

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

## Answer Key: Unpacking the Corporate Jargon: Your College Idioms Quiz

Examine the figurative meanings of professional expressions to boost your communicative competence in high-stakes networking and workplace environments.

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**1. In a professional setting, if a project manager asks you to 'take the lead' on a task, they are predominantly making an idiomatic request for which of the following?**

**Answer:** B) To assume primary responsibility and direct the progress of the work

To 'take the lead' is an idiom used to describe assuming a leadership role or taking charge of a situation or project.

**2. When an academic advisor suggests you 'keep your nose to the grindstone' during finals week, they are advising you to \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Answer:** C) Work hard and stay focused on your tasks continuously

'Keeping one's nose to the grindstone' is a traditional idiom meaning to work hard and remain industrious without distraction.

**3. The idiom 'barking up the wrong tree' suggests that a person is looking for a solution in the wrong place or accusing the wrong person.**

**Answer:** A) True

This idiom originates from hunting and figuratively means to pursue a mistaken line of thought or course of action.

**4. If a colleague mentions they are 'in a pickle' regarding their research budget, they are stating that they are:**

**Answer:** C) In a difficult or unpleasant situation

To be 'in a pickle' is an informal idiom used to describe being in a dilemma or a difficult circumstance.

**5. A student who decides to 'cut corners' on their bibliography is likely \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Answer:** B) Doing something poorly or taking shortcuts to save time or money

'Cutting corners' refers to skipping steps or ignoring standards to complete a task more quickly or cheaply.

**6. In the context of a debate, what does it mean to 'play devil's advocate'?**

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

**Answer:** B) To argue against an idea for the sake of exploring all sides of an issue

A 'devil's advocate' is someone who presents a counter-argument to test the validity of a proposition, regardless of their personal stance.

**7. To 'jump on the bandwagon' means to join a popular activity or support an opinion simply because it has become fashionable.**

**Answer:** A) True

The 'bandwagon effect' refers to people following trends or popular movements once they gain momentum.

**8. If a professor tells you that your thesis statement is 'on the money', they mean it is \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Answer:** C) Exactly correct or accurate

'On the money' is an expression used to signify that something is precise, accurate, or perfectly correct.

**9. Which idiom would best describe a situation where a student realizes they have 'bitten off more than they can chew'?**

**Answer:** B) They have committed to more credits or clubs than they can realistically manage

To 'bite off more than you can chew' means to take on a task that is way too big or difficult for you to handle.

**10. The expression 'the elephant in the room' refers to an obvious major problem or issue that people are avoiding discussing.**

**Answer:** A) True

This idiom highlights the social awkwardness or tension of ignoring a massive, undeniable truth or problem.