

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

Language Arts · Practice Test · 42 Questions

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