

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Diplomatic Chess: 10th Grade Idiomatic Nuance Quiz

Sophomores analyze how geopolitical and nautical metaphors shape modern rhetoric while synthesizing the historical etymology of complex linguistic figures.

---

**1. In the context of international relations, if a diplomat is accused of 'crossing the Rubicon,' what is the primary implication of their action?**

- A. They have retreated to a previous negotiation stance.
- B. They have committed to a course of action from which there is no return.
- C. They have successfully brokered a peace treaty between warring factions.
- D. They have entered a neutral territory to avoid further conflict.

**2. When a CEO attempts to mitigate a PR disaster by performing '\_\_\_ control,' they are using a term originally derived from naval firefighting and structural repair.**

- A. chaos
- B. narrative
- C. damage
- D. friction

**3. True or False: The expression 'to throw the baby out with the bathwater' functions as a warning against losing valuable things while trying to get rid of something unwanted.**

- A. True
- B. False

**4. Which of these literary allusions describes a victory that is so costly that it is tantamount to a defeat?**

- A. A Pyrrhic victory
- B. A Sisyphean task
- C. A Herculean effort
- D. A Sword of Damocles

**5. A critic who describes a politician's speech as 'full of sound and fury, signifying nothing' is using an expression coined by \_\_\_ to describe the futility of life.**

- A. Charles Dickens
- B. Mark Twain
- C. William Shakespeare
- D. Ernest Hemingway

**6. True or False: If a lawyer is playing 'Devil's Advocate,' they are expressing their personal belief in a controversial opinion to the judge.**

- A. True
- B. False

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**7. In contemporary sociopolitical discourse, the term 'echo chamber' is a metaphor specifically used to describe what phenomenon?**

- A. A physical space designed for acoustic perfection.
- B. A situation where individuals only encounter information that reinforces their existing beliefs.
- C. A marketing strategy that repeats a slogan until it becomes recognizable.
- D. The rapid spread of misinformation across the internet.

**8. To describe a situation as 'waiting for the other \_\_\_ to drop' implies that a predictable but inevitable negative event is about to occur.**

- A. hammer
- B. shoe
- C. brick
- D. curtain

**9. When a journalist refers to 'the elephant in the room,' they are highlighting a situation characterized by:**

- A. A massive bureaucratic failure that no one is responsible for.
- B. An obvious truth or problem that everyone is ignoring.
- C. A majestic or highly important person in a mundane setting.
- D. A distraction meant to lead people away from the real issue.

**10. True or False: The maritime idiom 'to steer clear of' was originally a literal navigation instruction to keep a ship from colliding with another vessel or obstacle.**

- A. True
- B. False