

Test Your English Idioms



# 企鹅英语语法

## 惯用法

新版



原著 PETER WATCYN-JONES

湖南人民出版社

*Test Your ... series developed by Peter Watcyn-Jones*

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## 前 言

《企鹅英语语法·惯用法》是《企鹅英语词汇》丛书的一个有益的补充，主要供中级和高级水平读者使用。这本书总共包括750多个常见惯用法，而且正如题目所示，它的重点在于测试而不是教学。总之，这本书是对各种有关惯用法的参考书和辞典的一个有益补充。

本书的风格与《企鹅英语词汇》丛书的保持一致，其中包括各种测试题，从单项选择、纵横字谜、短语及其解释配对、完成句子、改写句子——到图片测试，即为每幅图片选择合适的标题。另外，还有关于表比较意义的短语(“as brown as berry”)、谚语和有关颜色、身体部位和动物名称等测试题。

《企鹅英语语法·惯用法》可用于教师授课或学生自学。为了方便后者，书后答案还在必要时作了详尽的解释。使用本书，读者会发现短语学习是一件充满挑战和令人愉悦的事情，并且可以逐步培养语感。

## 致读者

本书将帮助你学习大量的英语词汇。但是要真正掌握新词，必须反复练习。下面这种方法有助于学习新词：

- 1、先仔细阅读题目，然后开始测试，用铅笔写出答案。
- 2、做完练习后检查答案并改正错误。再看一遍练习题，对原来不认识的单词或刚才做错的习题多加留意。
- 3、5分钟后再测试。遮住已填的单词或请别人提问。重复练习直到记住所有单词。
- 4、擦去答案。
- 5、过一天再做一遍。（你应该能记住大部分单词了。）
- 6、最后，在接下来的一个月內再做两遍，这样所有单词就印在你的脑海中了。

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# 1

## Definitions 1

*Match up the definitions on the left (1-16) with the correct idiom on the right (a-p).*

- |                                |                           |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 clever, intelligent          | a all thumbs              |
| 2 inquisitive, curious         | b bedridden               |
| 3 rich, wealthy                | c bigheaded               |
| 4 cruel                        | d black and blue all over |
| 5 stupid, unintelligent        | e brainy                  |
| 6 young, inexperienced         | f cheeky                  |
| 7 old (of a person)            | g hair-raising            |
| 8 very clumsy, awkward         | h heartless               |
| 9 impudent                     | i keyed up                |
| 10 stubborn                    | j long in the tooth       |
| 11 too weak to leave one's bed | k nosy                    |
| 12 terrifying                  | l off colour              |
| 13 conceited, vain, boastful   | m pigheaded               |
| 14 tense, excited              | n thick                   |
| 15 ill, not well               | o well off                |
| 16 covered with bruises        | p wet behind the ears     |

# 2

## Choose the idiom 1

*Choose the word or phrase which best completes each sentence.*

- 1 I really must go and lie down for a while; I've got a .....headache.  
a cutting      b splitting      c ringing      d cracking
- 2 Stop ..... about the bush, James! Just tell me exactly what the problem is.  
a rushing      b hiding      c beating      d moving
- 3 I usually buy my clothes ..... . It's cheaper than going to a dress-maker.  
a off the peg    b on the house    c in public      d on the shelf
- 4 David's leaving on Friday. I suggest we all ..... and get him a going-away present. £1 each should do.  
a dish out      b chip in      c pass the buck    d pay on the nail
- 5 The sky got very dark and soon it began to ..... down.  
a roar      b bath      c bucket      d pouring
- 6 My father ..... when he found out that I'd damaged the car.  
a hit the roof    b saw pink elephants    c made my blood boil  
d brought the house down
- 7 If you want a flat in the centre of the city you have to pay through the ..... for it.  
a teeth      b back of your head    c nose      d arm
- 8 I caught the last bus by the skin of my .....

a mouth                      b leg                      c neck                      d teeth

