50 Important Idioms For Competitive Exams with Examples

Here, you will have 50 Important Idioms For Competitive Exams with Examples. An idiom is a phrase or expression that has a figurative meaning different from its literal meaning. Idioms are common in many languages and are often used to add colour and interest to written and spoken language.

Idioms are important for competitive exams because they are often found in reading and writing passages, as well as in spoken conversations. Understanding idioms is important for being able to accurately interpret the intended meaning of a passage or conversation.

> For example, **if someone says "I'm on cloud nine,**" it would be confusing if you took the phrase literally, but if you understand the idiom to mean "**very happy**," it becomes clear what the speaker is trying to convey.

In addition to helping with comprehension, idioms can also help with vocabulary building and language fluency. Knowing a variety of idioms can expand your vocabulary and make you more confident and proficient in using the language and making a good score in competitive exams such as CSS and PMS etc

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50 Important Idioms For Competitive Exams with Examples

Here are 50 important idioms that are commonly found in competitive exams, along with their meanings and examples:

1) "**Break the ice"** means to start a conversation or relationship, especially when it is difficult or awkward

> Example: "I was a bit nervous to meet my new boss, but she broke the ice by telling a funny joke, which made me feel more at ease."

2) "**Cost an arm and a leg**" means to be very expensive

> Example: "I wanted to buy the latest iPhone, but it ended up costing me an arm and a leg."

3) "**Cut to the chase**" means to get to the point quickly

> Example: "Can we cut to the chase and discuss the main topic of the meeting?"

4) "**Get cold feet**" means to lose one's courage or confidence

Example: "I was all set to propose to my girlfriend, but I got cold feet at the last minute."

5) "**In the heat of the moment**" means in a moment of strong emotion or excitement

Example: "I said some things that I regret in the heat of the moment."

6) "**Jumping the gun**" means acting too soon, before all the necessary information or preparations are ready

Example: "We can't make a decision on this matter yet means we're jumping the gun if we do."

7) "**Kill two birds with one stone**" means to achieve two things at the same time

Example: "I decided to go for a run and do my grocery shopping at the same time, so I was able to kill two birds with one stone."

8) "**Let the cat out of the bag**" means to reveal a secret

Example: "Oops, I didn't mean to let the cat out of the bag means I was supposed to keep that a surprise."

9) "**Not in a million years**" means never

Example: "I never thought I'd see him again, but there he was means I

couldn't believe it) I would have said not in a million years."

10) "**Pull someone's leg**" means to tease or trick someone

Example: "I can't believe you fell for that means I was just pulling your leg."

11) "**See eye to eye**" means to agree

Example: "We don't always see eye to eye, but we respect each other's opinions."

12) "**Speak of the devil**" means to mention someone just as they arrive

Example: "I was just talking about you with my friends means speak of the devil!"

13) "**The ball is in your court**" means it is now your turn to act or make a decision

Example: "We've discussed everything we need to, so now the ball is in your court."

14) "**The elephant in the room**" means an issue that is obvious to everyone but is not being discussed

Example: "Can we address the elephant in the room and talk about the financial problems we're facing?"

15) "**The whole nine yards**" means everything

Example: “I’m going to give this project my all means the whole nine yards.”

16) “**To be in the same boat**” means to be in the same situation

Example: “We’re all struggling with the same problem, so we’re in the same boat.”

17) “**To bend over backwards**” means to make a great effort

Example: “I’ll do whatever it takes to make this project a success means I’ll bend over backwards to make it happen.”

18) “**To blow one’s own horn**” means to boast or brag about oneself

Example: “He’s always blowing his own horn, but I don’t think he’s as talented as he claims to be.”

19) “T**o call it a day**” means to stop working for the day

Example: “I think we’ve made enough progress for today means let’s call it a day.”

20) “**To eat humble pie**” means to admit one’s mistakes or failures and apologize

Example: “I had to eat humble pie and apologize to my boss for my mistake.”

