

3/15/26

English Phrase Test 2

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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ANSWERS

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

1. (B) *Nip it in the bud* means that you're putting an end to something before it has a chance to grow or start. Nipping something in the butt means you're biting its behind.
2. (B) It's not a work of art (statue); it's a law (statute).
3. (A) The words *good* and *well* are interchanged so frequently that some people think they are actually and correctly interchangeable. They're not. If you're ever confused about which to use, here's a tip: Use *well* as an adverb (words used to describe verbs) and *good* as an adjective (words used to describe nouns). For example: "The dog runs well," and "He is a good dog."
4. (A) The correct phrase is *exact revenge*.
5. (A) *Leeway* means extra space and freedom. *Leadway* isn't even a word.
6. (A) A *memento* is a keepsake. *Momento* isn't an English word..
7. (A) *Regardless* means without regard. Throwing on *IR* to the beginning of the word makes it a double negative ... and *without without regard* just doesn't make sense.
8. (A) The correct term is *fetal position*. *Feeble* means weak and frail.
9. (A) *Moot* means "having no practical significance." *Mute* means "incapable of speech." While a moot point may cause someone to stop talking, it doesn't render them mute.
10. (A) The phrase, which means "to be kept in a state of suspense," is *on tenterhooks*. A tenterhook was a medieval tool used for making cloth. These small hooks hung fabric that was stretched for the manufacturing processes, so the cloth was literally "left hanging."
11. (B) *Toe the line* is correct. The origins of this idiom come from the military, presumanbly relating to the drill of arranging soldiers' feet on a line for inspection. So, literally, *to toe the line* is to be examined for or held to a certain standard.
12. (B) When people say they've made *a complete 360-degree change* in their life, they're trying to imply that they've entirely changed from the way they used to be. However, if you actually do move 360 degrees, you will have returned to the exact same place you started ... which would mean that you didn't change at all. *A 180-degree change* puts you at a place that is directly opposite from where you started ... which is what most people are trying to say.