Numbers idioms and proverbs

Section A Page 1

Try to guess the missing numbers from the following proverbs and other idioms

On the ________ hand I don’t want to give a speech at the conference, but on the other hand it will look good on my CV.

Luckily, the piano arrived at its destination all in ______________ piece.

_________ heads are better than one when you are brainstorming original solutions to a problem.

When we fly to our LA branch we can kill ________ birds with one stone and visit some of our local dealers.

I really tried to take part in the dance routine at the company’s end of year cabaret show, but I have ________ left feet.

When they heard that he had made the biggest trade of the year, the other traders gathered round his desk to give him high __________s and congratulate him.

___________ times out of ten, if you have a problem on the computer it is something small that can be easily fixed.

The round of golf was quicker than we expected, so we moved onto the __________ th hole for a quick drink before we went home.

We had both done an equal amount of work, so it seemed fair to divide the money __________ - ________.

The inventor of the Walkman was one in ____________________ and Sony have never really managed to replace him.

I’ve been feeling like a ________ dollars since our company took us away to that spa resort.

*Hint: All the sentences above are in number order*
Numbers idioms and proverbs

Section A Page 2

Which of the underlined phrases on Section A Page 1 have the following meanings?

Something that is extremely rare or unique, like finding a diamond in your garden

A bar on a golf course. That is, the place after the 18th hole.

Slap somebody else’s hand above your heads. The number comes from the number of fingers you use.

Half each.

You can do two things with one action.

I can’t dance and/or I am clumsy in other ways, as if my there is something wrong with my body.

Feeling great, like someone who has just won the top prize in a television quiz show.

Usually or almost always, expressed as a fraction.

This phrase is used for weighing up two options, as if you were weighing two bars of gold on your hands.
Numbers idioms and proverbs

Section B Page 1

Try to guess the missing numbers from the following proverbs and other idioms

We found out all the ideas we had for the new product’s name were already registered trademarks of our competitors, so we had to go back to square ______________.

It wasn’t such a bad mistake, but the manager already had ____________ strikes against him and so finally he was transferred to a less important branch.

He said the only reason negotiations broke down was because our suppliers were being inflexible, but I say it takes __________ to tango.

I’m in __________ minds about whether to accept the offer or not

Since we found out that the section managers are secretly dating each other, the employees have all been making excuses for not joining them for drinks in the evenings. As they say: two’s company, __________’s a crowd.

I’m determined to get his permission, even if I have to get down on all __________ s beg

With a nine to _______ attitude like that, he seems better suited to being clerical staff than a sales executive

The Sales Department and the Marketing Department both laid all the blame on each other for the unsuccessful third quarter, but I think it was __________ of one and half a dozen of the other

We thought we were going to have to look for another supplier, but at the __________th hour we solved our last remaining disputes and signed a new contract.

I can think of a __________ and one reasons why that new employee won’t be able to do this job.

I’ve told my secretary a ______________ times not to put any calls through to me when I’m meeting a client, but she’s too scared to ever say no to my boss

Hint: The sentences are in number order
Numbers idioms and proverbs

Section B Page 2

Which of the underlined phrases on Section B Page 1 have the following meanings?

This means “at the last minute”, like Cinderella coming home from the Prince’s ball.

This means starting again from nothing (“starting from scratch”), as if you have to start a board game like Monopoly all over again.

This means you are very unsure what to do, as if you had more than one brain in your head.

He has a bad reputation and has maybe been warned before. He is on his last chance. This comes from a similar critical situation in baseball.
Numbers idioms and proverbs

Section C

Try to guess the missing numbers from the following proverbs and other idioms

He said he understood what he had to do, but I guess the instructions went in ______ ear and out the other.

I was going to leave the party much earlier, but my boss persuaded me to have ______ for the road.

Although his father could have easily found him a job in the family business straight away, he said that first his son had to learn how to stand on his own ______ feet.

When one of the bankers arrived at work in a brand new Ferrari, they were easily able to put two and _____ together and trace the missing money.

His boss told him that there are no ______ ways about it and he will have to change his habits or he will be fired.

The employees told the boss that ______ can play that game and if he continued to be so strict they would also be inflexible at work.

The boss thought that the management having pay cuts too would make us blue collar workers feel better, but I say that ______ wrongs don't make a right

He seems to have a ______ th sense that tells him how the market will move.

University graduates are a dime a __________ in this country, and many of them can only find simple clerical work.

I was just going to have _______ winks before continuing my exam revision, but I didn’t wake up until the evening.

It’s a very clever idea, but the __________ dollar question is “Will it make any money?”

Hint: The sentences are in number order
Numbers idioms and proverbs

Section D

Try to guess the missing numbers from the following proverbs and other idioms

We got some really big new contracts last year, but the deal with that Indian transportation company was the _____ that got away.

He was going to give up when offering more money didn’t work, but I told him that there is more than __________ way to skin a cat.

____________ of these days I will sit down and sort out my retirement plan, but I always seem to be too busy.

I couldn’t stand a job where I had to travel all the time, but I guess __________ man’s meat is another man’s poison.

"I do not want to go to the meeting."
"That makes __________ of us." I replied.

I told my cousin to think _________ before he decides to quit his job.

I plan to tell him a thing or __________ about his dog when I see him.

I did not want to take the job but compared to being unemployed it was the lesser of __________ evils.

Let’s give Mr Smith __________ cheers for 40 years of dedicated service to the company. Hip hip hooray…

The city workers stopped to take _________ after working hard all morning.

I’ve been in ________________ heaven since my company car was changed from a Ford to a Jaguar

Hint: The sentences are in number order
I for ___________ do not believe that our president will really change the company policy related to hiring new staff.

They offered to give us another 5% if we delayed payment by a year, but we decided that a bird in the hand is worth ________ in the bush and took the cash right away.

Many people believe that teaching the _________ R’s is the most important role for schools.

Since the boss announced my promotion, I’ve been on cloud _____________.

You should speak to your colleague about that misunderstanding as soon as possible. Remember, a stitch in time saves _________.

I would not touch that investment with a _______ -foot pole.

I can’t get a job without a work permit and I can’t get a work permit without a job. It’s a catch _______ situation!

I was a ______________ miles away and I didn’t even notice when it was my turn to speak.

*Hint: The sentences are in number order*