

Name: _____

Idioms 5

Directions: Read each idiom and determine the meaning.

Idiom: A common expression understood figuratively, as the literal definition makes no sense.

1. The mystery novelist decided at the last minute to include an ex-convict, who would later prove to be innocent, as a suspect in her story; she was using this new character as a **red herring**.

What is the meaning of this idiom? _____

2. I don't like the new font that you used on the website, but there is no need to **throw the baby out with the bathwater**: just change the font back to the original and I'll approve the design.

What is the meaning of this idiom? _____

3. If Frank hears that Mandy is going to the dance with Curt, Frank is going to do something regrettable, so let's just keep it **under wraps** for now.

What is the meaning of this idiom? _____

4. Many times the great inventor's wife would beckon him to return to his room for sleep, but he had a **fire in his belly**.

What is the meaning of this idiom? _____

5. Even though the advertised prices at Bork's Motor-Works were very low, the salesmen will attempt to **nickel and dime** you as you attempt to checkout.

What is the meaning of this idiom? _____

6. When I become a rich and famous rapper, all of the people who made fun of me and said that I couldn't rap, dance, or match my clothing are going to **eat their hearts out**.

What is the meaning of this idiom? _____

7. Ever since John missed a week of school due to illness, his grades have been slipping and he has felt **behind the eight ball**.

What is the meaning of this idiom? _____

8. Candy really **left me holding the bag** when she didn't do her part of the project and was absent on the day of the presentation.

What is the meaning of this idiom? _____

9. After losing another match, Kiki asked Douglass if she was getting any better at the video game that they were playing and Douglass just sort of nodded and **bit his tongue**.

What is the meaning of this idiom? _____

10. After 40 years of working at the post office and living frugally, Mr. Luther had built up quite a nice **nest egg** for his retirement.

What is the meaning of this idiom? _____

11. If the new kid crosses Big Buck during the train car robbery, the kid is going to be **pushing up daisies**.

What is the meaning of this idiom? _____

12. Mr. Walker didn't trust his daughter's new boyfriend because he wore suits and used **ten dollar words**.

What is the meaning of this idiom? _____

13. Ever since her dog Pookie went missing, Janine has been a real **basket case**.

What is the meaning of this idiom? _____

14. In the last issue of the school paper, Jamie wrote an article uncovering the practice of serving horse meat in the cafeteria, and now the principal is trying to bring her before a school council **kangaroo court** to have her removed from the journalism club.

What is the meaning of this idiom? _____

15. As the teacher reprimanded Eric, we all expected that he would reply with something smart or witty, but it seemed as if **the cat had gotten his tongue**.

What is the meaning of this idiom? _____