



IDIOMS AND EXPRESSIONS

Elementary

Just keep it

ESL test for elementary level students

Choose the best answer

1 Charlie's having a lot of problems with his business but at least he's **keeping his head above water**.

- (a) not drowning
- (b) keeping dry
- (c) managing to survive
- (d) trying to swim

2 That's the thing about Charlie even when things are really bad he doesn't panic and **keeps his cool**.

- (a) stays calm
- (b) turns on the air conditioning
- (c) uses a fan
- (d) puts ice on his head

3 In a situation like his of course the one thing you must do is **keep the wolf from the door** and try to find money to pay all the bills.

- (a) get rid of wild animals
- (b) get enough money to live on
- (c) make sure the door is locked
- (d) not let wild animals in

4 At least Charlie can manage that but he doesn't go telling everyone about his problem and **keeps himself to himself**.

- (a) talks to himself a lot
- (b) doesn't go out much
- (c) stays in a lot
- (d) doesn't talk about himself to others

5 Some of his friends are a bit worried about him because he doesn't seem so friendly to them as he used to be and **keeps his distance**.

- (a) doesn't let people get too close
- (b) doesn't travel far
- (c) decides how far to go
- (d) doesn't like travelling



6 The main thing that you have to admire him for is that he doesn't get into trouble and **keeps his nose clean**.

- (a) blows his nose a lot
- (b) behaves legally
- (c) sneezes often
- (d) breathes easily

7 It's surprising how few people knew that Charlie was having money problems but I suppose it was because he had **kept it to himself**.

- (a) looked after it
- (b) locked it up
- (c) held it tightly
- (d) kept it secret

8 His problem really was that he had tried very hard to be as successful as the rest of the people in his street by trying to **keep up with** the Joneses.

- (a) to remain on the same social level as his neighbours
- (b) to run as fast as his neighbours
- (c) to travel at the same speed as his neighbours
- (d) to reach the same place as his neighbours

9 When he confided in me, I promised Charlie that I wouldn't tell anybody about it and until now I have **kept my word**.

- (a) said what I did
- (b) said what I could
- (c) did what I said
- (d) did what I could

10 My only advice to Charlie was to **keep his chin up** and stop worrying.

- (a) try to hold his head straight
- (b) try to be optimistic
- (c) try not to look on the ground
- (d) try to remain upright

Intermediate

Under my Skin

ESL test for intermediate level students

Choose the best answer.

1 It was late at night, the wind was howling and when she heard the knock on the door, she **almost jumped out of her skin**.

- (a) was pleased
- (b) was terrified
- (c) was asleep
- (d) was delighted

2 As they only had a few minutes to get to the station, they ran all the way and finally caught the train **by the skin of their teeth**.

- (a) just in time
- (b) just for time
- (c) just on time
- (d) just by time

3 There's something about him I just can't stand and he really **gets under my skin**.

- (a) pushes me
- (b) presses me
- (c) treats me
- (d) annoys me

4 I wouldn't do that but you do whatever you like, as **it's no skin off my nose**.

- (a) it's no good to me
- (b) it's not important to me
- (c) it's not clear to me
- (d) it's not bad for me

5 It doesn't matter what you say to her I promise you, **she's got a very thick skin**.

- (a) she's not affected by criticism
- (b) she's not interested in criticism
- (c) she's not devoted to criticism
- (d) she's not governed by criticism

6 He looked at her and in the words of Frank Sinatra said: **'I've got you under my skin'**.

- (a) I'm very pleased with you
- (b) I'm very proud of you
- (c) I'm very attracted to you
- (d) I'm very surprised by you



7 It was simply a case of running away or being killed and we decided to run **to save our skins**.

- (a) to stay away
- (b) to stay dry
- (c) to stay clear
- (d) to stay alive

8 Be very careful what you say to Georgina about her new hairstyle; remember **she has a very thin skin**.

- (a) she is very sensible
- (b) she is very sensitive
- (c) she is very feeling
- (d) she is very sensing

9 I think the horse had been neglected for months and not been given enough to eat because it was **just skin and bones**.

- (a) very thin
- (b) very old
- (c) very tired
- (d) very hungry

10 They say there's a very rare book in that pile of old books for sale so **keep your eyes skinned**.

- (a) look slowly
- (b) look easily
- (c) look quickly
- (d) look carefully

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Advanced

American Slang Words (1)

ESL test for advanced level students

Choose the best answer

1 I feel really good about this class. I'm going to **ace** the exam tomorrow.

- (a) fail
- (b) do well or excel in
- (c) play cards during



- 2 His mom was really **bent out of shape** because he got home late last night.
- (a) angry
 - (b) happy
 - (c) physically unhealthy
- 3 Johnny has a really **big mouth**. You can't tell him anything or the whole world will know about it.
- (a) talkative nature and doesn't keep secrets well
 - (b) big appetite
 - (c) large smile
- 4 Our manager made a **big stink** about the slight decrease in sales last month.
- (a) large party
 - (b) big fuss
 - (c) big meal
- 5 Richard received a large inheritance last year but he **blew all of his money** on silly things and now he's broke.
- (a) spent all of his money
 - (b) ripped all of his money
 - (c) saved all of his money
- 6 Kathy was ready to **blow a fuse** when she found out someone stole her patent idea.
- (a) blow out a candle
 - (b) go to the fuse box
 - (c) lose her temper
- 7 The college students went out to a club last night and **got bombed** because the school year ended.
- (a) got drunk
 - (b) went to sleep
 - (c) got up early
- 8 The class **went bonkers** as soon as the teacher left the room.
- (a) acted in a wild, crazy manner
 - (b) went to sleep
 - (c) went to work
- 9 Christie fell down and got a **boo-boo** on her arm so she cried until her mother picked her up.
- (a) milk bottle
 - (b) bruise
 - (c) large, deep cut



- 10 If Randy doesn't **get with it**, he'll fail the entire school year.
- (a) become aware of his situation
 - (b) get together with his friends soon
 - (c) anger his professors

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