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COMPETITIVE ENGLISH FOR ALL EXAMS

Top 50 Idioms & Phrases for SSC Exams

अगर आप 2023 में इस एसएससी का कोई भी एग्जाम देने जा रहे हैं, तो यह पोस्ट आप सभी के लिए बहुत इंपॉर्टेंट है। इस पोस्ट में, मैं आपके साथ **Top 50 Idioms & Phrases for SSC Exams** शेयर कर रहा हूँ। इसे पढ़िए इसका नोट बनाइये और निश्चित हो जाइए। इसमें से प्रत्येक exams में एक दो प्रश्न जरूर पूछे जाते हैं।

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1. Jog someone's memory

- [A] Describing someone
- [B] Appreciating someone's humour
- [C] To be in love with someone's intelligence
- [D] To cause someone to remember something

Answer & Explanation

[Jog someone's memory - D](#)

to cause one to remember something; to stimulate someone's memory to recall something.

2. Be in the red

- [A] To be very angry
- [B] Close to death
- [C] To be in debt
- [D] Always energetic

Answer & Explanation

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Be in the red - C

- more money going out than coming in
- spending more than you earn
- owing money to the bank
- in debt
- negative bank balance

3. Catch 22

[A] A particular situation in which one cannot do any thing

[B] Close to winning line

[C] Able to achieve the target

[D] Grabbing the opportunity on time

Answer & Explanation

Catch 22 - A

- a difficult situation
- the particular situation in which one cannot win
- a problem from which one cannot get out
- an unreasonable, irrational, or meaningless situation
- a situation presenting two similarly unwanted solutions
- dilemma; quandary or predicament

4. Carry the can

[A] To listen to something with considerable doubt

[B] To be impatient

[C] To be in touch

[D] To take the responsibility of some misdemeanor

Answer & Explanation

Carry the can - D

- take responsibility for a mistake or misdeed, often another's

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5. Paper over the cracks

[A] To take risk

[B] To cause embarrassment

[C] To hide problems

[D] To be absent from duty without permission

Answer & Explanation

Paper over the cracks - C

- To repair, conceal or cover up something on a superficial level, without addressing underlying problems; to conceal a problem so that a situation seems better than it really is.
- To conceal or attempt to conceal a problem so that a situation seems better than it really is.

6. Be a dab hand at something

[A] Always telling nonsense

[B] Hearing a fake intention

[C] Ready to listen to other people's conversation

[D] Skilled in a particular area

Answer & Explanation

Be a dab hand at something - D

- to be skilled in a particular area; be expert at.
- an expert or skilled person
- adept at
- one skilful at
- a person who is an expert at a particular activity
- someone incredibly skilled at a task

7. Come hell or high water

[A] No matter what

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[B] Feeling ill

[C] Possible obstacles in one's path

[D] Something good and useful

Answer & Explanation

Come hell or high water - A

- no matter what; in spite of any obstacle
- come what may
- any difficulties or obstacles that may occur
- no matter what happens
- no matter how difficult it is

8. All Greek to me

[A] Out of danger

[B] Incomprehensible

[C] Very dear

[D] Consulting seriously

Answer & Explanation

All Greek to me - B

- difficult to understand; in comprehensible.

9. Red-letter day

[A] fatal day

[B] a colourful day

[C] happy and significant day

[D] hapless day

Answer & Explanation

Red-letter day - C

- An important day, or a day that you will remember, because of something good that happened then.

10. to smell a rat

[A] to misunderstand

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[B] to experience bad smell

[C] to see a hidden meaning

[D] to suspect a trick

Answer & Explanation

To smell a rat - D

- to suspect that something is wrong about a situation | I don't think this was an accident. I smell a rat.

[30 Important Idioms & Phrases Asked in SSC CHSL Exam](#)

Top 50 Idioms & Phrases for SSC Exams

11. turn a deaf ear

[A] defy

[B] disregard

[C] to ignore

[D] dismiss

Answer & Explanation

Turn a deaf ear - C

To ignore or refuse to listen to somebody/ something | Sheela turned a deaf ear to our pleadings.

12. at one's wit's/wits' end

[A] to be intelligent

[B] to work hard

[C] to get puzzled

[D] to be stupid

Answer & Explanation

at one's wit's/wits' end - C

- to be so worried by a problem that you do not know what to do next; to be puzzled

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- to be so worried by a problem that you do not know what to do next;
- to be perplexed;
- unable to think what to do.

