

100 idioms and phrases for CGL Tier 2 & CHSL Exam

Directions (1-100): In the following questions four alternatives are given for idioms/phrases in now. Choose the one that best expresses the meaning of the given idiom/phrase.

Q1. A cold blooded murder

- (a) An intentional / premeditated murder
- (b) To go on a vacation
- (c) To murder all members of a family.
- (d) To murder with no weapon

Q2. Put the best foot forward

- (a) Get into
- (b) Start impressively
- (c) To give a sign of distress trouble
- (d) Oppressively

Q3. Pay lip service to

- (a) To make every possible effort
- (b) Fight fiercely
- (c) Pretend to express loyalty or support
- (d) Very close

Q4. Stick one's neck out

- (a) To take a risk
- (b) Completely
- (c) To be cringe
- (d) To be violent

Q5. Bear the palm

- (a) To bear pain
- (b) Be victorious
- (c) To lose the game
- (d) To control anger

Q6. Tread upon other's toe

- (a) To annoy somebody
- (b) To kill somebody
- (c) Hurt one's feelings
- (d) To praise somebody

Q7. Cock of the walk

- (a) One who is the most stupid in a group
- (b) One who dominates a group or situation
- (c) One who enjoys the walk.
- (d) An additional achievement

Q8. From the horse's mouth.

- (a) From a reliable source
- (b) From an illegal source
- (c) From a costly source
- (d) From an unreliable source

Q9. A black ox

- (a) To be lucky
- (b) To have an ox
- (c) Misfortune
- (d) To misbehave

Q10. Fool's errand

- (a) Useless undertaking
- (b) A fool's house
- (c) Literary person
- (d) Intense Dislike

Q11. Touch and go

- (a) To waste
- (b) Dangerous and Uncertain
- (c) Conduct Secretly
- (d) Pleasant and Certain

Q12. Be hand and foot

- (a) In all possible ways; by all means
- (b) To be lazy to move your hands and feet
- (c) To fall between two great difficulties
- (d) In disorder

Q13. To set at naught

- (a) To like
- (b) To ruin
- (c) To admire
- (d) To be agree

Q14. In the black

- (a) In a financially profitable condition
- (b) In extreme difficulty
- (c) In the absence of money
- (d) To be unsuccessful

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Q15. Gray matter

- (a) Kindness
- (b) Intelligence
- (c) Cruelty
- (d) Weakness

Q16. All Thumps

- (a) To give your best
- (b) Awkward and clumsy especially with one's hands
- (c) To examine thoroughly
- (d) To stop some activity, to stop working and go home.

Q17. Be in the swim

- (a) To keep oneself informed and up-to-date.
- (b) To refuse to do what someone else wants.
- (c) To pursue a line of thought or course of action that is misguided.
- (d) Someone who is completely crazy.

Q18. Feather brained

- (a) To show that you do not support something.
- (b) Silly or often forgetting things
- (c) To be over excited
- (d) To take a balanced diet.

Q19. Hear it on grapevine

- (a) To hear stories regularly
- (b) To listen news carefully.
- (c) To hear rumors about something or someone.
- (d) To continue to listen songs.

Q20. Between the cup and the lips.

- (a) On the point of achievement
- (b) By any means
- (c) Straight talks
- (d) To take on a task that is way too big.

Q21. Bend over backwards

- (a) To choose between two alternative choices.
- (b) In anxiety
- (c) Do whatever it takes to help, willing to do anything.
- (d) To bend one's body the way one wants.

Q22. Can't cut the mustard.

- (a) Someone who is not adequate enough to compete or participate.
- (b) Angry about something that occurred in the past.
- (c) Someone who is not able to walk properly.
- (d) Someone who doesn't believe in God.

Q23. Gall and wormwood

- (a) Source of irritation
- (b) To be ready
- (c) To gamble everything you have
- (d) Very intimate friends.

Q24. Mumbo Jumbo

- (a) To keep quiet
- (b) Nonsense or meaningless speech.
- (c) To participate in a competition.
- (d) Here and there

Q25. Funny farm

- (a) A mental institutional facility
- (b) To laugh at someone
- (c) To make funny expressions
- (d) To get funny remarks

Q26. Get your walking papers.

- (a) Compromise
- (b) Get fired from the job
- (c) To be received gracefully
- (d) To sign on papers

Q27. Know the ropes

- (a) Unable to understand
- (b) Main support
- (c) To understand the details
- (d) To climb on a rope.

Q28. Free and easy

- (a) Natural and simple
- (b) From this time into the future.
- (c) To get free commodity
- (d) To recover from illness.

Q29. Level playing field

- (a) To play in the field.
- (b) A fair competition where no side has an advantage
- (c) Energetic
- (d) To promote at a higher position.

Q30. For the time being

- (a) Temporarily
- (b) Forever
- (c) To leave from a place before time
- (d) To be punctual

Q31. From stem to stern

- (a) all the way from the front of a ship to the back.
- (b) from beginning to the end.
- (c) top of a plant to its roots.
- (d) lose pleasantness to become strict.

