

6

Idioms and Phrases

प्रत्येक भाषा में अभिव्यक्ति की कतिपय विशेषताएँ होती हैं। इन विशेष अभिव्यक्तियों का प्रयोग उस भाषा में पीढ़ी-दर-पीढ़ी होता रहता है। यहाँ तक उस भाषा में इन्हें स्थायित्व प्राप्त हो जाता है। ऐसी अभिव्यक्तियों को 'Idiom' या 'मुहावरे' कहा जाता है। इनके पीछे कोई तार्किक आधार नहीं होता है। इनका आधार यही होता है कि इन प्रयोगों को जनता ने कालान्तर में स्वीकार कर लिया है। इनके प्रयोग से भाषा में सौंदर्य एवं लोच उत्पन्न हो जाता है। इस अध्याय में कुछ महत्वपूर्ण 'Idioms' and 'Phrases' का उल्लेख किया गया है। इस प्रश्न हेतु 3 अंक निर्धारित हैं।

'A'

1. **All in All**—whole and sole (पूर्ण स्वामित्व)—The Prime Minister is **all in all** in our country.
2. **A bed of roses**—quite comfortable (फूलों की सेज)—The post of District Magistrate is not **a bed of roses**.
3. **All and Sundry**—everyone without distinction (बिना किसी भेदभाव के)—He invited **all and sundry** to the marriage party.
4. **An apple of discord**—cause of quarrel (झगड़े की जड़)—Kashmir is **an apple of discord** between India and Pakistan.
5. **Above board**—honest and frank (ईमानदार तथा स्पष्ट)—He is always **above board** in his dealing with his customers.
6. **Against a rainy day**—for hard days (आपत्ति के समय के लिए)—You must save money **against a rainy day**.
7. **An axe to grind**—personal end to serve (स्वार्थपूर्ति)—People will flatter you when they have **an axe to grind**.
8. **At the eleventh hour**—at the last moment (अन्तिम समय पर)—He reached the station **at the eleventh hour**. So he missed the train.
9. **An apple of one's eye**—very dear (बहुत प्यारा)—My friend is very popular in the college among students. So he is **an apple of their eye**.
10. **At sixes and sevens**—in disorder (तितर-बितर)—He is a very lazy boy. So his room is always at **sixes and sevens**.
11. **At daggers drawn**—bitter enemies (खुली शत्रुता)—Once, they were friends. Now they are **at daggers drawn** with each other.
12. **At home in**—well-versed in (दक्ष)—My friend is **at home** in Mathematics.
13. **At large**—free (स्वतंत्र)—The thief is **at large** after returning from the police custody.
14. **At one's wits end**—totally confused (किंकरतव्यविमूढ़)—He failed in High School Examination thrice. Now he is **at his wits end**.

15. **At an arm's length**—at a distance (पर्याप्त दूरी पर)—You should keep bad people **at an arm's length**.
16. **Add fuel to fire**—to make the matter worse (उतेजित करना)—The principal was already very angry. So my discourteous reply **added him fuel to fire**.
17. **At a stone's throw**—near (पास)—My friend lives **at a stone's throw** from my house.
18. **At hand**—near (पास)—The railway station is just **at hand** from my house.
19. **At random**—without any aim (बिना किसी उद्देश्य के)—The police fired their guns **at random**.
20. **All Greek and Latin**—very difficult to understand (समझने में बहुत कठिन)—He spoke in French. His speech was **all Greek and Latin** to most of us.
21. **A red letter day**—important day (महत्वपूर्ण दिवस)—The Republic Day is **a red letter day** in Indian history.
22. **A white elephant**—something very costly to maintain (बहुत मूल्य की वस्तु किन्तु बेकार)—He can not maintain his petrol car these days. It has become **a white elephant** for him now.
23. **A fool's paradise**—Utopia (व्यर्थ की ऊँची आशाएँ करना)—If you think, you will become a millionaire all of a sudden, you are living in **a fool's paradise**.
24. **A feather in one's cap**—distinction (अपूर्व सफलता)—By defeating West Indies in the game of cricket, India added **a feather in her cap**.
25. **A maiden speech**—first speech (पहला भाषण)—It was his maiden speech but it was very impressive.
26. **A wild goose chase**—impossible attempt (निष्फल प्रयास)—You will never succeed in this prospect. It will be **a wild goose chase** for you.
27. **A bird of passage**—a person who does not stay one place (एक जगह न टिकने वाला व्यक्ति)—Police has not been able to arrest him as he is **a bird of passage**.
28. **An open secret**—already known (पहले से ज्ञात)—It is **an open secret**.
29. **A rolling stone**—a fickle minded person (सदैव स्थान परिवर्तित करने वाला)—**A rolling stone** gathers no mass.
30. **A cat and dog life**—worried life (परेशान जीवन)—When there is unhappiness in the family, it is **a cat and dog life** for both husband and wife.
31. **A man of letters**—a famous author or writer (विद्वान्)—Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru was **a man of letters**.
32. **At a loss**—difficult to understand (समझ में न आना)—Every body is **at a loss** to understand why he committed suicide.
33. **A cry in the wilderness** (नक्कारखाने में तूती की आवाज)—The poor beggar pleaded for money a thousand times before the money lender, but it all proved **a cry in the wilderness**.
34. **A hard nut to crack**—difficult work (कठिन कार्य)—Mohan and Sohan are on very bad terms these days. To make them friends again is **a hard nut to crack**.
35. **A logger heads**—bad relation (शत्रुता की अवस्था)—Ram and Shyam hate each other. They are **at logger heads** these days.
36. **A lion's share**—greatest share (बहुत अधिक भाग)—The owner of the factory always takes away the **lion's share** of the annual profits.
37. **A lame excuse**—false pretend (झूठा बहाना)—You come late every day and give **lame excuse** for the same.
38. **A tall talk**—to boast (डींग हाँकना)—He is in the habit of indulging in **tall talks** without actually doing anything.
39. **A block head**—foolish (मूर्ख)—It is useless to discuss the matter with him because he is **a block head**.

