Idioms

Directions: Read each idiom and determine the meaning.

Idiom: A common expression understood figuratively, as the literal definition makes no sense.

1. When the politician was caught stealing from the taxpayers, everyone thought he would receive a severe punishment, but all he got was a slap on the wrist.

What is the meaning of this idiom? ______________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________

2. We thought that our neighbor’s, the Jones family, were rich beyond our wildest dreams, but it turns out that we’re all in the same boat.

What is the meaning of this idiom? ______________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________

3. If Kim thinks that I’m going to let her copy my math homework, she’s barking up the wrong tree.

What is the meaning of this idiom? ______________________________________________________
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4. The Vikings thought that they would easily beat the other team, but when it was tied with a minute left in the fourth quarter, they knew that this game was really coming down to the wire.

What is the meaning of this idiom? ______________________________________________________
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5. I thought Janet would be a good worker, but it turns out that she can’t cut the mustard.

What is the meaning of this idiom? ______________________________________________________
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6. Tom wanted to get down to brass tacks, but the lawyer kept chatting about the weather.

What is the meaning of this idiom? ______________________________________________________
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7. The lawyer knew that beating around the bush would get Tom all worked up.

What is the meaning of this idiom? ______________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________
8. After playing for three straight quarters, the quarterback was running out of steam.

What is the meaning of this idiom? _______________________________________________________
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9. Don’t get so worked up, buddy. She’s only pulling your leg.

What is the meaning of this idiom? ______________________________________________________
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10. Jane decided that she would go out on a limb and ask Byron to the Spring Fling dance.

What is the meaning of this idiom? ______________________________________________________
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11. Jimbo was too tired to finish the assignment, so he decided to hit the hay.

What is the meaning of this idiom? ______________________________________________________
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12. Alan was excited when he found out that he would have his own front row parking spot at the university, but that was just the icing on the cake.

What is the meaning of this idiom? ______________________________________________________
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13. Ever since Amy’s uncle bought the farm, she’s been faced with the difficult decision of dividing the inheritance amongst the family.

What is the meaning of this idiom? ______________________________________________________
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14. Working at the Burger King was at first overwhelming to Kyle, but now he knows the ropes.

What is the meaning of this idiom? ______________________________________________________
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15. Julie thought her mom would let her go to the party, but no dice.

What is the meaning of this idiom? ______________________________________________________
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