

## EFFECTIVE DICTION

Each of the following ten sentences contains one or more trite expressions. Draw a line under each such expression.

Example: Scared out of her wits, the cat ran quick as a flash for the nearest tree.

1. Fearing that my fond parents would see me, I beat a hasty retreat.
2. After all is said and done, each and every one of us owes a debt of gratitude to the Board of Education.
3. Stubborn as a mule, Bill stayed in the examination room, busy as a bee to the bitter end.
4. Whoever gives his all to the pursuit of the almighty dollar will be doomed to disappointment.
5. Girls like her are few and far between.
6. He looked so hale and hearty that I was green with envy when I saw him, and I told him so in no uncertain terms.
7. When he felt his adversary's viselike grip on his throat, he turned white as a sheet and shook like a leaf.
8. It is an irony of fate that this bank robber, after eluding the guardians of the law for so many years, should be tracked to earth through a traffic violation.
9. To make a long story short, our hero returned to the straight and narrow pat a sadder but wiser man.
10. In the depths of despair, we threw ourselves upon the tender mercies of our captors.

Following are five items which contain figures of speech. Each is followed by four possible ways of completing the sentence. You are to choose the one which maintains the figure of speech. Write the letter of this answer in the space at the left.

- \_\_\_ 11. Elizabeth had previously seemed blind to Ashley's defects, but the events of that day
- a) nipped in the bud her love for him.
  - b) knocked some sense into her head.
  - c) proved a rude awakening to her.
  - d) opened her eyes to his true nature.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. He was chose a difficult path to follow, but if he perseveres,
- a) his ship will come sailing home one day.
  - b) he will pluck the fruit of his labors.
  - c) he may find that it is the road to glory.
  - d) he might reap a rich reward.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. Although I wrestled with higher mathematics for a year, I
- a) never got to first base.
  - b) never go my head above water.
  - c) lost the bout.
  - d) lost the race.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. The detective followed several false scents before he finally
- a) tracked down his quarry.
  - b) emerged as the victor in the battle of wits.
  - c) turned the spotlight on the right solution.
  - d) nailed the right man.

The following paragraph contains a number of expressions which are not appropriate to its general style. Underline the inappropriate expressions.

Although may people do not realize it, engineering is a very broad field made up of a number of technical specializations. The work of an electrical engineer who designs computing machines has little in common with the work of a civil engineer who messes around with city drainage, and a competent aeronautical engineer may not know beans about building an atomic reactor. Since no one guy could hope to master all the specialties, the fellows in engineering colleges concentrate on a single area almost from the start of their studies. A second-year student who plans to become a chemical engineer, for instance, will already be taking one or two chem courses in addition to his basic engineering courses.