

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Feeling the Vibe? 11th Grade Figurative Language Quiz

Evaluate your grasp of 10 modern and classic idioms to navigate nuances in professional and collegiate communications.

1. In a professional setting, if a manager tells a team to 'keep their eye on the ball,' what are they requesting?

Answer: B) They need to maintain focus on the primary objective.

This idiom originates from sports like baseball or golf, where success depends on visual focus; in business, it means staying attentive to the main goal.

2. When an author describes a character as 'jumping the shark,' they are suggesting the character or story has ____.

Answer: C) resorted to far-fetched gimmicks due to a decline in quality

Derived from a specific episode of 'Happy Days,' this expression refers to the moment a creative work loses its credibility by trying too hard to stay relevant.

3. True or False: If a college admissions officer claims a student is 'a diamond in the rough,' they believe the student is currently perfect and needs no further education.

Answer: B) False

A 'diamond in the rough' refers to someone who has great potential or talent but lacks polish or formal training.

4. If a political commentator says a candidate is 'barking up the wrong tree,' what is the candidate doing?

Answer: B) Following a mistaken line of thought or course of action

This idiom comes from hunting dogs that might bark at the base of a tree after the prey has already jumped to another, symbolizing a misplaced effort.

5. Using the idiom 'eleventh hour' in a sentence generally refers to something happening ____.

Answer: B) at the latest possible moment

The 'eleventh hour' specifies the last hour before the day ends (midnight), signifying a last-minute occurrence.

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6. True or False: To 'steal someone's thunder' means to take credit for someone else's ideas or to lessen their impact by doing something first.

Answer: A) True

This expression originated in the theater, where a playwright's literal thunder-making method was stolen by a rival production.

7. Your friend says they are 'playing second fiddle' in the school play. What does this mean?

Answer: B) They have a subordinate or less important role.

In an orchestra, the second violin (fiddle) supports the lead violin, making the phrase a metaphor for any secondary role.

8. If a debate coach tells you to 'play devil's advocate,' they want you to _____.

Answer: C) argue against an idea to test its validity

Playing devil's advocate involves taking an opposing view, even if you don't believe it, to ensure a thorough exploration of the topic.

9. True or False: When someone is described as 'not holding a candle' to a predecessor, it means they are significantly better than the person before them.

Answer: B) False

To 'not hold a candle' to someone means to be vastly inferior or not even worthy of being compared to them.

10. What is the figurative meaning of 'the elephant in the room' during a family meeting?

Answer: A) An obvious problem that everyone is avoiding discussing

An elephant is too large to ignore, so 'the elephant in the room' refers to an obvious and difficult issue that people are pretending does not exist.