

# PLACEMENT TEST

## I. Read the following extract from a book about the English language and decide if the sentences are true or false.

Cockneys are among the most artful users of English in the world. A true cockney (the word comes from Middle English *cokeney*, 'cock's egg', slang for a townsman) is said to have been born within the sound of Bow Bells - these being the famous (and famously noisy) bells of St Mary-le-Bow Church in Cheapside in the City of London. However, for a generation or so no one has been born within their sound for the elemental reason that they were destroyed by German bombs in World War II.

The East End of London has always been a **melting pot**, and they've taken terms from every wave of invaders, from French Huguenot weavers in the sixteenth century to Bangladeshis of today. Many others have come from their own eye-opening experiences overseas during the period of empire and two world wars. *Shufti*, for 'have a look at', and *buckshee*, for 'something that is free', both come from India. 'Let's have a parlyvoo' (meaning 'a chat') comes obviously from the French *parlez-vous*. Someone who is misbehaving is 'out of order' or 'taking liberties'.

But without a doubt their most singular contribution to English has been rhyming slang. No one knows when cockney rhyming slang began, but it has certainly been popular since the mid-nineteenth century. As with general slang, some of the terms exist only for a short while before dying out, while others live on for scores of years.

The most often cited examples of rhyming slang are *apples and pears* = *stairs*, *trouble and strife* = *wife*, *north and south* = *mouth*, *dog and bone* = *phone* and *bacon and eggs* = *legs*. In point of fact, you could live a lifetime on the Mile End Road and not once hear those terms. But there are scores of others that are used daily, such as 'use yer loaf' (short for *loaf of bread* = *head*), 'have a butcher's' (short for *butcher's hook* = *look*), or 'how you doin,' my old china?' (short for *china plate* = *mate*).

Several cockney rhyming slang terms have taken residence in America. In nineteenth-century London, *dukes* meant 'hands' (from *Duke of Yorks* = *forks* = *hand*), but in America it came to mean 'fist', and lives on in the expression 'put up your dukes'. *Bread* as a slang synonym for *money* comes from *bread and honey*.

*Adapted from 'Mother Tongue' by Bill Bryson*

1. A true cockney is a person who was born in a particular part of London. F/T
2. Experts do not know anything about the etymology of the word 'cockney'. F/T
3. A melting pot (paragraph 2) is a place where there is a mixing of people of different nations and races. F/T

4. According to the author, slang expressions always become obsolete after a short time. F/T
5. In cockney rhyming slang, the rhyming word is hardly ever dropped in use. F/T
6. Some cockney rhyming slang expressions are frequently used in American English. F/T

**II. Choose the correct answer a, b, c or d.**

1. Sea levels are expected to \_\_\_\_\_ considerably in the future.  
a) lift b) raise c) rise d) arise
2. She was very tired so she just \_\_\_\_\_ on the bed and went to sleep.  
a) lied b) lay c) laid d) lain
3. She was sentenced \_\_\_\_\_ 10 years in prison last year.  
a) with b) to c) for d) in
4. A lot of animals face the threat of \_\_\_\_\_ .  
a) extinguish b) hunting c) destruction d) extinction
5. We would like to congratulate you \_\_\_\_\_ passing all your exams.  
a) on b) with c) for d) of
6. These jeans don't \_\_\_\_\_ me any more; they're too tight round the waist.  
a) suit b) fit c) match d) go with
7. The match was postponed due to the \_\_\_\_\_ rain.  
a) strong b) hard c) forceful d) heavy
8. She only needs to put a \_\_\_\_\_ of salt in the mixture, not a whole teaspoonful.  
a) piece b) drop c) little d) pinch

9. He is an optimistic person with a positive \_\_\_\_\_ on life.  
a) position b) outlook c) point of view d) attitude
10. Which do you find more \_\_\_\_\_, travelling by train or by bus?  
a) tiring b) tired c) tiredness d) tirelessly
11. He is said to be a great artist but I consider his work to be quite \_\_\_\_\_.  
a) medium b) moderate c) intermediate d) mediocre
12. The train was \_\_\_\_\_ by a heavy snowfall.  
a) postponed b) cancelled c) delayed d) adjourned
13. He has an overdraft at the bank. He is in the \_\_\_\_\_.  
a) red b) pink c) yellow d) black
14. One of the \_\_\_\_\_ of this job is that I get free insurance.  
a) salaries b) bonuses c) wages d) perks

