IDIOMS & PHRASES – 1

1. Feather one's own nest
2. Turn turtle
3. Grease one's palm
4. Pull a fast one
5. Play fast and loose
6. Clip one's wings
7. Put a spoke in one's wheel
8. Nip in the bud
9. A Man(or Woman) of letters
10. Leave no stone unturned

Q1. Deepti is much more interested in doing things for other people than feathering her own nest.
A. Work hard for oneself
B. To stay in a fancy house
C. Make money in an improper way
D. To get oneself all kind of luxury

Q2. The Katrina storm was so bad that many cars and houses turned turtle in its wake.
A. To cover themselves with a hard layer like turtles
B. To start moving slowly
C. To be secured like turtles
D. To turn things upside down

- What does 'Hornets' nest' mean?
- *A hornets' nest is a violent situation or one with a lot of dispute. (If you create the problem, you 'stir up a hornets' nest'.*

- What does 'Birds of a feather flock together' mean?
- *This idiom means that people with similar interests will stick together.*

1. Feather one's own net
- **Meaning** - (धनी होना) to make yourself rich, especially in a way that is unfair or dishonest / using your position or job illegally for personal gain.
- **Example** – It is seen that in many developing countries that most of the politicians use their position to feather their own nests.

2. Turn turtle
- **Meaning** - (उलट जाना) to turn something upside down / To Capsize.
- **Example** – The ship turned turtle and unfortunately no one on the board could be saved.

Q3. "How are you going to get us a table without reservation?"
"Don't worry, I greased the palm of the hostess and she promised me a table in no time."
A. To get one's favour by flattery
B. To bribe someone
C. To praise someone
D. To take the advantage of someone's position

Q4. You have paid too much for this shirt. I think the shopkeeper pulled a fast one on you.
A. To force someone to do something
B. To request someone to do something
C. To trick or deceive someone
D. To persuade someone

3. Grease to palm
- **Meaning** - (घूस देना) to bribe a person as by slipping money into their palm / oil someone's palm.
- **Example** – She thought she would not be able to see the important files if she did not grease the palms of the officials.

4. Pull a fast one
- **Meaning** - (धोखे से कोई काम करवाना) to successfully deceive someone
- **Example** – She pulled a fast one on you when she said that she had a headache and went home.

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Q5. If you're going to play fast and loose, go work at another firm. That's not how we operate here

A. To behave carelessly and unreliably
B. To make fun of others and lack team spirit
C. To dishonour your seniors
D. To insult your juniors

Q6. "One more stunt like this and I'm going to clip your wings for a couple of weeks", said my father yesterday.

A. To keep someone at home
B. To not allow to party anymore
C. To beat a person for not following rules
D. To restrict one's power

5. To play fast and loose

- Meaning - (खिलवाड़ करना) to behave in an irresponsible, immoral and deceitful way.
- Example – If he plays fast and loose with my daughter's feelings, I'll make sure he regrets it.

6. Clip one's wings

- Meaning - (पर काट देना) to restrict a person's power and freedom and bring him under control.
- Example – When the new president tried to become dictator, the generals soon clipped his wings.

Q7. I had everything in line for the party, but having the caterer cancelled on me at the last minute really put a spoke in my wheel.

A. To disrupt the project
B. To disappoint someone
C. To make someone feel insulted
D. To leave someone waiting

Q8. It is important to nip this kind of bullying at school in its bud.

A. To tell their parents about it
B. To take firm action
C. To report the action immediately
D. To stop something in the starting

7. Put a spoke in one's wheel

- **Meaning** - (बाधा डाल के सब चोपट कर देना) to hinder or spoil one's plan.
- **Example** – If the management try to cut our pay, we too can put a spoke in their wheel by going on strike.

8. Nip in the bud

- **Meaning** - (सिर उठाते ही कुचल देना) To stop, cease or prevent something at the beginning or early phase, before it becomes too difficult to manage.
- **Example** – Many serious illnesses can be nipped in the bud if they are detected early enough.

Q9. Being a man of letters, our professor can easily speak for hours on the works of Shakespeare.

A. A famous person
B. A Writer
C. A Teacher
D. A Scholar

Q10. Rahul's lawyer promised that he would leave no stone unturned in trying to find more evidence to help his case.

A. To do hard work
B. To read every document
C. To gather every information
D. To try every possible way

9. A Man (or Woman) of letters

- **Meaning** - (साहित्यिक व्यक्ति) A person who is devoted to literary or scholarly activities
- **Example** – Being a writer was never a priority for him. He saw himself as a man of letters and his letters show all his correspondent qualities.

10. Leave no stone unturned

- **Meaning** - (कोई कसर बाकी न छोड़ना) To do everything possible to find something or to solve a problem / To try everything you can, to achieve a good result /To make every possible effort
- **Example** – The chief security officer that his team would leave no stone unturned in nabbing the miscreants.

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Ravi and Raj used to work in the same company. Ravi was habitual of **playing fast and loose**. His palm was greased by someone and he often **feathered his own nest**.
On the contrary, Raj never **pulled a fast one** on any person. He was a **man of letters** who **left no stone unturned** to get that job. After some months, There came a time when the company started to move into the clutches of recession. At that time, The management decided to lay off its employees in order to save the company from **turning turtle**. It was decided that every employee had to do an assignment and only the competent ones would survive in that race. After getting the prerequisites, everyone got back to his task. Compelled by his old habits, Ravi strategized to **nip the others' assignments in their buds**. In his efforts to **put a spoke in the others' wheel**, he accidently got his own **wings clipped** when the management spotted him doing some wicked deeds.

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