



Exercise 1

■ Give the idioms for each of the following definitions.

Q1. Be damaging or harmful, cause loss or destruction.

.....

Q2. To be sunk in dejection or listless apathy.

.....

Q3. Any severe or trying test, experience or trial.

.....

Q4. To be celebrated or famous for something.

.....

Q5. Descent to a lower position or standing; overthrow; ruin.

.....

Q6. To make unlawful or illegal.

.....

Q7. Not genuine; spurious.

.....

Q8. To be reticent, taciturn or secretive about something.

.....

Q9. To combine in abstaining from, or preventing dealings with, as a means of intimidation or coercion.

.....

Q10. A person who is expected to lose in a contest or conflict.

.....



Exercise 2

■ Give a definition for each of the following idioms.

Q1. To be out of the woods

.....

Q2. To clinch

.....

Q3. To humour

.....

Q4. To brace oneself for something

.....

Q5. All hell broke loose

.....

Q6. To spark

.....

Q7. To deplete

.....

Q8. Detractor

.....

Q9. To deploy

.....

Q10. To take liberties

.....



Exercise 3

■ Write a sentence with the following idioms.

Q1. In the limelight

Q2. To strive

Q3. To close ranks

Q4. To get on one's high horse

Q5. To take the biscuit

Q6. To chip in

Q7. A godsend

Q8. To have one's work cut out for one

Q9. To reimburse

Q10. To go with the flow



Exercise 4

- Fill in the gaps in the following sentences using a suitable word or phrase from Stage 18.

- Q1.** The deal is at last. I'm so happy about that. It seemed we were just plodding on, getting nowhere.
- Q2.** the Home Secretary's blunders last week, the Prime Minister has had to take the bull by the horns. He could do without these problems, especially in the light of last month's fiasco concerning the Deputy Prime Minister.
- Q3.** When he asked the minister if the law was likely to be implemented during this parliament, he was with fake reassurances.
- Q4.** Don't all the time. You shouldn't be so easily deterred from having high aspirations.
- Q5.** He started attending discussion groups after work, and tried to me; but I don't fancy getting myself involved in all that palaver.
- Q6.** The police now admit that the mistakes they had made were as a result of a reaction to relentless media pressure to solve the case... but they resent being accused of incompetence.
- Q7.** The cold weather has unfortunately taken its toll on the old people of the village. Winter is definitely
- Q8.** It certainly sparked some debate when he accused some of the staff of not
- Q9.** I think if they don't clinch that agreement,
- Q10.** In his he was the best ad-libber on the stage, but now he is prone to making mistakes and needs to prepare a script beforehand.



Exercise 5

Arthropods

- Fill in gaps Q1-Q8 in the text below using a word formed from the words in brackets.

Arthropods are organisms with **Q1. (segment)** bodies and limbs and comprise a very wide range of animals, **Q2. (include)** spiders, insects, crustaceans and centipedes. (Creatures such as spiders and scorpions are sometimes described as insects, but this is **Q3. (correct)** Insects are only those arthropods that have three body segments and six legs.) Although many arthropods are quite small, they can range in size from **Q4. (microscope)** to several metres in length.

Arthropods are **Q5. (vertebra)**, and so do not have a backbone or **Q6. (skeleton)** system; instead, they possess an exo-skeleton or shell to support their body. They have been around much longer than all **Q7. (exist)** vertebrate species and may well still be here in some form after the last vertebrate is gone. Scientists believe that all arthropods **Q8. (origin)** had a head (top), a thorax (middle) and an abdomen (bottom), but in some species (such as spiders) one or more of these segments have become fused together.



Exercise 6

Film Noir

- Find a suitable word to fill in gaps Q1-Q27 in the following text. Please note: you can only put ONE word in each gap.

Film noir is a genre of cinema **Q1.** first became popular in the United States **Q2.** the mid-20th century. The word *noir* **Q3.** 'black' or 'dark' in French and it **Q4.** given this name because the films (always **Q5.** black and white) are often dark, both literally **Q6.** metaphorically. Most noir films are thrillers **Q7.** revolve around crime or immorality in some **Q8.**

Film noir is closely connected to **Q9.** literary genre most commonly known in English **Q10.** 'hard-boiled' fiction, but which is often simply **Q11.** 'noir' or 'black' fiction in **Q12.** languages.