**III. Decide which answer (a, b, c or d) best fits each gap.**

1. You \_\_\_\_\_, and it's getting on my nerves.  
a) always are contradicting me                      c) contradicted me always  
b) contradict me always                              d) are always contradicting me
2. If you go to Japan, you'll have to \_\_\_\_\_ with chopsticks.  
a) be used to eat                                      c) get used to eat  
b) be used to eating                                  d) get used to eating
3. If you're feeling tired, you \_\_\_\_\_ to bed.  
a) better went    c) better had to go  
b) had better go                                        d) had to better go

4. The room is in a terrible mess. It \_\_\_\_\_ cleaned.  
a) mustn't be  
b) mustn't have been  
c) can't be  
d) can't have been
5. I \_\_\_\_\_ to get through for the last half hour but the line's been engaged.  
a) have been trying  
b) tried  
c) had been trying  
d) was trying
6. This time tomorrow we \_\_\_\_\_ over the Pacific Ocean.  
a) will be flying  
b) will fly  
c) fly  
d) are flying
7. Unless you \_\_\_\_\_ them the truth, they'll keep blackmailing you.  
a) tell  
b) won't tell  
c) will tell  
d) don't tell
8. \_\_\_\_\_ anyone ring, ask them to leave a message.  
a) Would  
b) Should  
c) Might  
d) Supposing
9. \_\_\_\_\_ find a dead body in the bath, you'd find it difficult to believe.  
a) Were you  
b) You were to  
c) Were you to  
d) If were you to
10. If it wasn't for the fact that he was an up-and-coming politician, she \_\_\_\_\_ him.  
a) would never have married  
b) would never marry  
c) might never marry  
d) will never marry
11. They wish they \_\_\_\_\_ divorced.  
a) never got  
b) have never got  
c) had never got  
d) would never have got



1. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the talks was regrettable. **fail**
2. There's no \_\_\_\_\_ between the two. **compare**
3. The proposal was rejected because it was \_\_\_\_\_. **practice**
4. The student spoke with such a strong accent that what he said was \_\_\_\_\_ . **comprehend**
5. The Coronation was a \_\_\_\_\_ occasion. **moment**
6. They threw themselves \_\_\_\_\_ into the new project. **enthusiasm**
7. It has been proved \_\_\_\_\_ that smoking can seriously affect your health. **conclude**

**V. Complete the following sentences using the appropriate prepositions. There is an example at the beginning.**

0. We're really looking   forward     to   seeing you again.
1. I'm not prepared to put \_\_\_\_\_ your inefficiency any longer. You're fired!
2. After the scandal, he was looked \_\_\_\_\_ by everybody and considered socially inferior.
3. He's finally been arrested for tax fraud. I'm surprised he managed to get \_\_\_\_\_ it for so long.
4. She did seem a bit short-tempered. I put it \_\_\_\_\_ overwork and stress.
5. How can I make \_\_\_\_\_ the way I've treated you.

## **THE ANSWER KEY**

### **I.**

1. T
2. F
3. T
4. F
5. F
6. F

### **II.**

1. c
2. b
3. b
4. d
5. a
6. b
7. d
8. d
9. b
10. a
11. d
12. c
13. a
14. d

### **III.**

1. d
2. d
3. b
4. d
5. a
6. a
7. a
8. b
9. c
10. a
11. c
12. c
13. b
14. d
15. c
16. a
17. a
18. b

**IV.**

1. failure
2. comparison
3. impractical
4. incomprehensible
5. momentous
6. enthusiastically
7. conclusively

**V.**

1. up with
2. down on
3. away with
4. down to
5. up for

**Skala:****0-25 = B1****26-35 = B2****36-44 = C1****45-50 = C2**