

# 2026 Civil Service Exam of the Philippines Reviewer: Idioms, Grammar, and Spelling

Language Arts · Answer Key · 42 Questions

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## 1. What does the idiom "beat around the bush" mean?

- A) To avoid the main topic**
- B) To attack someone with a weapon
- C) To be very busy
- D) To make a quick decision

## 2. What is the meaning of the idiom "a piece of cake"?

- A) Something very expensive
- B) Something very difficult
- C) Something very easy**
- D) A literal piece of cake

## 3. Which sentence correctly uses the idiom "bite the bullet"?

- A) The soldier bit the bullet to test if it was real.
- B) He decided to bite the bullet and face the consequences.**
- C) She bit the bullet to avoid tasting the medicine.
- D) The dog bit the bullet and ran away.

## 4. What does the idiom "costs an arm and a leg" mean?

- A) Requires physical sacrifice
- B) Is very expensive**
- C) Is very cheap
- D) Is easy to obtain

## 5. What does it mean to "pull someone's leg"?

- A) To physically grab someone's leg
- B) To tease or trick someone**
- C) To help someone up
- D) To break a promise

## 6. Which idiom means "to stop using a habit or addiction"?

- A) Kick the bucket
- B) Bite the dust
- C) Break a leg
- D) Turn over a new leaf**

7. What does the idiom "the ball is in your court" mean?

- A) You have made a mistake
- B) It is your turn to act or decide**
- C) The situation is out of your control
- D) You have won the game

8. What does the phrase "under the weather" mean?

- A) Standing in the rain
- B) Feeling unwell or sick**
- C) Being exposed to bad luck
- D) Experiencing extreme heat

9. The expression "to hit the nail on the head" means...

- A) To cause pain or injury
- B) To be exactly right**
- C) To make a mistake
- D) To finish a task quickly

10. What does the idiom "to cut corners" mean?

- A) To drive carelessly around bends in the road
- B) To do something in the easiest, cheapest, or fastest way, often by omitting steps**
- C) To take a shortcut
- D) To make a mistake

11. Which sentence uses the correct form of the verb?

- A) Each of the students have completed his assignment.
- B) Each of the students has completed his assignment.**
- C) Each of the students has completed their assignment.
- D) Each of the students have completed their assignment.

12. Which sentence contains a pronoun error?

- A) Either James or Robert will bring his notebook.**
- B) Neither of the boys has forgotten his keys.
- C) Each of the girls brought her lunch.
- D) All of the students finished their projects.

13. Which sentence has correct subject-verb agreement?

- A) The group of employees were working late.
- B) The group of employees was working late.**
- C) The groups of employees were working late.
- D) The group of employees is working late.

**14. Which sentence uses punctuation correctly?**

- A) After reviewing the documents, the lawyer, decided to file a motion.
- B) After reviewing the documents the lawyer decided to file a motion.
- C) After reviewing the documents, the lawyer decided to file a motion.**
- D) After reviewing the documents the lawyer, decided to file a motion.

**15. Identify the sentence with the correct use of modifiers.**

- A) Walking down the street, the building impressed me.
- B) The building impressed me walking down the street.
- C) I was impressed by the building, walking down the street.
- D) Walking down the street, I was impressed by the building.**

**16. Which sentence uses parallel structure correctly?**

- A) The manager likes reading reports, writing emails, and to make phone calls.
- B) The manager likes to read reports, to write emails, and making phone calls.
- C) The manager likes reading reports, writing emails, and making phone calls.**
- D) The manager likes reading reports, to write emails, and making phone calls.

**17. Which sentence correctly uses the past perfect tense?**

- A) The meeting had started after he had arrived.**
- B) The meeting started after he arrived.
- C) The meeting had started after he arrived.
- D) The meeting started after he had arrived.

**18. Which of the following sentences contains a double negative?**

- A) I don't have no money.**
- B) I don't have any money.
- C) I have no money.
- D) I have money.

**19. Which word is spelled correctly?**

- A) Accomodate
- B) Acommodate
- C) Accommodate**
- D) Acomodate

**20. Which of the following words is misspelled?**

- A) Necessary**
- B) Occasion
- C) Perseverance
- D) Conscience

**21. Identify the correctly spelled word.**

- A) Acquaintence
- B) Acquaintance**
- C) Acquaintance
- D) Acqwaintence

**22. Which word is spelled correctly?**

- A) Concencus
- B) Consensus**
- C) Concensus
- D) Concentus

**23. Identify the misspelled word.**

- A) Government**
- B) Guarantee
- C) Grievance
- D) Grammar

**24. Which of the following words is correctly spelled?**

- A) Embarrasment
- B) Embarassment
- C) Embarrassment**
- D) Embarasment

**25. Identify the correctly spelled word.**

- A) Indispensible
- B) Indispensible
- C) Indispensable**
- D) Indespensible

**26. Which word is spelled incorrectly?**

- A) Receive**
- B) Believe
- C) Achieve
- D) Deceive

**27. Select the correctly spelled word.**

- A) Superceed
- B) Supercede**
- C) Supersede
- D) Superceede

**28. Which word is spelled correctly?**

- A) Maintenance
- B) Maintanence
- C) Maintenance**
- D) Maintainence

**29. Which of the following words contains a spelling error?**

- A) Correspondence**
- B) Curiosity
- C) Conscientious
- D) Conscientious

**30. Choose the sentence with the correct use of the conditional.**

- A) If I would have known about the meeting, I would have attended.
- B) If I had known about the meeting, I would have attended.**
- C) Had I known about the meeting, I would attend.
- D) If I knew about the meeting, I would have attended.

**31. SENTENCE PAIR: "It's no use crying over \_\_\_ milk."**

- A) spilled**
- B) old
- C) sour
- D) warm

**32. Correct the double negative: "I don't have no money."**

- A) I don't have any money.**
- B) I have no money.
- C) I haven't got money.
- D) I have not got any money.

**33. ANALOGY: "Cool as a \_\_\_"**

- A) ice**
- B) cucumber
- C) stone
- D) frog

**34. Which plural form is INCORRECT?**

- A) Criteria**
- B) Phenomena
- C) Data
- D) Indices

35. To "burn the midnight oil" means to:

A) Waste energy

**B) Work late into the night**

C) Use oil for lighting

D) Be very tired

36. **CONDITIONAL:** "If I \_\_\_ president, I would help the poor."

A) was

**B) were**

C) am

D) be

37. **Complete:** "The elephant in the \_\_\_"

**A) room**

B) house

C) corner

D) hall

38. **WORD ORDER:** "Hardly \_\_\_ arrived when it started raining."

A) I had

**B) had I**

C) I have

D) have I

39. **If something is "a dime a dozen," it is:**

A) Rare

**B) Common**

C) Expensive

D) Valuable

40. **Complete:** "Curiosity killed the \_\_\_"

**A) cat**

B) dog

C) mouse

D) rat

41. **AGREEMENT:** "Neither of the options \_\_\_ good."

**A) is**

B) are

C) were

D) be

42. To "bite the bullet" means to:

A) Get hurt

**B) Face a difficult or unpleasant situation with courage**

C) Eat something unpleasant

D) Break a tooth