

Study Island

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1. Last night, my family went to a Mexican food restaurant. I asked the waiter to put peppers on my enchiladas. From the moment these peppers hit my tongue, my mouth was on fire. I tried drinking a lot of water, but the burning sensation would not go away.

What does the phrase "my mouth was on fire" mean in relation to this story?

- A. The peppers dry out the narrator's mouth, so he or she drinks a lot of water.
 - B. The peppers are so spicy that they cause the narrator's mouth to feel hot.
 - C. The narrator's mouth is watering a lot because the peppers taste so good.
 - D. The narrator was unable to eat the peppers with flames coming from them.
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Tina stood at the top of her staircase with an imaginary microphone in her hand. Her blond hair was a silk sheet flowing down her back. Tina's dream was to one day become a famous singer. When she was alone in the house, she would often stand at the top of the stairs and pretend she was making her grand entrance onto a concert stage. With her eyes shining like diamonds, Tina took a few steps down the stairs and began singing at the top of her lungs. For her, there were a million people at the bottom of the stairs screaming her name. As she continued singing, her voice grew louder. Tina did not even hear the front door open or see her parents walk in with bags of groceries hanging from their hands.

"Hey Miss Superstar, come help us unload the groceries," Tina's dad said.

Tina's eyes flew open, and red roses appeared on her cheeks. Although Tina wanted to be a famous singer one day, she was shy about singing in front of other people—including her parents. She felt like a rabbit wanting to find a burrow to crawl into, but she managed to muster up the strength to look at her parents and to go to the car to carry in the rest of the groceries.

2.

Her blond hair was a silk sheet flowing down her back.

What does the sentence above tell the reader about Tina?

- A. Her hair is smooth, straight, and long.
 - B. Her back is very straight when she stands.
 - C. She enjoys brushing her long, blond hair.
 - D. She has a silk sheet hanging from head.
-

3.

Tina's eyes flew open, and red roses appeared on her cheeks.

Based on the context, what does the sentence above tell the reader about Tina?

- A. She is happy that her parents are home.
 - B. A fever is causing her cheeks to turn red.
 - C. Her dad has brought roses home for her.
 - D. She is embarrassed and starts blushing.
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4. Based on the context, what does the phrase "eyes shining like diamonds" tell the reader?

- A. Tina's eyes expressed excitement.
 - B. Light reflected from Tina's eyes.
 - C. A spotlight blinded Tina's eyes.
 - D. Tina's eyes looked transparent.
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5. When the author says that Tina begins singing "at the top of her lungs," he or she means that

- A. Tina sings as loudly as she can.
- B. Tina has a hard time breathing.

C. Tina sings in a beautiful manner.

D. Tina's lungs are running out of air.

6. Looking back on everything, I now see that I wasn't prepared to take the test. There was a whole section I missed, so I guess I could have hit the books harder.

What does the idiom hit the books mean?

- A.** to be angry
 - B.** to write
 - C.** to study
 - D.** to be lazy
-

7. My dad's only advice was that the next time I have to study that I should take my time. He also said that I should study beforehand and not the night before since pulling an all-nighter can actually hurt your chances at doing well on tests.

What does the idiom pulling an all-nighter mean?

- A.** to sleep instead of study
 - B.** to not study very hard
 - C.** to study or work all night without sleep
 - D.** to fall asleep throughout the day
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8. We were all nervous about mid-term exams, and it wasn't until after vacation that we realized we were right to worry, except for Dave, that is. Deacon was the only one who congratulated him when he said, "Somebody said you aced the test, Dave. That's great!"

What does the idiom aced the test mean?

- A.** to do terribly
 - B.** to organize
 - C.** to start over
 - D.** to do well
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9. During volleyball tryouts, I tried my best. Deep inside, I knew my efforts probably were not good enough. My fears were proven true when Coach Bonham said, "Kid, as far as playing volleyball goes, you can't cut the mustard. But it wouldn't surprise me if

you did really well playing basketball. Coach Tyroch is having basketball tryouts next week, and you should sign up for them."

Which of the following is the meaning of the idiom can't cut the mustard?