Q32. Cut short

- (a) delete
- (b) praise
- (c) interrupt
- (d) slice into small pieces

Q33. Ruffle somebody's feather

- (a) gamble
- (b) escape responsibility
- (c) annoy somebody
- (d) show contempt for

Q34. Run out of steam

- (a) to lose impetus or enthusiasm
- (b) to work quickly like a machine
- (c) to give up easily
- (d) no more money to spend

Q35. A cuckoo in the nest

- (a) one who likes to stay at home
- (b) a view from a high place
- (c) an unwelcome intruder
- (d) one who is chosen as the leader of the group.

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Q36. Capital Punishment

- (a) death sentence
- (b) life imprisonment
- (c) to be jailed
- (d) imprisoned for a long period

Q37. Wet behind the ears

- (a) skillful
- (b) young and rich with experience
- (c) young and without much experience
- (d) hearing impaired

Q38. Talked over

- (a) assessed
- (b) fought about
- (c) discussed
- (d) surveyed

Q39. Wet one's whistle

- (a) have a nap
- (b) be happy
- (c) have a problem
- (d) have a drink



Q40. Vexed question

- (a) controversial
- (b) important
- (c) confused
- (d) None of the above

Q41. Take fancy to

- (a) to give imaginative touches
- (b) revised
- (c) developed liking for
- (d) improved

Q42. On tenterhooks

- (a) happy & excited
- (b) in suspense & anxiety
- (c) angry and irritated
- (d) surprised & shocked

Q43. Dressing-down

- (a) apply bandage
- (b) wear an expensive gown
- (c) give a scolding
- (d) pretend

Q44. Cut the mustard

- (a) to get under expectations
- (b) to score average
- (c) to perform well
- (d) to underperform

Q45. Gall and wormwood

- (a) a problem
- (b) hateful
- (c) useless
- (d) hard to digest

Q46. Whale of a time

- (a) To marry
- (b) Enjoy a lot
- (c) To regret
- (d) A bad memory

Q47. An Ananias

- (a) A Liar
- (b) A man with lots of money
- (c) An irritating person
- (d) An important person

Q48. Wrap one's brain around

- (a) To not mix with others
- (b) To scratch one's head
- (c) Concentrate on something to understand.
- (d) To get aggressive

Q49. Bee-line

- (a) The shortest distance between two places
- (b) To be apart by maximum distance
- (c) To fight for one's rights
- (d) To act unfairly in a contest

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Q50. To be snowed under

- (a) To be in a dilemma
- (b) To be very busy
- (c) To be under suspicion
- (d) To be at a cold place

Q51. Think the world of

- (a) To go on a world trip
- (b) Admire someone very much
- (c) To earn excessively
- (d) Not for any reason

Q52. Kitty Corner

- (a) Diagonally across
- (b) To understand the details
- (c) To get confused
- (d) To remain joyful in a tough situation

Q53. Lock and key

- (a) To lock something
- (b) In safe place
- (c) To avoid
- (d) To apologize

Q54. Pore over

- (a) Go through
- (b) Reach to the lowest level
- (c) To refund old dues
- (d) Cheerful

Q55. In awe of

- (a) Have no clear idea
- (b) Respect
- (c) In a precarious/ dangerous position
- (d) To take advantage of

Q56. Cast a shadow on

- (a) Without delay
- (b) In disagreement
- (c) Spoil or let down
- (d) In essence

Q57. Come to naught

- (a) Be unsuccessful
- (b) To win
- (c) To very great extent
- (d) To be doubtful

Q58. By implication

- (a) Obliquely
- (b) Do one's share of work
- (c) To go unnoticed
- (d) Precisely what the law says.

Q59. In the face of

- (a) All at once
- (b) Regardless of
- (c) At a time
- (d) To dislike someone

Q60. Drive to the wall

- (a) Developing
- (b) Moderately
- (c) Come to exist
- (d) Irritate/annoy



Q61. Whole bag of tricks,

- (a) Make use of the best resources from the ones that are available.
- (b) Make use of all the possibilities or techniques to achieve something.
- (c) Make use of all opportunities that cross your path.
- (d) Make use of all tricks to win the hearts of people.

Q62. Dog eat dog.

- (a) Very vigilant
- (b) Steady manager
- (c) Ruthlessly competitive.
- (d) Hostile and unhelpful.

Q63. Wrangle over an ass's shadow.

- (a) To do unnecessary work.
- (b) To behave like fools.
- (c) Sit on the shadow of the ass.
- (d) Quarrel over trifles

Q64. Puts by

- (a) To save
- (b) To lose
- (c) Give away
- (d) To spend carefully

Q65. The gnomes of Zurich.

- (a) Witch craft of Zurich
- (b) Foreign leaders
- (c) Big International bankers.
- (d) Guardians of treasure.

Q66. Vote with one's feet.

- (a) To kick someone out
- (b) To show disapproval.
- (c) To stop someone from speaking
- (d) To choose someone as leader.

