

The Idiom Completion Quiz

Instructions: Each sentence below ends with an English idiom, an expression whose meaning is difficult to infer from the words that make it up. For example: “kick the bucket” means to die. Imagine someone standing on an upside down bucket with a rope around his neck trying to commit suicide by hanging. Fill in each blank to complete the idiom.

1. Many New World colonists found it difficult to eke out a _____.
2. The oldest son was considered the pick of the _____.
3. When the power failed, everything seemed to run _____.
4. The homeless man said he'd been born on the wrong side of the _____.
5. After a shot of vitamin B-12, Skip was feeling his _____.
6. The novice thought he could fly by the seat of his _____.
7. Sally took every word of the handsome new pastor as _____.
8. After the first quake, we waited for the other _____ to drop.
9. When Dorothy's son came home from the war, she exclaimed, "Great Caesar's _____!"
10. On most days, the sunrise is as certain as death and _____.
11. Probably because he'd had a big breakfast, Skip's eyes at lunch were bigger than his _____.
12. The FBI went through the suspect's old emails and text messages with a fine-tooth _____.
13. The ex-con found that most people who knew of his past gave him a wide _____.
14. After his parents' estate was settled, John discovered he had a bone to _____ with the executor.
15. It's an ill wind that blows no _____.
16. Tired of the church's dallying, Skip and Ingrid decided to jump the _____.
17. Though Spencer was six, he was still knee-high to a _____.
18. Always independent-minded, Fred marched to the beat of a different _____.
19. When the president I didn't vote for misspoke, I had to laugh up my _____.
20. After the affair with his patient was exposed, Dr. Jones's name was _____.
21. Though we attended high school together, I didn't know Abner from _____.
22. When times are lean, raises come but once in a blue _____.
23. To prevent a wider scandal, the administration put the _____ on releasing further details.
24. The mass funeral in Gaza City was populated with the quick and the _____.
25. The actor's moving soliloquy rang down the _____.
26. For the remote victims, FEMA's disaster-response team seemed to fiddle while Rome _____.
27. The ignorance of the visiting speaker just added insult to _____.
28. The Amish who volunteered to rebuild their neighbor's barn after the tornado are the salt of the _____.
29. When Skip's best friend ratted him out, he felt like he'd been sold down the _____.
30. After just one beer, Ingrid was three sheets to the _____.