

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: A Galactic Gourmet's Quest: 10th Grade Idiom Exploration

Sophomores move beyond literal interpretations to identify figurative nuances and historical origins within common linguistic patterns.

1. If a political candidate is described as 'throwing their hat into the ring,' what are they doing?

Answer: A) Formally announcing their entry into a contest or race

This idiom originates from boxing, where throwing a hat into the boxing ring signified a challenge or willingness to fight.

2. When a person decides to _____, they are choosing to accept the unpleasant consequences of a situation they cannot avoid.

Answer: B) face the music

'Face the music' means to accept criticism or punishment for something you have done.

3. The expression 'the elephant in the room' refers to a small, insignificant problem that everyone is overreacting to.

Answer: B) False

This idiom actually refers to a major, obvious problem or controversial issue that everyone is deliberately ignoring.

4. Which of the following best describes the meaning of the idiom 'crocodile tears'?

Answer: C) A false or hypocritical display of sorrow

Based on the ancient myth that crocodiles weep while eating their prey, this refers to insincere sympathy.

5. To 'burn bridges' means to _____.

Answer: B) Eliminate a way of returning to a previous state

Burning bridges implies destroying relationships or paths so that you can never go back to how things were before.

6. If someone is 'playing devil's advocate,' they are genuinely expressing their own deeply held beliefs.

Answer: B) False

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A devil's advocate argues against an idea for the sake of debate or to test the strength of an argument, regardless of their personal opinion.

7. Which idiom would you use to describe someone who is very rare or unique?

Answer: D) A rare bird

While 'once in a blue moon' refers to frequency of events, a 'rare bird' (rara avis) refers to a person or thing that is exceptionally uncommon.

8. If you are 'jumping on the bandwagon,' you are _____.

Answer: B) following a popular trend to be on the winning side

This expression refers to people supporting something only because it has become popular or successful.

9. What is the figurative meaning of the phrase 'the Midas touch'?

Answer: B) The ability to make a lot of money easily

Derived from the Greek myth of King Midas, it refers to someone who is successful in every endeavor, especially financially.

10. The idiom 'barking up the wrong tree' means that someone is looking for a solution in the wrong place or accusing the wrong person.

Answer: A) True

This originates from hunting dogs who might believe a prey animal is in a tree when it has actually escaped elsewhere.