40. **At sea**—perplex (कमजोर और व्याकुल)—He is **at sea** in Physics. So he needs extra coaching.
41. **A black sheep**—useless man (व्यर्थ का आदमी)—Every family has a **black sheep** disliked by all.
42. **A drop in the ocean**—more need but little thing (ऊँट के मुँह में जीरा)—His knowledge of English language is a **drop in the ocean**.
43. **A bone of contention**—causes of disputes (झगड़े का कारण)—Kashmir is a **bone of contention** between India and Pakistan.
44. **A dark horse**—a man of extraordinary (छुपा रुस्तम)—Anil always seemed to be a dull student but at the annual examination he proved to be a **dark horse** by obtaining highest marks.
45. **A dog in the monger**—selfish man (स्वार्थी मनुष्य)—He is a **dog in the monger** so he is disliked by every one.
46. **A bolt from the blue**—a sudden sad event (अचानक दुखदायी घटित होना)—The news of my father's death from Agra proved a **bolt from the blue**.
47. **A square deal**—fair bargain (सत्य व्यापार)—He is so dishonest that we can not expect a **squire deal** from him.
48. **Above board**—clear (स्पष्ट)—He is always honest. His honesty is **above board**.
49. **All of a sudden**—it happens quickly and unexpectedly (अचानक)—My father was hale and hearty. But he expired **all of a sudden** last year.
50. **A fool's paradise**—Utopia (काल्पनिक प्रसन्नता)—If you think that you may always get first class, you are in a **fool's paradise**.
51. **A hue and cry**—great noise (कोलाहल)—When the teacher was absent, there was much **hue and cry** in the class.
52. **A turn coat**—opportunist, a person changes his party for some gain (अपने मत को पलटने वाला)—Every one hates Ravi in the class because he is a **turn coat**.
53. **A fair weather friend**—companion of good times (अच्छे समय का मित्र)—**Fair weather friends** are dangerous because they will be with you only in your good days.

'B'

54. **Bag and baggage**—with all belongings (हमेशा के लिए)—Britishers left India **bag and baggage** in 1947.
55. **Bread and butter**—livelihood (जीविका)—It is very difficult for him to earn **bread and butter** for the whole family.
56. **By dint of**—by force (बल से)—He topped in the High School Examination **by dint of** his hard work.
57. **By fits and starts**—irregularly (अनियमित रूप से)—He is not a serious worker. He always works **by fits and starts**.
58. **By leaps and bounds**—very rapidly (अत्यन्त शीघ्रता से)—The Indian villagers have progressed **by leaps and bounds** after independence.
59. **By hook or by crook**—by any means (किसी भी तरह से)—Now-a-days, students manage to pass the examination **by hook or by crook**.
60. **Between the devil and the deep sea**—between two difficulty (दो कठिनाइयों के बीच होना)—Panna loved both the prince and her son. But one of them had to be sacrificed, she did not know what to do. She was **between the devil and the deep sea**.
61. **Birds of a feather**—people of the same nature (एक ही स्वभाव के व्यक्ति)—**Birds of a feather** flock together.
62. **By and by**—before long (धीरे-धीरे)—He is recovering **by and by** after his illness.
63. **Breathe one's last**—to die (अन्तिम साँस लेना)—Her father **breathed his last** leaving behind two sons and three daughters.

