

Figures of Speech

Name: _____

See how many phrases, proverbs and idioms from the newsletters you understand. Circle the correct answer.



1. “Legris *had his ears lowered* when he went home for the weekend.”

This means . . .

- a. Legris got a haircut.
- b. Legris got into trouble.

2. “We have had more rain here at Pokagon State Park in two weeks than we have had for nine months at the Dunes. *No wonder they have so many lakes around here.*”

This is an example of hyperbole

- a. True
- b. False

3. “DeHaven *spreads it on thick* – and it isn't butter on bread either.”

This means . . .

- a. DeHaven enjoys eating peanut butter and jelly.
- b. DeHaven exaggerates.

4. “Each leader should . . . not be afraid to *take it to the floor* and speak up.”

This means . . .

- a. No one should be afraid to present their argument to the group.
- b. Each leader should be willing to wrestle someone else on the floor.

5. “Barracks #3 is noted for producing the *cream of the crop* for the Company.”

“Cream of the crop” is an idiom that means . . .

- a. The best milk.
- b. The best of the group.

6. “Many of you were a long way gone on the *road to ruin.*”

Complete this sentence in your own words:

“Many of you were . . .

(Continued)

7. “A man ought to *face the music*.”

This means . . .

- a. A musician ought to face the orchestra instead of the audience.
- b. A person needs to admit their mistake and take their punishment.

8. “He seemed *quite put out and killed two snickers* with his snarl.”

This means . . .

- a. He was hungry and ate two candy bars in one bite.
- b. He was mad and quieted two gigglers with an angry look.
- c. He was angry and killed two people.

9. “*Think nothing of it*.”

If someone said this to you, it would mean that . . .

- a. You had done something wrong and said you were sorry.
- b. You had been forgiven.
- c. Both

10. “He is only 6-foot 4 inches tall and *has to stand twice to make a good shadow*.”

This example of hyperbole means that . . .

- a. The person is really thin.
- b. It's a cloudy day, so the person can't make a shadow.

11. “Elmo is one of our well-known *lady-killers*.”

Elmo is probably . . .

- a. Very handsome.
- b. About to murder a woman.

12. “He has them all *hanging on the ropes*.”

A person “hanging on the ropes” is a helpless person. This idiom comes from . . .

- a. Killing someone by hanging them from a rope.
- b. Boxing. The loser is helplessly hanging on the ropes that surround the boxing ring.

13. “*Dead men tell no tales*.”

This proverb means that . . .

- a. The only way that a secret can be kept is if all who know it are dead.
- b. Dead people are unable to talk anymore.