

The Idiom Completion Quiz, KEY

Key  
12/25

Instructions: Each sentence below ends with an English idiom, an expression whose meaning is difficult to infer from the words that make it up. Fill in each blank to complete the idiom. E.g. "Kick the bucket" 19c Am. West

1. Many New World colonists found it difficult to eke out a ? living [eke=get w/ difficulty] esp. farming poor land
2. The oldest son was considered the pick of the ? litter [offspring of a multiparous mammal] 4 of 50 for TAs. Devils!
3. When the power failed, everything seemed to run ? amok/amuck [out of control] ~~amok~~ MALAY frenzy
4. The homeless man said he'd been born on the wrong side of the ? tracks [RR]
5. After a shot of vitamin B-12, Skip was feeling his ? oats (energy grain; sow wild?)
6. The novice thought he could fly by the seat of his ? pants w/o instruments
7. Sally took every word of the handsome new pastor as ? gospel. MMLJ
8. After the first quake, we waited for the other ? to drop shoe [aftershock] c. 1900 fm. sound of tenement neighbor 2nd shoe drop.
9. When Dorothy's son came home from the war, she exclaimed, "Great Caesar's ?!" ghost Allusion, 455 A.D.
10. On most days, the sunrise is as certain as death and ? taxes unless you're a Billionaire.
11. Probably because he'd had a big breakfast, Skip's eyes at lunch were bigger than his ? stomach hyperbole
12. The FBI went through the suspect's old emails and text messages with a fine-tooth ? comb carefully (lice?)
13. The ex-con found that most people who knew of his past gave him a wide ? berth [ships in harbor, not RR]
14. After his parents' estate was settled, John discovered he had a bone to ? with the executor. pick [disagreement] 1600, 2 dogs fight.
15. It's an ill wind that blows no ? good [some good often comes of other's bad luck]
16. Tired of the church's dallying, Skip and Ingrid decided to jump the ? broom [marry; esp. Afr-Am] ENSLAVED.
17. Though Spencer was six, he was still knee-high to a ? grasshopper type, very small. 1/2"?
18. Always independent-minded, Fred marched to the beat of a different ? drummer [HDT] WALDEN, indep. voter.
19. When the president I didn't vote for misspoke, I had to laugh up my ? sleeve [unnoticed]
20. After the affair with his patient was exposed, Dr. Jones's name was ? mud [Dr. Mudd, Lincoln] SAM. J.W. BOOTH? No!
21. Though we attended high school together, I didn't know Abner from ? Adam IN GENESIS
22. When times are lean, raises come but once in a blue ? moon [2 fulls in 1 mo.; rarely]
23. To prevent a wider scandal, the administration put the ? on releasing further details. kibosh/kybosh inf. [block] 500
24. The mass funeral in Gaza City was populated with the ? quick and the ? dead (cut to the quick) 900 A.D. OE
25. The actor's moving soliloquy rang down the ? curtains [lowered them; bell was rung]
26. For the remote victims, FEMA's disaster-response team seemed to fiddle while Rome ? burned [Nero myth] 1st Violins c. 1550
27. The ignorance of the visiting speaker just added insult to ? injury / SALT IN A WOUND. Trump said Lindsay?
28. The Amish who volunteered to rebuild their neighbor's barn after the tornado are the salt of the ? Earth Good decent kind folk like martyrs who stood up for J.C. Folk we wish to preserve & defend
29. When Skip's best friend ratted him out, he felt like he'd been sold down the ? river [Miss. slavery days]
30. After just one beer, Ingrid was three sheets to the ? wind [drunk; sailing ref. to 3 loose sails]

Handwritten scribble

loose ropes that secure sails.

Jim's seat in Huck F.

Over a loser after she broke her leg.