64. **Break the ice**—to break the silence (मौन का वातावरण तोड़ना)—There was a complete silence in the class but I decided to **break the ice**.
65. **Beside the mark**—unsuitable (अनुपयुक्त)—We lost the case because arguments of the lawyer were **beside the mark**.
66. **By all means**—certainly (निश्चय ही)—By all means, you will pass your examination this year.
67. **Bear the brunt of**—to bear the main attack (आक्रमण का मुख्य भाग सहना)—Some soldiers **bear the brunt of the battle**.
68. **By degrees**—suddenly (धीरे-धीरे)—He is developing **by degrees**.
69. **By chance**—opportunity (संयोगवश)—One day, I met my friend **by chance** in the fair.
70. **Bring home**—to explain (समझना-स्पष्ट करना)—He could not **bring home** his problem to me because he did not like to disclose it.
71. **Bury the hatchet**—to forget the past enmity (पुरानी शत्रुता भुला देना)—It is good to **bury the hatchet** after some time as it brings mental peace.
72. **Beggar description**—unexplainable (वर्णन से बाहर)—The beauty of the Taj is **beggar's description**.
73. **Bring to book**—to punish (सजा देना)—He came late into the class. So he was **brought to book** by the class teacher.
74. **Beat the air**—to be helpless (हवा में हाथ पैर मारना)—When the lion was wounded, it began to **beat the air**.
75. **Black and white**—in writing (लिखित रूप से)—He gave an apology to the principal in **black and white**.
76. **Back out**—withdraw support (समर्थन वापस लेना)—B.J.P. promised to back the B.S.P. Government. But later on it **backed out**.
77. **Bell the cat**—to lead in danger (खतरे में अगुआ होना)—Every student criticises the principal but no one **bells the cat** before him.
78. **Blow one's own trumpet**—to speak boastfully about one self (शेखी मारना)—No one likes my brother because he always **blows his own trumpet**.
79. **Beat about the bush**—to come to the point in a round about way (किसी बात को घुमा-फिराकर बताना)—He does not reply clearly. He always **beat about the bush**.
80. **Burning question**—burning problem (ज्वलंत समस्या)—The problem of increasing population is a **burning question** now-a-days.
81. **Be born with silver spoon in one's mouth**—born in prosperous family (धनी परिवार में जन्म लेना)—Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru was **born with a silver spoon in his mouth**.
82. **Broad day light**—in day time (दिन के समय)—The robbers looted the bank in **broad day light**.
83. **Bosom friend**—fast friend (पक्का)—Ravi is my **bosom friend**. He always helps me in my difficulties.
84. **Build castles in the air**—visionary schemes (हवाई किले बाँधना)—In order to succeed in life, you must work hard and not merely **build castles in the air**.
85. **Bring to light**—to make clear (प्रकाश में लाना)—The facts of the murder were **brought to light** by the police after careful investigation.

'C'

86. **Cock and bull story**—false story (बिना सिर पैर की बात)—The story of his heroism is nothing but a **cock and bull story**.
87. **Come true**—prove true (सत्य निकलना)—What he thinks, never **comes true**.
88. **Call a spade a spade**—to call a thing as it is (जैसा को तैसा कहना)—He is honest in his dealings. He always **calls a spade a spade**.
89. **Catch red handed**—to catch while committing a crime (रोँ हाथ पकड़ जाना)—The thief was **caught red handed** by the police.

90. **Cut a sorry figure**—to leave a poor impression (शर्मिन्दा होना)—If you do not work hard, you will **cut a sorry figure**.
91. **Carry the day**—be victorious (जीतना)—By being declared the best speaker, Anand **carried the day** in debating competition.
92. **Come across**—get suddenly (अचानक मिल जाना)—The father suddenly **came across** his missing son in the market.
93. **Cry for moon**—wish for an impossible thing (असंभव वस्तु की आशा करना)—If you are too poor, it is **crying for the moon** to wish to have a car.
94. **Chicken-hearted**—cowardly (कायर)—A police man must not be **chicken hearted**.
95. **Child's play**—something very easy (आसान काम)—The sum is very difficult for her, but it is a **child's play** for me.
96. **Casting vote**—deciding vote (निर्णायक मत)—The speaker's vote is the **casting vote** when the votes are equally divided.
97. **Carry coal to new castle**—to provide something already present in abundance (उलटे बाँस बरेली को)—If we send locks to Aligarh for sale, it is like **carrying coal to new castle**.
98. **Cut a sorry figure**—to be ashamed (शर्मिन्दा होना)—My friend was a good speaker but he was so nervous that he **cut a sorry figure** in the function.
99. **Crocodile tears**—show falls sorrow (बनावटी आँसू)—The mother shed **crocodile tears** over the death of her step daughter.
100. **Cat and dog life**—quarrelers some life (झगड़ालू जीवन)—The two brothers led a **cat and dog life** as they hated each other.
101. **Capital punishment**—death punishment (मृत्युदण्ड)—He was found guilty of murder. So he was given **capital punishment**.
102. **Cast pearls before swine**—to give what is precious to those who are unable to understand its value. (अन्धे के आगे रोवे अपना नयना खोवे)—To talk of high philosophy to a common man is to **cast pearls before swine**.
103. **Call anybody names**—to abuse (गाली देना)—It is bad to **call anybody names**.
104. **Call in question**—to doubt (सन्देह करना)—My friend always **calls in question** the reality of my statement.
105. **Cut short**—totally end (एकदम से समाप्त होना)—My plan was **cut short** due to my father's carelessness.

'D'

106. **To die in harness**—to die doing one's duty (कार्यरत अवस्था में मृत्यु होना)—The police was killed while chasing a dacoit. He **died in harness**.
107. **Double minded**—indefinite (अनिश्चित)—When he takes a decision, he is always double minded.
108. **Dead letter**—no longer in force (लागू न रह जाना)—There is no use of The Sharda Act. It has become a **dead letter** now.
109. **Dutch courage**—courage excited by wine (नशे का जोश)—Generally people show **dutch courage** after drinking wine.

'E'

110. **End in smoke**—to end in nothing (व्यर्थ जाना)—All his labours **ended in smoke**.
111. **Enough and to spare**—plenty (आवश्यकता से अधिक)—My friend has many pens. They are **enough and to spare**.
112. **Early and late**—whole time (पूरे समय)—Every one is allowed to visit me **early and late**.

113. **Eye opener**—a warning most suggestive (आँख खोलने वाली बात)—If we punish bad elements, it becomes **an eye opener** for others.