13. to take someone to task

[A] to assign work to someone

[B] to scold someone

[C] to take someone to his place of work

[D] to praise someone for the work done

Answer & Explanation

To take someone to task - B

- To criticize somebody strongly for something he has done
- Reprimand or criticize someone severely for a fault or mistake.
- To criticize somebody strongly for something he has done

14. to face the music

[A] to be offered warm hospitality

[B] to be greeted rudely

[C] to enjoy a music programme

[D] to bear the consequences

Answer & Explanation

To face the music - D

- Receive punishment
- Accept unpleasant consequences of your actions
- Be confronted with disagreeable results
- Accept criticism for something that you have done

15. to blow one's own trumpet

[A] to praise one's own self

[B] to play on one's own trumpet

[C] to create noisy disturbances

[D] to have a high-pitched voice

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Answer & Explanation

To blow one's own trumpet - A

- To say things that makes your own self or kin look good
- To exaggerate the good qualities of your own self
- To speak highly about own work
- To show off

16. to run one down

[A] to be weak and tired

[B] to be in a hurry

[C] to disparage someone

[D] to run down a lane

Answer & Explanation

To run one down - C

- To criticize someone or something, often unfairly:
- To criticize somebody/something in an unkind manner

17. at snail's pace

[A] to walk like a snail

[B] to do things very slowly

[C] to lack interest in work

[D] to do things in methodical manner

Answer & Explanation

At snail's pace - B

- Very slowly | Things are moving at a snail's pace, but we'll finish on time.

18. to end in smoke

[A] to be on Are

[B] to have a smoking session

[C] to come to nothing

[D] to bum slowly

Answer & Explanation

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To end in smoke - C

- Efforts that come to nothing or are useless | All his schemes ended in smoke.

19. My close friend got the sack.

[A] got rid of

[B] resigned

[C] was demoted from

[D] was dismissed from

Answer & Explanation

My close friend got the sack. - D

- Dismissed from a job.

20. I can no longer put up with her insolence.

[A] evade

[B] endure

[C] suppress

[D] assume

Answer & Explanation

I can no longer put up with her insolence. - B

- To accept somebody/something that is annoying, unpleasant etc. without complaining

[COMMONLY MISUSED WORDS IN ENGLISH FOR SSC](#)

[CHSL 2023 ENGLISH SYLLABUS](#)

Top 50 Idioms & Phrases for SSC Exams

21. She is a fair-weather friend.

[A] a friend who meets difficulties calmly

[B] a good friend

[C] a friend deserts you In difficulties

[D] a favourable friend

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Answer & Explanation

She is a fair-weather friend. - C

- someone who is a good friend when it is easy to be one and who stops being one when you are having problems

22. at one's wit's end

- [A] to be puzzled
- [B] to understand thoroughly
- [C] to be a stupid person
- [D] to behave irrationally

Answer & Explanation

At one's wit's end - A

So worried, confused, or annoyed that you do not know what to do next:

23. In the long run

- [A] universally
- [B] permanently
- [C] occasionally
- [D] ultimately

Answer & Explanation

In the long run - D

- After a long time; in the end / at a time. that is far away in the future:

24. He is accused of sitting on the fence.

- [A] resting on fence
- [B] observing the scene
- [C] hesitating which side to take
- [D] sitting back and enjoying the fun

Answer & Explanation

He is accused of sitting on the fence. - C

- Delay or avoid making a decision or choice
- Not take sides in a dispute

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- Not to commit oneself
- Avoid siding with one of two possibilities
- Undecided about something
- Remain neutral when a decision or choice is required

25. The teacher announced that she had no blue-eyed boys in the class.

- [A] young boys
- [B] royal children
- [C] foreigners
- [D] favourites

Answer & Explanation

The teacher announced that she had no blue-eyed boys in the class. - D

- A man who is liked and admired by somebody in authority.
- A person who is treated with special favor.
- A person who is highly regarded by someone else.
- The favorite person in a group.
- A person who receives special treatment from a person in power or authority.
- A person someone may think is perfect.
- A person who never gets in trouble.
- A person who is a "teacher's pet."

