

3/8/26

English Phrase Test 1

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

Overview:

We adapted this “English Test” from the internet. Each question contains a common English word or phrase that is often said incorrectly. The goal is to identify the correct version between the two choices given.

Instructions:

1. This game can be played by individuals or in teams.
2. Read aloud the first two phrases. 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: Each question contains a common English word or phrase that is often said incorrectly. The goal is to identify the correct version between the two choices given.

QUESTIONS

1. A) I couldn't care less B) I could care less
2. A) One in the same B) One and the same
3. A) You've got another thing coming B) You've got another think coming
4. A) Each one worse than the last B) Each one worse than the next
5. A) On accident B) By accident
6. A) For all intensive purposes B) For all intents and purposes
7. A) Espresso B) Espresso
8. A) Conversating B) Conversing
9. A) It's a doggy-dog world B) It's a dog-eat-dog world.
10. A) Tongue and cheek B) Tongue in cheek
11. A) Take for granite B) Take for granted
12. A) Wet your appetite B) Whet your appetite

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ANSWERS

1. (A) Saying that *you could care less* about a topic implies that you do care about it a little. What you really mean is that you don't care about the topic at all, hence "I couldn't care less."
2. (B) When you really think about it, "one in the same" doesn't mean anything at all. The correct phrase "one and the same" means that two things are the same.
3. (B) This is one of those phrases where the incorrect usage actually does make sense and has become its own phrase — but it's still technically wrong. The correct version really only makes sense if you use the entire sentence: "If that's what you think, you've got another think coming."
4. (A) Unless you can foresee the future, "each one worse than the next" doesn't make sense. The problem with this phrase is that it isn't logical. For example, you can't compare two bicycles until you've tested them both. So logically, you would compare the current bicycle to the last bike you tested.
5. (B) Because of phrases like this, learning English can be very difficult. Prepositions are particularly hard. You can do something "on purpose," but not "on accident." The correct phrase is "by accident."
6. (B) You may feel very strongly and intensely about your purpose, but that doesn't make the phrase correct. Another common incorrect use of the phrase is switching the words "for" and "with." The correct phrase means that you are covering all possibilities and circumstances.
7. (B) There's no such drink as an espresso.
8. (B) *Conversating* is not an English word. The correct term is *conversing*.
9. (B) If it were a doggy-dog world, dogs would be running the planet. But a "dog-eat-dog world" indicates that people are merciless and will do anything, even to their own kind, to get to the top. This is usually the underlying meaning intended.
10. (B) Apparently, people tend to stick their tongues in their cheeks when lying or joking. However, it's clear that many people aren't aware of this gesture, since they mispronounce it as "tongue and cheek."
11. (B) The word "grant" means "to accord as a favor or privilege." The word "granite" is a stone used to remodel your kitchen counter. Now you can take for granted the beautiful granite ... but that's about as far as you can go.
12. (B) The word "whet" means "to sharpen or hone." When you "whet your appetite," you sharpen it or make it more intense, much as one would use a whetstone on a knife.