Common features of these stories are: **Q13.** disillusioned male protagonist, often a detective, **Q14.** usually has his own personal failings, (**Q15.** as alcoholism, gambling or debts); a depressing, pessimistic **Q16.** of the world and human nature; a complicated plot revolving **Q17.** lies and deceit; and the *femme fatale* – a dangerous **Q18.** sensual woman who seems to lead men **Q19.** their downfall.

Famous examples of films noirs **Q20.** *The Maltese Falcon*, *Double Indemnity*, *Sunset Boulevard*, **Q21.** *Big Sleep* and *The Third Man*. Since the 'golden age' **Q22.** film noir in the 1940s and 1950s, **Q23.** 'neo-noir' films have also been made, mixing original film noir **Q24.** modern elements such as full-colour photography, **Q25.** explicit scenes and sometimes, features of **Q26.** genres. These neo-noir films include *Chinatown*, *LA Confidential*, *Blood Simple*, *The Usual Suspects* **Q27.** *Blade Runner*.



Exercise 1

- Give the idioms for each of the following definitions.

A1. Be damaging or harmful, cause loss or destruction.

To take its toll on

A2. To be sunk in dejection or listless apathy.

To mope

A3. Any severe or trying test, experience or trial.

An ordeal

A4. To be celebrated or famous for something.

To be renowned for something

A5. Descent to a lower position or standing; overthrow; ruin.

Downfall

A6. To make unlawful or illegal.

To be outlawed

A7. Not genuine; spurious.

Fake

A8. To be reticent, taciturn or secretive about something.

To keep tight-lipped about something

A9. To combine in abstaining from, or preventing dealings with, as a means of intimidation or coercion.

To boycott

A10. A person who is expected to lose in a contest or conflict.

Underdog



Exercise 2

- Give a definition for each of the following idioms.

A1. To be out of the woods

Out of difficulties, danger or trouble

A2. To clinch

To settle a matter decisively

A3. To humour

To attempt to gratify; indulge.

A4. To brace oneself for something

To secure oneself against pressure or impact.

A5. All hell broke loose

A chaotic or disruptive situation, especially one that begins suddenly or unexpectedly.

A6. To spark

To kindle, stimulate or animate.

A7. To deplete

To decrease seriously or exhaust the abundance or supply of.

A8. Detractor

Someone who criticizes someone or something, often unfairly.

A9. To deploy

To arrange in a position of readiness, or to move strategically or appropriately.

A10. To take liberties

a) Behave improperly or disrespectfully

b) Make a statement or take action not warranted by the facts or circumstances



Exercise 3

■ Write a sentence with the following idioms.

A1. In the limelight

In his heyday he was always in the limelight. Now he likes to keep a low profile.

A2. To strive

If we want to strive for a decent society, we will have to step up our efforts to improve the standard of education for the poor in this country.

A3. To close ranks

If you are thinking of complaining about the Finance Director, you should be aware that you will have your work cut out. They will simply close ranks and stifle any form of criticism.

A4. To get on one's high horse

There's no need to get on your high horse about it. I merely said that the music you listen to is not my cup of tea. That's all.

A5. To take the biscuit

When it comes to whingeing, Tom takes the biscuit. He's even worse than your mother, who is also somewhat prone to making an unnecessary fuss.

A6. To chip in

He's renowned for sponging off his friends. He knows they'll chip in whenever his finances are in tatters.

A7. A godsend

My grandfather's offer to chip in was an absolute godsend; otherwise I would have had to resort to asking my mother-in-law for money again.

A8. To have one's work cut out for one

We really do have our work cut out for us here. It's not just a question of overhauling our software system.

A9. To reimburse

He has sat moping in his room all day just because his manager has refused to reimburse him for his monthly travel card. Pathetic!

A10. To go with the flow

Instead of feeling glum about the future, why don't you just go with the flow? You might be unnecessarily bracing yourself for something that will never happen.