'F'

114. **Few and far between**—least (बहुत कम)—It is difficult to come across really good people these days. They are **few and far between**.
115. **From hand to mouth**—to live with great difficulty (कठिनाई से जीवन निर्वाह)—The majority of the population lives **from hand to mouth** these days.
116. **Fair play**—honesty (ईमानदारी)—He is successful businessman as he believes in fair play.
117. **From bad to worse**—very bad (बद से बदतर)—He has been suffering from blood cancer. His condition is going down **from bad to worse** everyday.
118. **Face to face**—a particular direction (आमने-सामने)—Two armies were standing **face to face** in the battle field of Panipat.
119. **Fall short**—to lessed (कमी हो जाना)—I **fell short** of money due to heavy expenditure in the marriage ceremony.
120. **Follow suit**—to follow the example (अनुसरण करना)—He entered the narrow cave first and then asked his followers to **follow suit**.
121. **Fall flat**—to produce no effect (कोई प्रभाव न डालना)—I advised him not to play with bad boys, but my advice **fell flat** on him.
122. **Fair and square**—just (ईमानदार)—If we are always **fair and square**, it pays much in our life.
123. **Feel one's pulse**—to read one's mind (दिल की बात जानना)—The author wanted **to feel the pulse** of the nation while talking about the official attitude.
124. **Far and wide**—everywhere (दूर-दूर तक)—His fame spread **far and wide** through out the world.
125. **Fair sex**—female (स्त्री)—It is necessary for the **fair sex** that they should always be fair and square in their dealings.
126. **Find fault with**—to blame (दोष निकालना)—It is a bad habit to **find fault with** the elders.
127. **For the sake of**—in the interest (इस हेतु)—I bought a car **for the sake of** my sons.
128. **Fish in troubled water**—to make profit when others are in trouble (किसी की कठिनाई से लाभ उठाना)—India is facing a problem of terrorism, some foreign powers are trying to **fish in troubled water**.

'G'

129. **Good for nothing**—useless (बेकार का)—Don't allow him to enter your house, as he is **good for nothing**.
130. **Get by heart**—remember (कंठाग्र करना)—A student must get a few poems **by heart**.
131. **Get rid of**—to be free from (मुक्ति)—Smoking is a bad habit, you must **get rid of** it soon.
132. **Go without saying**—self clarify (स्वयं स्पष्ट होना)—It **goes without saying** that if you stand first, you will get a gold medal.
133. **Go to dogs**—to be ruined (बर्बाद होना)—If you do not follow my sincere advice and work hard, you may **go to dogs**.
134. **Golden mean**—middle way (मध्यम मार्ग)—If you follow **golden mean**, you will be happy.
135. **Get into trouble**—to be involved in difficulty (कठिनाई में फँसना)—Don't lead the strike, otherwise you **will get into trouble**.
136. **Get over**—to over come (सफल होना)—My father is bold and courageous. He can easily **get over** these difficulties.
137. **Grease the palm**—bribe (रिश्वत देना)—Your pension can not be sanctioned without **greasing the palm**.
138. **Go through**—read (पढ़ना)—I have **gone through** the Ramayan.

139. **Get into hot water** (बुरी परिस्थिति में होना)—He is **getting into hot water** due to his bad company.
 140. **Gala day**—a day of great happiness (प्रसन्नता का दिन)—The Republic Day is a **Gala day** for each one of us.
 141. **Get ahead**—go forward (आगे बढ़ना)—I am **getting ahead** of the students of my class.

'H'

142. **Hale and hearty**—to be healthy (स्वस्थ)—He is **hale and hearty** even at the age of seventy five.
 143. **Hard and fast**—strict (कठोर)—There is no **hard and fast** rule regarding admission to the Government College.
 144. **High and low**—without any favour (सभी बिना भेद-भाव)—This college is open for admission to all—rich and poor, **high and low**.
 145. **Hue and cry**—great noise (शोरगुल)—There was a great **hue and cry** when the robbers surrounded the village.
 146. **Hold one's tongue**—to be quiet (चुप रहना)—He was talking all non-sense and so the teacher asked him to **hold his tongue**.
 147. **Hold good**—to remain in force (प्रयोग में रहना)—These orders will **hold good** for six months more.
 148. **Hit our opponents below the belt**—to use base means (निकृष्ट साधन प्रयोग में लाना)—It is our moral duty that we should not **hit our opponents below the belt**.
 149. **Heart and soul**—with all energy (पूरी शक्ति से)—Last year, she failed in the examination. This year, she is working **heart and soul** to get through.
 150. **Hand and glove**—on very intimate terms, fast friends (घुले-मिले घनिष्ठ मित्र)—Anshu and Ritu are **hand and glove** with each other.
 151. **Herculean task**—very hard work (अत्यन्त कठिन कार्य)—To solve the problem of Kashmir is a **herculean task**.
 152. **Himalayan blunder**—a serious mistake (बड़ी गम्भीर भूल)—If we have faith in Pakistan, it is our **Himalayan blunder**.
 153. **Hair-breadth escape**—to escaped (बाल-बाल बचना)—He was shot at yesterday but he had a **hair-breadth escape**.
 154. **Hard nut to crack**—to solve the difficult problem (कठिन कार्य)—The problem of Kashmir is a **hard nut to crack**.