Q67. God's acre

- (a) Church
- (b) Aisle
- (c) A cemetery beside a Church
- (d) Altar

Q68. Palm off

- (a) Clearly visible
- (b) Uneasy with something
- (c) To dispose off with the intent to deceive
- (d) Conceal

Q69. Wipe the nose of

- (a) To Abuse
- (b) To Cheat
- (c) To Slap
- (d) To pull the nose.

Q70. Make a beeline

- (a) To go online
- (b) To rush
- (c) To be doubtful
- (d) To refuse

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Q71. Not playing with a full deck

- (a) Someone who lacks intelligence
- (b) Someone who is injurious
- (c) Not playing any game
- (d) Get compatible

Q72. Wide off the mark

- (a) Inaccurate
- (b) Crucial
- (c) Important
- (d) Unreasonable

Q73. Pull no punches.

- (a) To speak politely
- (b) To speak frankly
- (c) To speak rudely.
- (d) To speak sweetly.

Q74. Pay on the nail.

- (a) To pay after a long time.
- (b) To pay small amount.
- (c) To pay nothing.
- (d) To pay promptly.

Q75. Out of sorts.

- (a) Not rich
- (b) Out of reach
- (c) Out of sight
- (d) Not well.

Q76. Work like a charm

- (a) To continue doing a work even after getting tired
- (b) Works very well or has the desired effect
- (c) People who perform important work but have no contact with the people.
- (d) Being serious about what you announce.

Q77. Cork something up

- (a) To stop up one's mouth and be quiet.
- (b) Hurting someone deeply
- (c) Challenge someone in his own area.
- (d) To perform beyond your ability

Q78. Cook someone's goose

- (a) Refers to a cooked food
- (b) To praise someone else's work.
- (c) Spoil other person's chances of success.
- (d) To help someone in his work.

Q79. Sink or swim

- (a) Fail or succeed
- (b) To live or die
- (c) To bath
- (d) To stay or leave

Q80. Hit the road running

- (a) To delay in doing something
- (b) To hit a person badly
- (c) Start something and proceed at a fast pace with enthusiasm.
- (d) To hit a vehicle

Q81. Be on the breadline

- (a) To live a luxurious life.
- (b) To be very poor
- (c) Having a high income.
- (d) To be excited

Q82. A wee bit

- (a) To a very small degree
- (b) A withered thing
- (c) To be precise
- (d) Bitterly hostile

Q83. On tenterhooks

- (a) To achieve two results at a same time
- (b) In a state of suspense and anxiety
- (c) To tackle a problem in a bold fashion
- (d) To take back what you have said

Q84. In a pickle

- (a) To be in majority
- (b) To be in minority
- (c) In an embarrassing or awkward situation.
- (d) To be obsessed with something



Q85. To toe the line

- (a) To leave a group after having an argument.
- (b) To accept the authority or policies of a particular group, especially unwillingly
- (c) To unfollow someone because of their evil past
- (d) To be self-dependent

Q86. Put up the shutters

- (a) To go on a trip
- (b) Go out of business
- (c) To leave one's own house
- (d) To regret over something

Q87. With bells on

- (a) Enthusiastically
- (b) Upsetting
- (c) Being the first one to set a trend
- (d) To dress up attractively

Q88. Far and wide

- (a) Not frequent
- (b) Nowhere
- (c) To get disappeared
- (d) Over a large area

Q89. Fuddy-duddy

- (a) An old fashioned and foolish type of person.
- (b) A mental institutional facility.
- (c) To become serious about something
- (d) A wise person.

Q90. Milk and water

- (a) To be physically strong
- (b) Lacking the will or ability
- (c) To be very partial
- (d) To criticize somebody

Q91. The salt of the Earth

- (a) To expect something in return
- (b) Very good & honest/kind
- (c) To support someone
- (d) Neat and clean

Q92. Feel blue

- (a) Feeling ecstatic
- (b) In trouble/ depressed
- (c) An easy achievement
- (d) None of these

Q93. Flies off at a tangent

- (a) Self praising
- (b) To boast
- (c) Start discussing something irrelevant
- (d) Well informed

Q94. Going places.

- (a) To go to the home back
- (b) Talented and successful
- (c) To go on a visit
- (d) To be angry

Q95. Get the sack

- (a) Getting promotion
- (b) Dismissed from
- (c) To get a surprise
- (d) To get a leave

Q96. Of no avail

- (a) In favour with
- (b) Useless
- (c) Useful
- (d) To be utterly lost

Q97. Bone to pick

- (a) Appear suddenly
- (b) To reject
- (c) Cause of quarrel
- (d) To accept readily

Q98. To call it a day

- (a) To conclude proceedings
- (b) To grieve over
- (c) To surrender
- (d) To be suspicious



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Q99. Pull someone up on something

- (a) To agree on something
- (b) To Criticize
- (c) To bring out a change
- (d) None of the above

Q100. Point blank.

- (a) Rarely
- (b) Very definite and direct
- (c) At a last moment
- (d) Leave quietly

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