26. ins and outs

- [A] full details
- [B] entry and exit points
- [C] tactical moves
- [D] complexity of character

Answer & Explanation

ins and outs - A

- The correct and successful way to do something; the special things that one needs to know to do something.
- The detailed or complicated facts of something

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- Physical characteristics, as windings and turnings, nooks, or recesses
- All the detailed points and facts about somebody / something

27. turn up one's nose

[A] loves

[B] despises

[C] sees no harm in

[D] can just tolerate

Answer & Explanation

turn up one's nose - B

- If you turn up your nose at something, you reject it because you think that it is not good enough for you.
- To refuse to accept something because you do not think it is good enough for you
- To reject/dismiss scornfully

28. To catch up with somebody

[A] to come to their level

[B] to compete with

[C] to overtake them

[D] to hold them and stop

Answer & Explanation

To catch up with somebody - A

- To move fast enough to join (someone or something that is in front)
- To find and arrest (someone)
- To begin to affect (someone) usually in a bad way
- To find and arrest someone who has committed a crime after searching for them or chasing them
- To reach the same standard, stage, or level that they have reached.
- To do something you didn't have time to get done earlier
- To be utterly fascinated by something

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29. To come out of one's shell.

- [A] became more sociable
- [B] appealed suddenly
- [C] became a loser
- [D] removed his clothes

Answer & Explanation

To come out of one's shell. - A

- If you come out of your shell, you become more interested in other people and more willing to talk and take part in social activities
- To become less shy and more confident when talking to other people

30. to take to heart

- [A] to be deeply affected or hurt
- [B] to be encouraged
- [C] to like
- [D] to hate

Answer & Explanation

To take to heart - A

- To be deeply affected or hurt by something
- To be very upset by something that somebody says or does
- To consider what someone says to you very seriously, often because it upsets you

[One Word Substitution Denoting Persons](#)

Top 50 Idioms & Phrases for SSC Exams

31. yeoman's service

- [A] excellent work
- [B] medical help

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[C] social work

[D] hard work

Answer & Explanation

Yeoman's service - A

- Very good, hard, and valuable work that someone does especially to support a cause, to help a team, etc.
- Efficient or useful help in need.
- Arduous work, performed in a vigorous, committed manner.

32. to move heaven and earth

[A] to try everything possible

[B] to cause an earthquake

[C] to pray to all Gods

[D] to travel in a rocket

Answer & Explanation

To move heaven and earth - A

- If you move heaven and earth to do something, you try as hard as you can to do it.
- To work very hard to do something
- To do everything you can do to achieve something
- To do everything that it is possible to do in order to make something happen

33. to strain every nerve

[A] to feel weak and tired

[B] to make utmost efforts

[C] to be a diligent worker

[D] to be methodical In work

Answer & Explanation

to strain every nerve - B

- To make the greatest possible effort
- To expend a maximum amount of effort to do something.

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- To try as hard as possible to do something
- To try for each

34. to flog a dead horse

[A] to attempt to do the impossible

[B] to whip a dead horse

[C] waste one's efforts

[D] to take advantage of a weakness

Answer & Explanation

To flog a dead horse - A

- Waste energy on a lost cause or a situation that cannot be changed.
- waste energy on something that has no chance of succeeding
- Engaging in a fruitless effort
- Attempting to revive interest in
- something which has died out

35. To sail in the same boat.

[A] sharing the financial and social condition

[B] sailing together in the same boat

[C] being in the same difficult situation

[D] getting rid of the difficult situation

Answer & Explanation

To sail in the same boat. - C

- Be in the same unpleasant situation as other people
- Facing the same challenges as others
- Having the same problems

36. Give a wide berth

[A] Pay more attention to

[B] Give a larger bed to

[C] Share her seat with

[D] To stay away from

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Answer & Explanation

Give a wide berth - D

- Avoid somebody; keep away from somebody.
- To avoid or stay away from (someone or something)

37. Chapter and verse

[A] Spoke like a preacher

[B] Taught like a teacher

[C] Referred to religious books

[D] Provided minute details

Answer & Explanation

Chapter and verse - D

- An exact reference or authority.
- The exact details of something
- In thorough and exact detail.
- To give exact information about something, especially something in a book

38. vote with their feet.

[A] Kick him out

[B] Show their disapproval

[C] Stop him from speaking

[D] Choose him as leader

Answer & Explanation

vote with one's feet. - B

- If you vote with your feet, you show that you do not support something by leaving the place where it is happening or leaving the organization that is supporting it.
- To indicate an opinion by being present or absent.
- To show that you do not support a decision or action by leaving a place or organization

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39. Feather his nest.