9 Because the owner wanted a quick sale, the house went for ..... — only £30,000.

a loose change              b a song              c a loaf of bread              d a smile

10 You didn't think I was being serious, did you, Brian! It was a joke! I was pulling your ....., that's all!

a thumb                      b hair                      c toe                      d leg

11 The accident was caused by a taxi driver ..... the traffic lights.

a rushing                      b missing                      c jumping                      d beating

12 Lend me £20, please, John. I'm ..... at the moment.

a broke                      b down the drain                      c stuck up                      d a bit thick

13 She would do anything for her youngest son. He was the ..... of her eye.

a plum                      b centre                      c star                      d apple

14 I always get ..... in my stomach before visiting the dentist.

a worms                      b butterflies                      c crabs                      d hedgehogs

15 Those second-hand Walkmans are selling like ..... . If you want one, you'd better buy one now before they're all gone.

a shooting stars              b fresh bread                      c hot cakes                      d wild oats

# 3

## Idioms with “at”

*Fill in the missing words in the sentences below. Choose from the following:*

at a loose end	at death's door	at one's wits' end*
at a loss	at fault	at random
at a pinch	at first sight	at short notice
at a standstill	at least	at sixes and sevens
at all costs	at loggerheads	at the crack of dawn
at all hours	at most	at will
at best	at once	

(\* change as appropriate)

- 1 We must ..... catch the 7.30 train. Otherwise we won't get to the meeting in time.
- 2 It is difficult to know who's ..... in the matter. Perhaps we're all to blame.
- 3 It's late. I think you'd better go to bed now, darling. Remember, you've got to get up ..... tomorrow.
- 4 Since it's his first offence he'll probably get off with a warning — ..... a small fine.
- 5 If you're ..... this weekend, Joan, why not come over for a meal? It'll give us a chance to catch up on some gossip.
- 6 I may be getting on a bit, but I'm certainly not ..... yet! I hope to live for at least another ten to fifteen years!
- 7 When her daughter didn't come home on the last bus with the other girls, Mrs Jenkins was ..... — she was terrified that something dreadful had happened to her.
- 8 Like you, I'm ..... to explain the sudden fall in share prices. I've

absolutely no idea what can have caused it.

- 9 When Richard Burton saw Elizabeth Taylor it was a classic case of love  
.....
- 10 Traffic was ..... this morning because of an accident on the A21.
- 11 I'm afraid everything's ..... this week. Both the secretaries are ill  
and no one knows where anything is.
- 12 The hotel wasn't that modern, but ..... it was cheap and reason-  
ably clean.
- 13 I've got room in the car for three—four .....
- 14 Mrs Smith's daughter is terrible, isn't she? Out ..... and never a  
kind word to anyone.
- 15 You should be able to sell your stereo equipment for £200—.....  
£250.
- 16 If you don't get out ..... then I shall have you thrown out.
- 17 Pamela and David are always ..... I really can't imagine why they  
got married in the first place. They've got absolutely nothing in com-  
mon.
- 18 A chameleon is a remarkable creature—it is able to change the colour  
of its skin .....
- 19 You can't expect me to work overtime ..... such ..... ! I need  
to be told at least two days in advance.
- 20 I was in a hurry for my train, so I chose a book .....

# 4

## What are they saying? 1

Look at the drawings below and try to work out what the people are saying. Mark the appropriate letter(a—l) in each of the speech bubbles.

Choose from the following:

- a "I've got a splitting headache again, Arthur."
- b "Well, it looks as though the rain has set in for the night."
- c "Isn't there any other way for you to make a living?"
- d "I must have caught a cold on the way."
- e "He's a bit absent-minded sometimes."
- f "Not too loud! She's all ears, you know."
- g "Jack's always had green fingers."
- h "Everyone has an off-day now and then!"
- i "Give me a hand, would you?"
- j "You're down in the dumps again, aren't you, Albert? I can tell, you know."
- k "He's full of beans, isn't he?"
- l "You lost your tongue or something? For the last time—where to?"