- A. to be extremely clumsy when playing a skill-related sport
 - B. not being able to successfully dunk or dribble a basketball
 - C. to be much better at one sport than at another one
 - D. not being good enough to compete or participate in an activity
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10. Yesterday my family went to China King Super Buffet. I'm sure my eyes popped out when I saw how much food my older brother piled up onto his plate. I couldn't believe he was able to eat all of it so quickly and to go back for seconds. When we got home, he was complaining that his stomach was hurting. That's when my mom told him that he shouldn't have pigged out at the buffet.

The idiom pigged out means

- A. ate pork with a meal.
 - B. ate a delicious meal.
 - C. ate a lot of food quickly.
 - D. ate mostly healthy foods.
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11.



Paco decided to write his book report for class on his laptop computer. While he was typing, the battery on the computer ran out. Instantly, Paco realized that he had not saved his work and would have to start over. He thought to himself, *I guess I will have to go back to square one.*

What is the meaning of the idiom back to square one?

- A. when a rare event happens to you

- B. having to start all over again
 - C. when you lose electrical power
 - D. using a computer to do homework
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12. For all of my procrastinating and slacking off, I still knew it would hurt my grade. But I didn't care, and I was still lazy about studying. I would have to pay for all the slacking eventually, but when my grade finally arrived my parents were angry. I knew it was time to _____.

Which idiom best completes the sentence?

- A. hit the hay
 - B. be the head honcho
 - C. pay the piper
 - D. feel under the weather
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13.

The bowling pins stood at the end of the lane like children mocking Jim because he couldn't knock any of them down. The lanes extended out like a knocked-down redwood in the forest; they seemed to go on for miles. The ball shot out of the opening like a cannonball, and I tried my best to stop it, but it kept on rolling. When my partner stuck his fingers into the ball, I noticed his hands looked as rough as an elephant's back.

What does the author mean by saying, "The bowling pins stood at the end of the lane like children, mocking Jim"?

- A. The only people allowed to bowl on the team were children.
 - B. Jim couldn't bowl because there were children in the way.
 - C. The bowling pins were toys for children at the bowling alley.
 - D. The pins angered Jim because they were hard to knock down.
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14. Sally sat in her room looking angrily at her computer screen. She tried to move her computer's mouse. To her dissatisfaction, the arrow on the computer screen remained motionless. "Ugh!" she exclaimed.

Her older sister Bethany looked at her with a puzzling looking on her face and asked,

"What wrong, sis?"

"My computer hates me," Sally replied. "My science project is due in the morning. And now the computer is frozen. If I try restarting it, I'll lose everything I've worked on in the last hour."

"That doesn't sound good. Have you not been saving your work all this time?" Bethany asked.

Frowning, Sally said, "No."

"You're welcome to use my laptop if you need to," Bethany offered.

"Thanks, I may just take you up on that," Sally said, looking somewhat relieved.

Which of these sentences from the passage make the computer seem human?

- A. "You're welcome to use my laptop if you need to," Bethany offered.
 - B. Sally sat in her room looking angrily at her computer screen.
 - C. She tried to move her computer's mouse.
 - D. "My computer hates me," Sally replied.
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15.



My mom always said that diamonds are a girl's best friend. So on my 13th birthday, the day I officially entered my teenage years, my parents presented me with a cross necklace. They knew I was at an age that I would appreciate such a nice gift. I was blown away, as I know diamonds are not cheap, and my parents are not rich. The necklace spoke of elegance when I put it around my neck. I wore this necklace everyday without taking it off. I hope one day to be able to pass this necklace down to my daughter when she turns 13.

Which sentence from the passage makes something seem human?

- A. The necklace spoke of elegance when I put it around my neck.
 - B. I hope one day to be able to pass this necklace down to my daughter when she turns 13.
 - C. I was blown away, as I know diamonds are not cheap, and my parents are not rich.
 - D. They knew I was at an age that I would appreciate such a nice gift.
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My love

My love is like a red balloon
against the bluest sky.
It soars along the doves
and flutters like a butterfly.
My love is like a baby's smile.
It melts your heart in a beat,
reaches you through all the walls,
and wraps you up in a velvet sheet.

16. Which phrase from the poem makes something seem human?

- A. wraps you up in a velvet sheet
 - B. flutters like a butterfly
 - C. reaches you through all the walls
 - D. it soars along the doves
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