21) “**To go the extra mile**” means to make a greater effort than what is

expected

Example: “I really appreciate your willingness to go the extra mile and help us meet the deadline.”

22) “**To hit the nail on the head**” means to get something exactly right

Example: “That’s exactly what I was thinking means you hit the nail on the head.”

23) “**To make a long story short**” means to summarize a long and complicated story

Example: “We had a lot of ups and downs, but to make a long story short, we ended up getting married.”

24) “**To make ends meet**” means to have just enough money to pay for one’s basic needs

Example: “It’s been tough lately, but we’re doing our best to make ends meet.”

25) “**To pull someone’s weight**” means to contribute one’s fair share of work

Example: “I know I can count on you to pull your weight and do your part.”

26) “**To be in the dark**” means to be unaware of something

Example: “I had no idea what was going on means I was completely in

the dark."

27) "**To be on the same page**" means to be in agreement or understanding

Example: "I'm glad we're on the same page about this project."

28) "**To be on thin ice**" means to be in a precarious or risky situation

Example: "I'm on thin ice with my boss after missing the deadline."

29) "**To beat around the bush**" means to avoid getting to the point

Example: "Can you please stop beating around the bush and just tell me what you want to say?"

30) "**To bite off more than you can chew**" means to take on more than you can handle

Example: "I thought I could handle three jobs, but I quickly realized I had bitten off more than I could chew."

31) "**To burn the midnight oil**" means to work late into the night

Example: "I have to burn the midnight oil if I want to finish this project on time."

32) **"To throw in the towel**" means to give up or abandon something

Example: "I was tempted to throw in the towel, but I decided to keep

trying."

33) "**To turn over a new leaf**" means to make a fresh start or change one's ways

Example: "I've decided to turn over a new leaf and start exercising regularly."

34) "**To weather the storm**" means to survive a difficult or challenging situation

Example: "We've had our ups and downs, but we've always managed to weather the storm."

35) "**To take the bull by the horns**" means to confront a problem or challenge directly

Example: "I'm not one to shy away from a challenge means I'll take the bull by the horns and deal with it headmeanson."

36) "**To beat a dead horse**" means to continue talking about something that has already been discussed

Example: "We've already discussed this topic at length means there's no point in beating a dead horse."

37) "**To be a piece of cake**" means to be very easy

Example: "This test was a piece of cake means I didn't even have to study for it."

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38) "**To be a thorn in someone's side**" means to be a constant annoyance or problem

Example: "I'm sorry if I've been a thorn in your side means I'll try to be more considerate in the future."

39) "**To be a wild card"** means to be unpredictable or difficult to predict

Example: "I'm not sure what to expect from him means he's always been a wild card."

40) "**To be in hot water"** means to be in trouble

Example: "I'm in hot water with my boss for missing the deadline."

41) "**To be in the same boat**" means to be in the same situation

Example: "We're all struggling with the same problem, so we're in the same boat."

42) "**To be on cloud nine**" means to be very happy or satisfied

Example: "I'm on cloud nine after getting the promotion."

43) "**To be on the fence**" means to be indecisive or unsure

Example: "I'm still on the fence about whether to accept the job offer."

44) "**To be on the same wavelength**" means to have the same thoughts or

feelings

Example: “We’re on the same wavelength means I was thinking the exact same thing.”

45) “**To be on top of the world**” means to be very happy or successful

Example: “I’m on top of the world after winning the championship.”

46) “**To be out of left field**” means to be unexpected or unrelated

Example: “His suggestion came out of left field means I didn’t see it coming.”

47) “**To be over the moon**” means to be very happy

Example: “I’m over the moon about getting the job.”

48) “**To be two peas in a pod**” means to be very similar or close

Example: “We’ve always been two peas in a pod means we have a lot in common.”

49) “**To be up in the air**” means to be undecided or uncertain

Example: “I’m still up in the air about whether to accept the job offer.”

50) “**To bite the bullet**” means to face a difficult or unpleasant situation

Example: “I knew it wasn’t going to be easy, but I had to bite the bullet and go through with it.”

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