



Idiomatic Language



Animal Expressions

Idioms

- An Idiom is a group of words indicating a different meaning that is not deducible from the meaning of individual words
- Such idiomatic phrases with the names of animals are usually called '*Animal Expressions*'

1. To rain cats and dogs – to rain heavily

- E.g. It was raining cats and dogs when they got out

2. Swan song– the final performance or activity of a person's career

- E.g. The Tempest is considered Shakespeare's swan song

3. A dog eat dog situation– a situation of fierce competition

- E.g. He found himself in a dog eat dog situation

4. Like cat on hot bricks– very nervous

- E.g. Waiting for the test results she felt like a cat on hot bricks

5. To lead a dog's life– a life full of problems & unfair treatment

- E.g. Poor Jane was tired of living a dog's life

6. To turn tail– to run away

- E.g. The dog turned tail when he saw the man pick up a stone to throw at him

7. At a snail's pace– very slowly

- E.g. The economy grew at a snail's pace in the first three months of this year.

8. To keep the wolf from the door–to have enough money to avoid hunger

- E.g. Jake works for long hours just to keep the wolf from the door

9. Play ducks and drakes– to handle recklessly

- E.g. My brother would never play ducks and drakes with his money

10. Putting the cart before the horse– to do something illogically

- E.g. I think you are putting the cart before the horse by leaving your permanent job before getting new one.

11. Till the cow comes home– for a very long time

- E.g. They'll be arguing about this till the cows come home.

12. Goose is cooked– no possibility of success

- E.g. If he doesn't win the next round, then his goose is cooked.

13. Flogging a dead horse—engaging in a fruitless effort

- E.g. John keeps trying to get his manuscripts published, but I think he is flogging a dead horse.

14. To go the whole hog—do something completely or thoroughly.

- E.g. We painted the kitchen and then decided to go the whole hog do the other rooms as well.

15. A cock and bull story— a wildly improbable story

- E.g. When I asked him about his progress he tried to give me a cock and bull story

16. A bee in your bonnet– obsessed with something and think about it continuously

- E.g. He always has a bee in his bonnet about safety.

17. Every dog has his day–every person has a successful moment in life

- E.g. Don't worry, you'll get chosen for the team. Every dog has its day.

18. As the crow flies– in a straight line

- E.g. The nearest hotel is about 24 kilometres away as the crow flies

19. To take the bull by the horn– to face the problem directly with courage

- E.g. The government will have to take the bull by the horns and tackle the inflation.

20. To count one's own chickens before they hatch– to count on something that has not yet happened

- E.g. You may be disappointed if you count your chickens before they hatch

21. A bull in a china shop– clumsy and lack the skill to do some task

- E.g. He behaved like a bull in a china shop last night.

21. Go to the dogs– fall into a very bad state

- E.g. It seems that the reputation of your business has gone to the dogs.

22. Look like something the cat dragged in– look dirty and untidy

- E.g. The kids came back looking like something the cat dragged in.

23. Make a beeline– go directly

- E.g. When he saw me in the kitchen, he made a beeline for the door.

24. Let the cat out of the bag– reveal a secret carelessly or by mistake.

- E.g. My boss did not let the cat out of the bag about the deal until all the relevant contracts were signed

25. To shed crocodile tears– make tears or expressions of sorrow that are insincere.

- E.g. Jessica shed crocodile tears over the expulsion of her rival, Jacob

Find out...

1. To turn turtle
2. Monkey business
3. The lion' s share
4. A dog in the manger



Thank you