'I'

155. **In lieu of**—in place of (स्थान पर)—The seller offered to give new pots **in lieu of** the old ones.
 156. **In a fix**—confused (अचकचा जाना)—In the midst of a railway journey, he discovered that he had lost the ticket. He was in a fix what to do.
 157. **Ins and outs**—full details (विस्तृत ज्ञान)—An intelligent lawyer knows **ins and outs** of his case.
 158. **In the nick of time**—just at the right time (ठीक समय पर)—The doctor arrived **in the nick of time**, when the patient was serious.
 159. **In a nut shell**—briefly (संक्षेप)—He described the whole story **in a nut shell**.
 160. **In no time**—with quickly (जल्दी से)—I finished my home work **in no time**.
 161. **In the prime of**—in youthful (युवावस्था में)—She died **in the prime of** her life.
 162. **In quest of**—in search of (खोज में)—My brother did not come from school yesterday. So I went **in quest of** him.
 163. **In vogue**—in practice (चलन में)—The custom of infant marriages is not **in vogue**.
 164. **In favour of**—to be agree (सहमत होना)—My friend is **in favour of** leaving his old house immediately.

165. **In spite of**—despite (बावजूद)—**In spite of** his serious illness, he went to his office.
166. **In accordance with**—according to (के अनुसार)—We should do our work **in accordance with** the wishes of our parents.
167. **In hot water**—in difficulty (कठिनाई में)—She found herself **in hot water**.
168. **In full swing**—very active (जोरो पर)—Examinations are very near. So teaching in schools and colleges is **in full swing**.
169. **In cold blood**—cruelly (निर्दयता से)—The servant killed the cow **in cold blood**.
- 169A. **In black and white**—written (लिखित)—When applying for job, you have to submit your application on in black and white.

'J'

170. **Jack of all trades**—one who (हरफनमौला)—He is **jack of all trades** but master of none.

'K'

171. **Kith and kin**—blood relation (नातेदार, सम्बन्धी)—He invited all his **kith and kin** in the marriage ceremony of his daughter.
172. **Keep body and soul together**—to maintain life (गुजर-बसर करना)—A poor man does not **keep body and soul together** in these days due to increasing prices.
173. **Kill two birds with one stone**—to gain double object in one effort (एक तीर से दो शिकार)—I had to go to Agra for a meeting. I also visited the Taj. Thus I **killed two birds with one stone**.
174. **Keep an eye**—to watch (निगरानी रखना)—It is our duty to **keep an eye** on small children if they are out of the house.
175. **Keep pace with**—walk at the same speed (कदम से कदम मिलाकर चलना)—If we want to **keep pace with** the modern world, we must raise our standard of living.
176. **Keep the pot boiling**—to end the hunger (भूख मिटाने हेतु)—I had to continue this petty job in order to **keep the pot boiling**.

'L'

177. **Laugh at**—to joke (मजाक उड़ाना)—The rich should not laugh at the poor.
178. **Leave no stone unturned**—full efforts (पूरा प्रयास करना)—If I am given an appointment, I shall **leave no stone unturned** to satisfy my boss.
179. **Let the cat out of the bag**—to open mystery (रहस्य खोल देना)—No one knows the mystery of the fact, it is necessary for me to **let the cat out of the bag**.
180. **Lock and key**—secure (सुरक्षित)—You must keep all important documents under **lock and key**.
181. **Look down upon**—to hate (घृणा करना)—You should not **look down upon** the beggars.
182. **Leave one in the lurch**—leave in difficulty (घृणा करना/बीच में छोड़ना)—A sincere man will never **leave his friends in the lurch**.
183. **Look forward to**—to wait with great eagerness (बड़ी उत्सुकता से प्रतीक्षा करना)—He is **looking forward** to my visit.
184. **Loaves and fishes**—material gains (भौतिक लाभ)—Do not run after the **loaves and fishes** in such an old age.
185. **Lame excuse**—false pretend (झूठा बहाना)—When Ravi goes to school late, he is habitual to make **lame excuses**.
186. **Live fast**—live in luxury (विलासितापूर्वक रहना)—You do not belong to a rich family. Don't **live fast**.
187. **Long and short**—substance (सारांश)—The **long and short** of his speech was that we should always obey our elders.

188. **Last straw**—final trial of patience (धैर्य की अन्तिम सीमा)—My friend failed thrice in the High School Examination. Now he has lost even **his last straw**.

'M'

189. **Make good**—to compensate (क्षतिपूर्ति करना)—He suffered completely in business. It is now difficult for him **to make good** the loss.
190. **Make both ends meet**—sufficient income (जीवन निर्वाह करना)—Prices are increasing day by day. It is very difficult **to make both ends meet**.
191. **Move heaven and earth**—to do everything possible (भरसक प्रयास करना)—I shall **move heaven and earth** to secure the job.
192. **Make a clean breast of**—to confess (मानना)—If you make a mistake, you should always **make a clean breast of** it before your parents.
193. **Make out**—to understand (समझना)—I am unable **to make out** what he desires.
194. **Make neither head or tail**—understand nothing (कुछ न समझना)—The teacher spoke so fast that I could **make neither head nor tail** of what he was teaching.
195. **Maiden speech**—first speech (प्रथम भाषण)—Although he spoke his **maiden speech** yet it was very impressive.
196. **Make up**—to compensate (कमी पूरा करना)—His loss will be **made up** by his father.
197. **Man of iron will**—a man of strong will (दृढ़ निश्चय वाला पुरुष)—Sardar Patel was a **man of iron will**.
198. **Man of letters**—learned man (विद्वान् आदमी)—Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru was a **man of letters**.
199. **Make up one's mind**—determine (इरादा करना)—I **made up my mind** to stand first in the examination.

