

Expressions idiomatiques et expressions figées (C2) – Test 1



Faites ce test en ligne
et vérifiez vos
réponses
immédiatement

Nom: _____ Classe: _____ Date: _____ Score: / 30

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

Partie 1 : Compléter des expressions figées

Choisissez le mot qui complète correctement chaque idiom ou expression figée.

- 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

Partie 2 : Le sens en contexte

Lisez chaque phrase et choisissez la proposition qui explique le mieux le sens de l'idiome.

- "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.

10. "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

Partie 3 : Précision et emploi

Choisissez la phrase correcte, la réponse la plus appropriée, le mot juste ou la partie de la phrase qui contient une erreur.

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.

Partie 4 : Les idiomes dans un texte

Lisez le texte. Choisissez le mot qui complète le mieux chaque blanc numéroté, puis répondez aux questions sur le sens.

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

Corrigé – Expressions idiomatiques et expressions figées (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

Explications

- B** – « To be at loggerheads » signifie être en désaccord profond et persistant.
- C** – « To rest on your laurels » signifie cesser de faire des efforts en raison de succès passés (se reposer sur ses lauriers).
- A** – Un « red herring » est un élément qui induit en erreur ou détourne l'attention (une fausse piste).
- D** – « Par for the course » signifie normal ou habituel dans une situation donnée.
- B** – « To put paid to something » signifie mettre fin à quelque chose ou le détruire ; « end » exigerait l'article « an ».
- C** – « To make no bones about something » signifie le dire ouvertement, sans hésiter.
- B** – L'expression figée est « with bated breath » ; « baited » est une faute d'orthographe fréquente.
- A** – « To steal a march on someone » signifie prendre l'avantage sur quelqu'un en agissant avant lui (prendre de vitesse).
- B** – « Neither here nor there » signifie hors de propos ou sans importance.
- A** – « Touch and go » décrit une situation à l'issue très incertaine ou risquée.
- C** – « At a loose end » signifie n'avoir rien à faire et s'ennuyer un peu (être désœuvré).
- B** – « To give something short shrift » signifie l'écarter rapidement, sans y prêter vraiment attention.
- C** – « Hoist with your own petard » signifie être victime de son propre piège tendu aux autres (être pris à son propre piège).
- B** – « To keep someone at arm's length » signifie éviter toute relation proche ou amicale avec quelqu'un (tenir à distance).
- A** – « To split hairs » signifie ergoter sur des différences infimes et sans importance (couper les cheveux en quatre).
- B** – « To fly in the face of something » signifie contredire quelque chose ou s'y opposer.
- D** – L'idiome figé est « to bury the hatchet », qui signifie mettre fin à une querelle (enterrer la hache de guerre).
- B** – L'idiome est « a chip on your shoulder », et non « in ».
- C** – « To sail close to the wind » signifie faire quelque chose de risqué, à la limite de l'illégal ou de l'inacceptable.
- B** – Une « Pyrrhic victory » est une victoire obtenue à un prix si élevé qu'elle équivaut presque à une défaite (victoire à la Pyrrhus).
- D** – « To bite the bullet » signifie affronter courageusement une situation désagréable, ce qui correspond au contexte.
- D** – L'expression correcte est « a damp squib », qui désigne une déception, un pétard mouillé.
- A** – « To cut the mustard » signifie être à la hauteur ou répondre au niveau exigé.
- B** – « To tread water » signifie ne faire aucun progrès tout en parvenant à se maintenir à flot (faire du surplace).
- C** – « To jump ship » signifie quitter une organisation, surtout lorsqu'elle est en difficulté (quitter le navire).
- A** – « To have your work cut out » signifie être confronté à une tâche très difficile.
- D** – L'idiome est « throw the baby out with the bathwater », qui signifie se débarrasser de quelque chose de précieux en même temps que de ce qui est indésirable (jeter le bébé avec l'eau du bain).
- B** – « The tide has turned » signifie qu'une situation a changé de manière significative, ici en mieux (le vent a tourné).

29. **C** – « Not to mince your words » signifie parler franchement et honnêtement, quitte à vexer (ne pas mâcher ses mots).
30. **A** – « To earn your stripes » signifie prouver sa compétence par l'expérience et l'effort (faire ses preuves).

Notes pour l'enseignant: Utilisez ce test comme outil de diagnostic ou de révision avec des apprenants confirmés qui préparent des examens de niveau avancé. De nombreux distracteurs ciblent des erreurs typiques du niveau C2 : mot clé mal mémorisé (damp squid, baited breath), mauvaise préposition (a chip in your shoulder) et idiomes employés dans un sens erroné (sailing close to the wind, cutting the mustard). En prolongement, demandez aux élèves de rédiger une courte histoire ou un e-mail utilisant correctement au moins six de ces idiomes, ou de les retrouver dans des articles authentiques.