- [A] Trap birds
- [B] Decorate his home
- [C] Be the envy of others
- [D] Provide for his own needs

Answer & Explanation

Feather his nest. - D

- To make yourself rich, especially through dishonest ways.
- Acquire resources or property, especially through taking advantage of others, especially the poor.
- To make your place beautiful at the expense of others.
- To look after one's own interests, especially material ones.
- To make yourself rich, especially in a way that is unfair or dishonest.

40. A chip off the old block.

- [A] A being of the old generation
- [B] An experienced old man
- [C] A common boy of the locality
- [D] Someone similar in character to one's father

Answer & Explanation

A chip off the old block. - D

- A person very like their parents in their look or behaviour.
- Someone who resembles their parent in character or appearance.
- Similar to one's parents in behaviour, character or personality.

[Confusing Words in English](#)

Top 50 Idioms & Phrases for SSC Exams

41. An arm-chair critic.

- [A] Someone who gives advice based on theory not practice

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[B] Someone who gives advice based on practice not theory

[C] Someone who gives advice based on experience

[D] Someone who never gives advice

Answer & Explanation

[An arm-chair critic. - A](#)

- An armchair critic is a person who knows or pretends to know a lot about something in theory rather than practice.
- One who speaks critically on topics one actually knows little to nothing about.
- Someone who criticizes other people but who does not have any proper experience of the activity the other people are doing

42. take French leave.

[A] Being absent without permission

[B] Leaving without intimation

[C] Giving lame excuse

[D] Resigning without giving notice

Answer & Explanation

[Take French leave. - A](#)

- To take time away from your job without asking for permission
- Sometimes Offensive. a departure without ceremony, permission, or notice.
- An unauthorized or unannounced absence or departure
- An informal, hasty, or secret departure
- Absence from work or duty without permission.

43. Under a cloud.

[A] Under suspension

[B] Under suspicion

[C] Under scrutiny

[D] Warned severely

Answer & Explanation

[Under a cloud. - A](#)

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- Under suspicion
- To become out of favour or to be in trouble
- To be seen as being dishonest, suspicious, untrusted etc.
- Not be trusted
- To not be trusted or popular because people think you have done something bad
- To be viewed with suspicion, distrust, or disapproval.

44. Pull a long face.

[A] Look ugly

[B] Look tired

[C] Look dejected

[D] Look happy

Pull a long face. - C

- To assume a facial expression denoting sadness, disappointment, or dissatisfaction.
- To look sad, glum, disapproving, etc.
- To get angry

45. Cock and bull story

[A] Ambiguous story

[B] Authentic story

[C] Absurd story

[D] Common story

Answer & Explanation

Cock and bull story - C

- A story or explanation which is obviously not true
- Complicated, ridiculous, or unbelievable story
- An unbelievable and fanciful story
- An exaggerated or falsified story
- An absurd or improbable story presented as truth

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- A wildly exaggerated or falsified story or explanation.

46. have the last laugh

- [A] laugh only after understanding something
- [B] be of a cheerful nature
- [C] to be victorious at the end of an argument
- [D] to crack the final joke

Answer & Explanation

Have the last laugh - C

- To succeed or win after being laughed at or doubted by others
- To finally get an advantage from an argument or disagreement, when it seemed that you would not
- To finally be successful, win an argument etc., after other people have earlier criticized you, defeated you etc.

47. Look sharp

- [A] Be confident
- [B] Pay attention
- [C] Take control
- [D] Make haste

Answer & Explanation

Look sharp - D

- To act quickly
- To hurry
- Used to tell someone to do something quickly:
- To pay attention; to be vigilant.

48. A white elephant.

- [A] A costly but useless possession
- [B] Antique item or possession
- [C] Any traditional possession
- [D] A unique item or possession

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Answer & Explanation

A white elephant. - A

- An expensive item with no use or purpose
- Something that has cost a lot of money but has no useful purpose
- Burdensome possession
- Something that's not useful anymore and costs a lot to keep
- Anything that has only imaginary or perhaps aesthetic value for the owner, but has no practical or functional value

49. At daggers drawn

[A] Angry

[B] Frustrated

[C] Enemies

[D] Competitors

Answer & Explanation

At daggers drawn - C

- To be in a state of open hostility
- When two people do not trust each other
- At odds
- In disagreement
- Fighting or quarrelling
- At each other's throat
- In conflict

50. Pay on the nail.

[A] Pay within the given time

[B] Pay the full amount

[C] Pay promptly in cash

[D] Pay promptly

Answer & Explanation

Pay on the nail. - C

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- If you pay cash on the nail for something, you pay for it immediately and in cash.
- Payment without delay.

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