'N'

200. **Null and void**—ineffective (शून्य)—His election was declared null and void by the High Court.
201. **Nip in the bud**—to destroy at the very beginning (शुरू से ही ठीक करना)—All bad habits must be **nipped in the bud** by the parents.
202. **Now and then**—occasionally (समय-समय पर)—He comes to request me for loan **now and then**.
203. **Narrow escape**—a hair's breath escape (बाल-बाल बचना)—My brother had a **narrow escape** in the accident.
204. **None the less**—nevertheless (फिर भी)—Although she failed thrice in the examination **none the less**, she hopes to succeed this time.

'O'

205. **Out of question**—impossible (असंभव)—Your passing the examination this year is **out of question**.
206. **Out of date**—to old (अप्रचलित)—Now-a-days, the old fashion has become **out of date**.
207. **On the spur of the moment**—on proper time (अचानक ठीक समय पर)—He applied for a lottery ticket **on the spur of the moment** and suddenly became rich.
208. **Out of pocket**—short of money (धनाभाव)—These days, he is rather **out of pocket**.
209. **Out and out**—completely (पूर्णतया)—He is out and out a criminal.
210. **Out of sorts**—unwell (अस्वस्थ)—Due to fever, I was **out of sorts** yesterday.
211. **Of one's own accord**—with will (स्वेच्छा से)—He joined the army **of his own accord**.
212. **Over and above**—moreover, in addition to (अतिरिक्त और भी)—He paid me hundred rupees **over and above** what he had to pay me.
213. **Out of the wood**—out of danger (खतरे से बाहर)—The patient was serious yesterday. But today he is **out of the wood**.

214. **Of no avail**—useless (बेकार)—All his efforts were **of no avail**.
215. **Open arms**—cordially (बड़े प्रेम से)—The chief guest was received with **open arms** in the function.
216. **Off and on**—now and then (कभी-कभी)—My friend comes **off and on** to help me.
217. **Over head and ears**—completely (पूर्णरूपेण)—My father is **over head and ears** in debt due to his bad habit of drinking.
218. **On the eve of**—just before an event (पूर्व सन्ध्या पर)—A party was arranged **on the eve of** my departure from Agra to Delhi.
219. **Once and for all**—forever (सदैव के लिए)—A notorious student was asked to leave the college **once and for all** by the principal.

'P'

220. **Part and parcel**—an essential part (आवश्यक अंग)—Non-violence was the **part and parcel** of Gandhiji's philosophy.
221. **Put the cart before the house**—to reverse the right order (सामान्य स्थिति के विपरीत करना)—If you marry your son before he gets employed, you will **be putting the cart before the house**.
222. **Put to the sword**—to kill (मार डालना)—The robbers **put** all the villagers **to the sword**.
223. **Put an end to**—to end (समाप्त करना)—Lord Buddha decided to **put an end to** the practice of animal sacrifice.
224. **Play false**—to cheat (धोखा करना)—You should never **play false** with your neighbours.
225. **Pay back in one's own coin**—to behave as the others behave (जैसे को तैसा)—You should not insult others because they may also **pay you back in your own coin**.
226. **Pour oil on troubled creators**—to compromise (समझौता करना)—When two friends quarrel, it is your duty to **pass oil on troubled creators**.
227. **Pocket an insult**—to tolerate insult (अपमान सहन करना)—It is not always possible to **pocket an insult**.
228. **Pick holes in**—to find out faults of (दोष निकालना)—It is not good to **pick holes in** others.
229. **Poison one's ears**—to say things against one secretly (कान भरना)—He always **poisons the ears** of my father against me.
230. **Pros and cons**—arguments for and against (आगा-पीछा)—I am unable to advise you without examining the **pros and cons** of your case.
231. **Point blank**—clearly (साफ-साफ)—He is very frank. He refused **point blank** to help me.
232. **Play ducks and drakes**—spend extra vagantly (धन बर्बाद करना)—His father has given him a lot of money. He is **playing ducks and drakes** with it.
233. **Petticoat government**—female rule (स्त्रियों का शासन)—The administration of Indira Gandhi is the best example of **petticoat government**.
234. **Palmy days**—days of prosperity and happiness (खुशहाली के दिन)—India was under **palmy days** during the rule of Ashoka.
235. **Past master**—expert (दक्ष)—He knows Mathematics well. He is **past master** in it.
236. **Penny wise and pound foolish**—give the importance of little thing (बड़ी-बड़ी बातों की उपेक्षा करना और नगण्य वस्तुओं को महत्त्व देना)—Those, who are **penny wise and pound foolish**, can never prosper in life.

'R'

237. **Rank and file**—common people (साधारण जनता)—Independence has brought happiness to the **rank and file** in the country.
238. **Root and branch**—completely (पूर्णतया)—Hitler tried to destroy the Jewish Community **root and branch**.

239. **Right and left**—from all round (सभी तरफ से)—These days, he is earning money **right and left**.
240. **Sum and substance**—summary (सारांश)—He must be expelled from the college. This is the **sum and substance** of the whole matter.
241. **Rain cats and dogs**—heavy rains (जोरों की वर्षा)—All the streets of the city were flooded with water as it **rained cats and dogs** through out the night.
242. **Read between the lines**—to understand the hidden meaning (गहराई से अर्थ निकालना)—Sometimes, simple statements contain deep meaning to understand them, you have to **read between the lines**.
243. **Run short of**—lacking (कमी होना)—Suddenly, he **ran short of** money and had to borrow from his friends.
244. **Royal road**—easy way (सरल रास्ता)—There is no **royal road** to learn Physics. It needs hard and continuous study.
245. **Run away**—to flee (भाग जाना)—The thief took the watch and **ran away** from the house.

