

SMART PANEL NOTES: 100 AIRFORCE IDIOMS

Target Exams: Indian Airforce (Group X & Y)

Module Focus: Vocabulary & Phrase Replacement (Defence PYQ Based Master List)

PANEL 1: Top 100 High-Frequency Idioms for Airforce Exams

Idiom / Phrase	Meaning
1. Above board	Honest and straightforward
2. Apple pie order	In perfect order
3. At a loss	Unable to decide
4. At one's wits' end	Completely puzzled or confused
5. Bad blood	Enmity or bitter relations
6. Bag and baggage	With all belongings
7. Bear the brunt of	To endure the main force or shock of
8. Beat black and blue	To beat mercilessly
9. Bed of thorns	A situation of extreme difficulty
10. Beggar description	Cannot be described
11. Bell the cat	To take the first step at personal risk
12. Between the devil and the deep sea	Between two dangers
13. Big gun	An important person
14. Bird's eye view	A general view from above
15. Black and white	In writing
16. Blind alley	A situation in which no further progress can be made
17. Blow hot and cold	To be irresolute or changeable
18. Blue blood	Aristocratic descent / noble birth
19. Bone of contention	Subject of dispute

Idiom / Phrase	Meaning
20. Bosom friend	A very close friend
21. Break the ice	To speak first after long silence
22. Breathe one's last	To die
23. Broad daylight	In full daylight (when crime is committed)
24. Broken reed	A weak or unreliable support
25. Brown study	A state of deep thought / reverie
26. Bull in a china shop	One who causes damage in a delicate situation
27. Burn a hole in the pocket	Money spent quickly
28. Bury the hatchet	To make peace / forget past enmity
29. By fits and starts	Irregularly
30. By hook or by crook	By fair or foul means
31. By leaps and bounds	Rapidly
32. Call names	To abuse / insult
33. Capital punishment	Death sentence
34. Carrot and stick	Reward and punishment policy
35. Carry weight	To be important / have influence
36. Cast pearls before swine	To offer something valuable to someone who cannot appreciate it
37. Castle in the air	Daydream / unrealistic hope
38. Cat and dog life	A life full of quarrels
39. Catch a tartar	To deal with a person who is more than one's match
40. Chew the cud	To ponder over something deeply
41. Chicken hearted	Cowardly
42. Cock and bull story	A concocted / fake story
43. Crocodile tears	False tears of sorrow
44. Cross swords	To fight / disagree

Idiom / Phrase	Meaning
45. Cry for the moon	To desire the unattainable
46. Cut a sorry figure	To give a poor show / leave a bad impression
47. Dark horse	One who wins unexpectedly
48. Days of reckoning	Time to answer for one's actions
49. Dead letter	A law or rule no longer in force
50. Die in harness	To die while still in service / working
51. Dog in the manger	A person who prevents others from enjoying what he himself cannot
52. Donkey's years	A very long time
53. Draw a blank	To fail to get an answer or result
54. Eagle eye	Keen, observant sight
55. Eat humble pie	To apologize humbly
56. Elephant in the room	An obvious problem no one wants to discuss
57. End in smoke	To come to nothing / yield no result
58. Escape one's lips	To speak unintentionally
59. Fabian policy	Policy of delaying decisions
60. Fair-weather friend	A friend only in good times
61. Fall flat	To have no effect
62. Feather in the cap	An additional success or achievement
63. Fish out of water	Out of one's usual and comfortable situation
64. Flesh and blood	Human nature / physical human body
65. Fool's errand	A fruitless or pointless mission
66. Forty winks	A short nap during the day
67. French leave	Absence without permission or notice
68. Fringe benefits	Additional benefits apart from salary
69. From pillar to post	From one place to another in a hurried manner

Idiom / Phrase	Meaning
70. Gain ground	To succeed slowly and steadily / become popular
71. Get off scot-free	To escape without punishment
72. Gift of the gab	Talent for speaking fluently
73. Give up the ghost	To die or stop working
74. Go back on one's word	To break a promise
75. Grease the palm	To bribe
76. Green room	A waiting room for performers in a theater
77. Halcyon days	Peaceful and happy days of the past
78. Hammer and tongs	With great effort or energy
79. Hand and glove	Very intimate / closely associated
80. Hard nut to crack	A difficult problem to solve
81. Have a finger in every pie	To be involved in many different activities
82. Hit below the belt	To strike unfairly / attack personally
83. Hobson's choice	No real choice at all (take it or leave it)
84. Hold water	To be valid, sound, or believable
85. Hole and corner	Secret or clandestine
86. Hue and cry	Any loud public outcry or alarm
87. In a fix	In a difficult or awkward situation
88. In black and white	In written form
89. In full swing	At the height of activity
90. In the blues	Depressed or melancholy
91. In the long run	Ultimately / over a long period
92. Ins and outs	Full details or complexities of a situation
93. Iron hand	By force / strict control
94. Ivory tower	An imaginary or isolated world away from reality
95. Jack of all trades	One who knows many things but is master of none

Idiom / Phrase	Meaning
96. Jaundiced eye	To look at something with prejudice or bias
97. Keep body and soul together	To maintain life / survive on basics
98. Keep one's fingers crossed	To hope for the best outcome
99. Keep the wolf from the door	To avoid starvation
100. Kick the bucket	To die