moon » signifie très heureux, ce qui convient à une bonne nouvelle ; « Break a leg » se dit avant un événement.
- C** – « No use crying over spilt milk » signifie qu'il ne sert à rien de s'inquiéter de quelque chose qui s'est déjà produit.
- B** – « Learn the ropes » signifie apprendre à faire un travail ou découvrir comment les choses fonctionnent dans un nouvel endroit.
- C** – L'expression signifie essayer d'en faire plus que ce dont on est capable ; le texte montre qu'elle prenait du retard.
- A** – « Get cold feet » signifie devenir trop nerveux pour faire ce que l'on avait prévu (« se dégonfler »).
- C** – « Without a hitch » signifie sans accroc, sans aucun problème.
- D** – « A blessing in disguise » est quelque chose qui semble négatif au départ mais qui a des conséquences positives (« un mal pour un bien »), comme l'explique Priya.

Notes pour l'enseignant: Utilisez ce test à la fin d'une séquence sur la langue idiomatique ou comme test diagnostique pour des groupes de niveau intermédiaire avancé. Il cible les erreurs typiques des apprenants : prendre les expressions au pied de la lettre, modifier les mots d'une expression figée (par exemple « cats and dog » ou « fish out of the water ») et employer une expression dans une situation inadaptée. En prolongement, demandez aux élèves de rédiger un court dialogue ou une petite histoire utilisant correctement cinq expressions du test.