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Prepositions in Idiomatic Expressions

Hard | C2 | Proficiency | Phrase | Preposition | Sentence | Collocations | Idiom

1. Complete the supervillain's frustrated diary entry with the correct preposition.

Due to the unexpected thunderstorm, my glorious plan for world domination will be held _____ abeyance until next Tuesday.

Select one.

A) in
B) at
C) on
D) under

2. Complete the shocked employee's message to their coworker about the latest corporate drama by selecting the correct preposition for each idiom.

Did you hear? The rumored merger is finally _____ the offing! Apparently, the CEO managed to secure the deal _____ dint of sheer stubbornness and a lot of late-night phone calls. However, his leaked comments about firing everyone in the marketing department were completely _____ the pale!

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

A) on
B) at
C) in
D) by

Blank 2

A) by
B) with
C) through
D) for

Blank 3

A) beyond
B) outside
C) over
D) past

3. Choose the correct preposition to complete the investigative journalist's report.

The shocking study claiming that chocolate cake is a superfood was conducted entirely _____ the auspices of the International Bakery Association.

Select one.

A) within
B) by
C) in
D) under

4. Help the eccentric scientist complete his rather disastrous lab report by choosing the correct prepositions for these advanced expressions.

The entire time machine seems to be _____ kilter ever since the intern spilled a caramel macchiato on the motherboard. Furthermore, my recent findings are completely _____ odds with the established laws of physics. Despite these setbacks, we are continuing the project _____ the auspices of the Royal Science Academy.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** out of
- **B)** beyond
- **C)** without
- **D)** away from

Blank 2

- **A)** at
- **B)** in
- **C)** on
- **D)** against

Blank 3

- **A)** under
- **B)** with
- **C)** in
- **D)** through

5. Help the baffled lawyer read the eccentric billionaire's final will by choosing the correct preposition for each idiomatic expression.

"The entire estate shall be liquidated _____ the behest of my pet parrot, Captain Squawks. Furthermore, _____ dint of his exceptional loyalty, my butler will receive the mansion, much _____ the detriment of my ungrateful nephews."

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** at
- **B)** in
- **C)** on

Blank 2

- **A)** by
- **B)** with
- **C)** from

Blank 3

- **A)** to
- **B)** for
- **C)** into

6. Help the ruthless theater critic edit her review for the morning paper. Select ALL the sentences that use prepositional idioms correctly!

Select all that apply.

- **A)** The lead actor's ad-libbing was completely **beyond the pale**.
- **B)** Rumors suggest a massive overhaul of the script is **on the offing**.
- **C)** The director resigned **under a cloud** of suspicion after the disastrous opening night.
- **D)** The bizarre lighting choices were entirely **against odds with** the somber mood of the play.

7. Complete the exhausted theater director's notes after a truly disastrous dress rehearsal by choosing the correct preposition for each gap.

"The lead actor's cheerful performance was completely _____ odds with the tragic tone of the play. We are currently _____ the throes of a production crisis, and frankly, the lighting technician's excuses are completely _____ the pale!"

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** at
- **B)** against
- **C)** on

Blank 2

- **A)** in
- **B)** inside
- **C)** within

Blank 3

- **A)** beyond
- **B)** over
- **C)** above

8. Professor Higgins is proofreading his eccentric course syllabus for the new semester. Select ALL the sentences where the prepositional idioms are used flawlessly!

Select all that apply.

- **A)** The previous valedictorian passed this grueling syntax class purely **by dint of** sheer perseverance.
- **B)** **On lieu of** a final essay, you may submit a 40-minute interpretive dance video.
- **C)** The reading list was drastically shortened **at the behest of** the university dean.
- **D)** He memorized the entire dictionary **for the detriment of** his own sanity.

9. Help the exhausted student complete her triumphant text message by choosing the correct preposition.

I managed to pass the dreaded quantum mechanics final _____ dint of sheer luck and an unhealthy amount of espresso!

Select one.

- **A)** in
- **B)** with
- **C)** by
- **D)** on

10. Our favorite cunning art thief, Penelope, is writing her memoirs. Select ALL the prepositional phrases that correctly and idiomatically complete her sentence!

The cunning art thief managed to bypass the museum's laser grid and escape _____.

Select all that apply.

- **A)** by the skin of her teeth
- **B)** with the skin of her teeth
- **C)** in the nick of time
- **D)** on the nick of time
- **E)** without a hitch