

ELTE Idioms on work & study quiz 87

1. ELTE Idioms on work & study quiz 87

What do the underlined idioms mean?

I've been burning the midnight oil to finish my dissertation before the deadline.

- (A) Sleeping early
- (B) Working late at night
- (C) Studying outdoors
- (D) Taking long breaks

2. He's really climbing the corporate ladder quickly at his new job.

- (A) Going on a business trip
- (B) Gaining promotions and advancing in career
- (C) Literally climbing a ladder
- (D) Meeting colleagues

3. Don't worry about small mistakes — everyone drops the ball sometimes.

- (A) Makes a mistake
- (B) Wins a game
- (C) Gets a promotion
- (D) Ignores work

4. She passed the exam with flying colours after months of hard revision.

- (A) Barely passed
- (B) Failed miserably
- (C) Achieved outstanding results
- (D) Was disqualified

5. The new manager really knows how to think outside the box when solving problems.

- (A) Be creative
- (B) Ignore problems
- (C) Use a literal box
- (D) Copy others

6. He's very ambitious but sometimes tries to bite off more than he can chew.

- (A) Eat too much food
- (B) Take on too much work
- (C) Ignore responsibilities
- (D) Ask for advice

7. We need to get our ducks in a row before the presentation tomorrow.

- (A) Organize things properly
- (B) Feed the ducks
- (C) Take a walk outside
- (D) Ignore the schedule

8. She's been burning the candle at both ends, working full-time and studying in the evenings.

- (A) Overworking herself
- (B) Doing nothing all day
- (C) Lighting candles
- (D) Sleeping too much

9. He prefers to play it by ear rather than following a strict study schedule.

- (A) Follow instructions carefully
- (B) Decide and act spontaneously
- (C) Play a musical instrument
- (D) Sleep in class

10. I was nervous about the group project, but luckily my teammates really lent me a hand.

- (A) Assist someone with a task or situation.
- (B) Exercise regularly
- (C) Sit quietly
- (D) Take a break

11. The professor's lecture was confusing, but I managed to piece it together later from the notes.

- (A) Solve a puzzle
- (B) Understand it gradually
- (C) Copy someone else's work
- (D) Forget everything

12. Don't get discouraged if you fail the first time; practice makes perfect.

- (A) Perfection is a dream
- (B) Practice leads to time waste
- (C) Only exams matter
- (D) Practice helps improve skills

13. He decided to call it a day after finishing the last assignment.

- (A) Call for a meeting
- (B) Work even harder
- (C) Stop working or take a break
- (D) Start a new project

14. "Don't cut corners on the safety procedures; it could get you into serious trouble."

- (A) Follow the rules exactly
- (B) Do something lazily or carelessly to save time
- (C) Ask for help from a colleague
- (D) Work extra hours

15. I followed the instructions to the letter and it still went wrong

- (A) Follow the rules exactly as told
- (B) Ignore the rules
- (C) Ask for advice before acting
- (D) Take shortcuts to finish faster

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What do the underlined idioms mean?

I've been burning the midnight oil to finish my dissertation before the deadline.

- A Sleeping early
- B Working late at night
- C Studying outdoors
- D Taking long breaks

i Working late at night is correct.
Burning the midnight oil: working or studying late at night to meet deadlines

2. He's really climbing the corporate ladder quickly at his new job.

- A Going on a business trip
- B Gaining promotions and advancing in career
- C Literally climbing a ladder
- D Meeting colleagues

i Gaining promotions and advancing in career is correct.
To climb the corporate ladder: to make career progress or getting promotions

3. Don't worry about small mistakes — everyone drops the ball sometimes.

- A Makes a mistake
- B Wins a game
- C Gets a promotion
- D Ignores work

i Makes a mistake is correct.
To drop the ball: to fail to do something correctly or make a mistake

4. She passed the exam with flying colours after months of hard revision.

- A Barely passed
- B Failed miserably
- C Achieved outstanding results
- D Was disqualified

i Achieved outstanding results is correct.
Flying colours: succeeding extremely well or achieving great results

5. The new manager really knows how to think outside the box when solving problems.

- A Be creative
- B Ignore problems
- C Use a literal box
- D Copy others

i Be creative is correct.
Think outside the box: be innovative and creative, not conventional

6. He's very ambitious but sometimes tries to bite off more than he can chew.

- A Eat too much food
- B Take on too much work
- C Ignore responsibilities
- D Ask for advice

i Take on too much work is correct.
To bite more than you can chew: to take on more tasks or responsibilities than one can handle

7. We need to get our ducks in a row before the presentation tomorrow.

- A Organize things properly
- B Feed the ducks
- C Take a walk outside
- D Ignore the schedule

i Organize things properly is correct.
to get our ducks in a row: to be well prepared or well organized for something that is going to happen

8. She's been burning the candle at both ends, working full-time and studying in the evenings.

- A Overworking herself
- B Doing nothing all day
- C Lighting candles
- D Sleeping too much

i Overworking herself is correct.
To burning the candle at both ends: to work excessively and exhaust oneself

9. He prefers to play it by ear rather than following a strict study schedule.

- A Follow instructions carefully
- B Decide and act spontaneously
- C Play a musical instrument
- D Sleep in class

i Decide and act spontaneously is correct.
To play it by ear: to act without planning; adapt as you go

10. I was nervous about the group project, but luckily my teammates really lent me a hand.

- A Assist someone with a task or situation.
- B Exercise regularly
- C Sit quietly
- D Take a break

i Assist someone with a task or situation is correct.
To lend someone a hand: to give help, support

11. The professor's lecture was confusing, but I managed to piece it together later from the notes.

- A Solve a puzzle
- B Understand it gradually
- C Copy someone else's work
- D Forget everything

i Understand it gradually is correct.
To piece it together: to understand something gradually by putting information or parts together

12. Don't get discouraged if you fail the first time; practice makes perfect.

- A Perfection is a dream
- B Practice leads to time waste
- C Only exams matter
- D Practice helps improve skills

i Practice helps improve skills is correct.
Practice makes perfect: improvement comes from repeated practice

13. He decided to call it a day after finishing the last assignment.

- A Call for a meeting
- B Work even harder
- C Stop working or take a break
- D Start a new project

i Stop working or take a break is correct.
To call it a day: to stop what you are doing because you do not want to do any more or think you have done enough

14. "Don't cut corners on the safety procedures; it could get you into serious trouble."

- A Follow the rules exactly
- B Do something lazily or carelessly to save time
- C Ask for help from a colleague
- D Work extra hours

i Do something lazily or carelessly to save time is correct.
To cut corners: to do something in the easiest, cheapest, or fastest way

15. I followed the instructions to the letter and it still went wrong

- A Follow the rules exactly as told
- B Ignore the rules
- C Ask for advice before acting
- D Take shortcuts to finish faster

i Follow the rules exactly as told is correct.
To the letter: to follow the rules or instructions precisely, exactly as written