Answers

Exercise 4

■ Fill in the gaps in the following sentences using a suitable word or phrase from Stage 18.

- A1. The deal is **done and dusted** at last. I'm so happy about that. It seemed we were just plodding on, getting nowhere.
- A2. **In the wake of** the Home Secretary's blunders last week, the Prime Minister has had to take the bull by the horns. He could do without these problems, especially in the light of last month's fiasco concerning the Deputy Prime Minister.
- A3. When he asked the minister if the law was likely to be implemented during this parliament, he was **fobbed off** with fake reassurances.
- A4. Don't **do yourself down** all the time. You shouldn't be so easily deterred from having high aspirations.
- A5. He started attending discussion groups after work, and tried to **rope me in**; but I don't fancy getting myself involved in all that palaver.
- A6. The police now admit that the mistakes they had made were as a result of a **knee-jerk** reaction to relentless media pressure to solve the case... but they resent being accused of incompetence.
- A7. The cold weather has unfortunately taken its toll on the old people of the village. Winter is definitely **setting in**.
- A8. It certainly sparked some debate when he accused some of the staff of not **pulling their weight**
- A9. I think if they don't clinch that agreement, **heads will roll**.
- A10. In his **heyday** he was the best ad-libber on the stage, but now he is prone to making mistakes and needs to prepare a script beforehand.



Exercise 5

Arthropods

- Fill in gaps Q1-Q8 in the text below using a word formed from the words in brackets.

Arthropods are organisms with **A1. segmented** bodies and limbs and comprise a very wide range of animals, **A2. including** spiders, insects, crustaceans and centipedes. (Creatures such as spiders and scorpions are sometimes described as insects, but this is **A3. incorrect**. Insects are only those arthropods that have three body segments and six legs.) Although many arthropods are quite small, they can range in size from **A4. microscopic** to several metres in length.

Arthropods are **A5. invertebrates**, and so do not have a backbone or **A6. skeletal** system; instead, they possess an exo-skeleton or shell to support their body. They have been around much longer than all **A7. existing** vertebrate species and may well still be here in some form after the last vertebrate is gone. Scientists believe that all arthropods **A8. originally** had a head (top), a thorax (middle) and an abdomen (bottom), but in some species (such as spiders) one or more of these segments have become fused together.



Answers

Exercise 6

Film Noir

- Find a suitable word to fill in gaps Q1-Q27 in the following text.
Please note: you can only put ONE word in each gap.

Film noir is a genre of cinema **A1. that/which** first became popular in the United States **A2. in/around** the mid-20th century. The word *noir* **A3. means** 'black' or 'dark' in French and it **A4. is/was** given this name because the films (always **A5. in** black and white) are often dark, both literally **A6. and** metaphorically. Most noir films are thrillers **A7. that/and/which** revolve around crime or immorality in some **A8. form/way**.

Film noir is closely connected to **A9. the/a** literary genre most commonly known in English **A10. as** 'hard-boiled' fiction, but which is often simply **A11. called/termed** 'noir' or 'black' fiction in **A12. other** languages.

Common features of these stories are: **A13. a** disillusioned male protagonist, often a detective, **A14. who/that** usually has his own personal failings, (**A15. such** as alcoholism, gambling or debts); a depressing, pessimistic **A16. view** of the world and human nature; a complicated plot revolving **A17. around** lies and deceit; and the *femme fatale* – a dangerous **A18. but/yet/though** sensual woman who seems to lead men **A19. to** their downfall.

Famous examples of films noirs **A20. are/include** *The Maltese Falcon*, *Double Indemnity*, *Sunset Boulevard*, **A21. The** *Big Sleep* and *The Third Man*. Since the 'golden age' **A22. of** film noir in the 1940s and 1950s, **A23. various/several/many** 'neo-noir' films have also been made, mixing original film noir **A24. with/and** modern elements such as full-colour photography, **A25. more** explicit scenes and sometimes, features of **A26. other/different** genres. These neo-noir films include *Chinatown*, *LA Confidential*, *Blood Simple*, *The Usual Suspects* **A27. and** *Blade Runner*.