'S'

246. **Spread like wild fire**—stretch the quickly (शीघ्रता से फैलना)—The news of the death of Smt. Indira Gandhi **spread like wild fire** in the country.
247. **See eye to eye**—to agree (सहमत होना)—I **see eye to eye** with you on the proposal of your son's marriage.
248. **See the light**—to born (पैदा होना)—He **saw light** of the day on March 15, 1990.
249. **Strike dumb**—to be astonish (आश्चर्यचकित होना)—Everybody was **struck dumb** at the sudden death of Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri.
250. **Smell a rat**—to be doubt of fault (किसी गलती का संदेह होना)—The police **smell a rat** when it searched the room and discovered the thief hiding under the sofa.
251. **Set one's face against**—to be anti (विरोध करना)—The public should **set its face against** dirty and obscene advertisements.
252. **Stand in good stead**—prove useful in need (लाभदायक सिद्ध होना)—Your labour and industry will always **stand you in good stead** in future.
253. **Safe and sound**—safely (सुरक्षित)—All the Indians are **safe and sound** in England.
254. **Scot free**—free from punishment (पूर्णतया मुक्त)—He was charged for murder, but the judge released him **scot free**.
255. **Storm in a tea pot**—a quarrel for nothing (तुच्छ बात पर झगड़ा करना)—The mother raised a **storm in a tea pot** over the loss of her daughter's book.
256. **Short cut**—simple way (सरल मार्ग)—There is no **short cut** in learning.
257. **Split hairs**—to go into minute details (बाल की खाल निकालना)—Some of friends waste their time in **splitting hairs**.
258. **Stand on one's own legs**—depend on one self (अपने पैरों पर खड़ा होना)—It is our duty that we should **stand on our own legs**.
259. **Spick and span**—neat and clean (साफ सुथरा)—A shop that looks **spick and span** attracts more customers.
260. **Snake in the grass**—a hidden enemy (आस्तीन का साँप)—Those who work as spies for the enemy are like **snake in the grass**.
261. **Screw loose**—mental weakness (मानसिक कमजोरी)—He speaks nonsense, I think, there is a **screw loose** in him.
262. **Spur of the moment**—at once, immediate (तुरन्त)—Some students, who are intelligent, answer the difficult questions at **the spur of the moment**.
263. **Summer friends**—friends of happy days (खुशहाली के मित्र)—We should always be aware of **the summer friends**.

'T'

264. **To turn over a new leaf**—to begin a new mode of the life (पूर्णतया बदल जाना)—Angulimal was a great robber who killed everybody. On the advice of Lord Buddha, he **turned over a new leaf** and became his disciple.
265. **To take to task**—to punish (दण्डित करना)—He was **taken to task** by the teacher because he had come to the class without preparation.
266. **To turn a deaf ear to**—to be indifferent (न सुनना)—Your father always tells you good things. You should never **turn a deaf ear** to him.
267. **To take French leave**—take leave without permission (बिना आज्ञा लिए अनुपस्थित रहना)—Those who are in the habit of **taking French leave**, seldom get praise from the boss.
268. **To throw dust in one's eyes**—to cheat (धोखा देना)—You will suffer yourself if you try to **throw dust in the eyes** of your parents.
269. **Time and tide**—course of time (अवसर)—**Time and tide** wait for none.
270. **To and fro**—here and there (इधर-उधर)—Cows are running **to and fro** in the meadows.
271. **Through and through**—completely (पूरी तरह से)—The judge considered the whole case **through and through** before delivering the judgement.
272. **Turn coat**—opportunist (अवसरवादी)—We should be aware of the candidate who is a **turn coat**.
273. **Tall talk**—boasting (शेखी मारना)—No one believes in those persons who are always busy in **tall talk**.
274. **Take care**—to be careful (सावधानी रखना)—We should **take care** of our health.
275. **To talk big**—to boast (शेखी बघारना)—It is a bad habit **to talk big** before others.
276. **Tit for tat**—blow for blow (जैसे को तैसा)—Gandhiji was always against the policy of **tit for tat**.
277. **Take to the heels**—run away (भाग जाना)—The thief had **taken to the heels** before the police came.
278. **Tooth and nail**—with full power (पूर्ण शक्ति से)—Indian soldiers fought **tooth and nail** against the army of Pakistan.
279. **To blot out**—to destroy (नष्ट करना/मिटाना)—It is difficult **to blot out** the system of child marriage in India.
280. **To take advantage of**—to take profit (लाभ उठाना)—It is not proper **to take advantage** of the weakness of our friends.
281. **Time and again**—repeatedly (बार-बार)—He was warned **time and again** for his mistakes.
282. **To take heed**—alert (सावधान होना)—Your health is not good. Please, **take heed** of it.
283. **Through thick and thin**—through all circumstances : good or bad (प्रत्येक स्थिति में)—A faithful friend always stands by his friend **through thick and thin**.
284. **Throw cold water upon**—to discourage (निरुत्साहित करना)—His father **threw cold water upon** his hopes instead of encouraging him at his failure.
285. **Take the bull by the horns**—to face a difficulty courageously (कठिनाई का साहस के साथ सामना करना)—We should not be afraid of our difficulties but we should **take the bull by the horns**.
286. **To take ill**—feeling the bad (बुरा मानना)—If our parents advise us, we should not **take it ill**.
- 286A. **To end in smoke**—unsuccessful (निष्फल होना)—Due to shortage of supply, all his plans ended in smoke.
- 286B. **Take after**—(एक व्यक्ति का दूसरे व्यक्ति की शकल से मिलता-जुलता होना)—Mukesh takes after his mother.

