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Down To The Wire

Estimated play time: Approximately 15 minutes
Number of players: Unlimited
Supplies needed: Scoring board/pad; noisemakers
Suitable for visually impaired players.

Overview:

Here's a list of well-known idioms and phrases that have the words "to the" in the middle. Given half the saying, can you come up with the other half?

As you'll see, the clue phrases have been presented in two different ways. In the first column, we've provided the second half of the saying, and you must give us the first half. In the second column, we've provided the first half of the saying, and you must come up with the ending. One of the ways is more challenging ... but we couldn't decide which!

Instructions:

1. This game can be played by individuals or in teams.
2. Read the first definition. Discussion is permitted among teammates. Prior to the start of the game, a method to signal when a team is ready to answer must be determined. Ringing bells and New Year's blowers are just two inexpensive noisemakers. Raised hands work, but the host must be vigilant to watch for whose hand went up first. The host always has the final say in any disputes.
3. After a player/team is recognized as the first to signal, they may give an answer. If the first answer is incorrect, the other teams may "buzz" in and answer.
4. Scoring: Give 10 points for each correct answer.

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INSTRUCTIONS: You can pick which column you want to play from. The first column provides the ending of a common idiom or phrase that has “to the” in the middle, and you must come up with its beginning. The second column provides the beginning of the phrase, and you must come up with the ending to complete it. It’s up to you to decide which way is more challenging!

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|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. _____ to the wise | 1. A word to the _____ |
| 2. _____ to the bar | 2. Belly up to the _____ |
| 3. _____ to the chase | 3. Cut to the _____ |
| 4. _____ to the nines | 4. Dressed to the _____ |
| 5. _____ to the rule | 5. Exception to the _____ |
| 6. _____ to the finish | 6. Fight to the _____ |
| 7. _____ to the brim | 7. Filled to the _____ |
| 8. _____ to the chief | 8. Hail to the _____ |
| 9. _____ to the center of the earth | 9. Journey to the _____ |
| 10. _____ to the city | 10. Key to the _____ |
| 11. _____ to the mob | 11. Married to the _____ |
| 12. _____ to the grindstone | 12. Nose to the _____ |
| 13. _____ to the races | 13. Off to the _____ |
| 14. _____ to the choir | 14. Preach to the _____ |
| 15. _____ to the gills | 15. Stuffed to the _____ |
| 16. _____ to the Marines | 16. Tell it to the _____ |
| 17. _____ to the minute | 17. Up to the _____ |
| 18. _____ to the core | 18. Rotten to the _____ |

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ANSWERS

(In some cases, other correct answers are possible.)

1. A word ... to the wise
2. Belly up/admitted ... to the bar
3. Cut ... to the bone/chase/quick
4. Dressed ... to the nines
5. Exception ... to the rule
6. Fight ... to the finish/death
7. Filled ... to the brim
8. Hail ... to the chief
9. Journey ... to the center of the earth
10. Key ... to the city
11. Married ... to the mob
12. Nose ... to the grindstone
13. Off ... to the races
14. Preaching ... to the choir/converted
15. Stuffed/fed up/packed ... to the gills
16. Tell it ... to the hand/judge/Marines
17. Up ... to the ears/elbows/eyeballs/minute
18. Rotten ... to the core