286C. **Turn down**—refuse (अस्वीकार करना)—The officer turned down the request of the clerk for one day's leave.

'U'

287. **Up-to-date**—complete (पूर्ण)—I have given you an **up-to-date** account of the whole matter.

288. **Under the nose of**—in presence of (उपस्थिति में)—Bad students attempt unfair means in the examination **under the nose of** their teachers.

289. **Ups and downs**—success and failure (उतार-चढ़ाव)—Life is full of **ups and downs**.

290. **Up to the mark**—upto the standard (स्तर का होना)—Your answer is not **up to the mark**. Please, write it again.

'W'

291. **Wet blanket**—a person or thing whose presence checks enjoyment (खुशी को कम करने वाला व्यक्ति)—The children were enjoying but the sudden entrance of the beggar proved a **wet blanket**.

292. **Without rhyme or reason**—without proper cause (बिना किसी उचित कारण के)—He went on arguing **without rhyme or reason** till he was silenced by the judge.

293. **With might and main**—full efforts (पूर्ण प्रयास)—One has to struggle **with might and main** if one wants to succeed in business.

294. **Win laurels**—to get fame (यश प्राप्त करना)—If you stand first in the class, you will **win laurels** from all sides.

295. **Well to do**—prosperous (समृद्ध)—He is a **well to do** man.

296. **Weal and woe**—joys and sorrows (सुख-दुख में)—A good friend will always be with you in **weal and woe**.

297. **Ways and means**—sources (साधन)—He wants to set up a factory, but presently he does not have **ways and means** for the same.

298. **With open arms**—whole heartedly (प्रेमपूर्वक)—Smt. Sonia Gandhi is received everywhere **with open arms**.

299. **Wear and tear**—depreciation by constant use (निरन्तर प्रयोग में घिसना)—He must have to reduce the price for the **wear and tear** of his car.

300. **With a view to**—with aim (उद्देश्य से)—I went to Delhi **with a view** to get admission in Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi.

'Y'

301. **Yeoman's service**—excellent work (पूरे हृदय से)—When cholera broke out in the city, I did **yeoman's service** for the people.

◀ Exercise :: 1 ▶

Use any three of the following idioms/phrases in your own sentences so as to make their meanings clear :

1. (a) to take to task (b) by hook or by crook (c) to beat about the bush (d) bag and baggage (e) to end in smoke (f) to set store by.
2. (a) out of sorts, (b) gift of the gab, (c) play fast and loose (d) live fast (e) ill at ease.
3. (a) at sixes and sevens (b) to eat the humble pie (c) to throw up the gauntlet (d) to nip in the bud (e) a fair-weather friend.
4. (a) turn up (b) to and fro (e) hue and cry (d) carry out (e) make both ends meet.

◀ Exercise :: 2 ▶

Use three of the following idioms/phrases in your own sentences so as to make their meanings clear :

1. (a) Strike off (b) A black sheep (c) Beat about the bush
(d) Beggar description (e) A fool's paradise.
2. (a) get the better of (b) all the way (c) bear out
(d) call on (e) get over
3. (a) kith and kin (b) hand over (c) a cock and bull story
(d) to feather one's nest (e) through thick and thin.
4. (a) At your fingertips (b) In black and white (c) To bring to book
(d) Act upon (e) Bone of contention
5. (a) by leaps and bounds (b) in a nutshell (c) at a stone's throw
(d) carry out (e) tell upon (f) child's play.

◀ Exercise :: 3 ▶

Use three of the following idioms/phrases in your own sentences so as to make their meanings clear :

1. (a) long for (b) bear out (c) call for
(d) a bone of contention (e) to sow one's wild oats.
2. (a) look down upon (b) hold good (c) play second fiddle
(d) through thick and thin (e) vie with.
3. (a) bad blood (b) a storm in a tea cup (c) a bull in China shop
(d) a bone of contention (e) lion's share.
4. (a) Last but not the least
(b) Take something personally
(c) On purpose
(d) Get the shot of something or somebody
(e) A blessing in disguise.
5. (a) to put up with (b) turn down (c) bring to book
(d) on the eve of (e) a white elephant.
6. (a) feel the pulse (b) time and again (c) pros and cons
(d) beat about the bush (e) a fool's paradise (f) crocodile tears.
7. (a) to play fast and loose (b) off and on (c) to and fro
(d) at large (e) fits and starts (f) build castles in the air.

◀ Exercise :: 4 ▶

Use any three of the following idioms/phrases in your own sentences so as to bring out meanings clearly :

1. (a) The best of both worlds (b) Once in a blue moon (c) To add insult to injury
(d) A black sheep (e) A bed of roses.
2. (a) bring to book (b) look down upon (c) to and fro
(d) by leaps and bounds (e) a rolling stone.