

5 Anger and Annoyance - Animals

Anger and Annoyance

a blazing row: an argument in which people are very angry and emotional

We had a blazing row.

to blow your top: to lose your temper and become very angry
When she told him, he blew his top and began shouting.

to be cross: to be a little angry (often used when speaking to children)
You'd better do what your teacher says, or she will get very cross.

to be crotchety: bad-tempered and easily made angry
I'm always a bit crotchety when I wake up in the mornings.

to drive sb up the wall: to annoy sb
That constant drilling noise outside my house is driving me up the wall.

furious: very angry
When they told him, he was furious and left the room.

galling: sth that is annoying, because it seems unfair or wrong
The most galling thing about his winning all that money is that he was already a millionaire!

to get on sb's nerves: to annoy sb
She gets on my nerves with her meaningless chatter.

a heated argument: a bad argument in which people are very angry
Raised voices told me that a heated argument was going on next door.

to hit the roof: to lose your temper and become very angry
He hit the roof when he saw my report card.

to be indignant: to be very angry because you think sth is wrong or unfair
She was indignant at the suggestion that she was lying.

infuriate: make angry
Rude people infuriate me.

irate: very angry
Within two minutes of coming off the air, we were inundated with phone calls from irate listeners.

to irritate: to annoy
His constant whistling irritates me.

to be livid: to be very angry (not used before a noun)
When she finds out that you told him, she'll be livid.

to be in no mood to: to be angry and not want to
I am in no mood to argue!

an outburst: a sudden explosion of anger
What was the reason for her sudden outburst?

a quick temper: if you have a quick temper, you lose your temper quickly and very easily
He's got a very quick temper, so be careful what you say to him.

to be sick and tired of sth/sb: to be annoyed and fed up with sth/sb
I'm sick and tired of your excuses!

to throw a tantrum: to start kicking, crying and shouting (generally used for children)
Whenever Tom didn't get his own way, he would throw a tantrum.

to be touchy: to be bad-tempered and easily made angry
I'm sorry I've been so touchy lately.

to be up in arms about sth: to be very angry and ready to protest (used to describe group reaction)
Local people are up in arms about the government's proposal to build a road through the village green.

Animals

the black sheep of the family: sb considered to be a failure/an embarrassment by relatives
I've always been the black sheep of the family. My father, mother and sister are all lawyers. Me? I'm a rock singer.

to be as blind as a bat: (informal) to have poor eyesight
She's as blind as a bat without her glasses.

you can... till the cows come home, but it won't: you can do sth for a very long time, but it won't change anything

You can ask till the cows come home, but I won't tell you.

a dark horse: sb who people know very little about
Sean is a dark horse, a bit of a mystery.

to be dogged by sth: sth bad keeps causing you trouble and it will not go away
I've been dogged by ill health ever since I left university.

for donkey's years: (informal) for a very long time
I've known Tom for donkey's years.

to duck: to avoid sth which is going to hit you by lowering your head
If he hadn't ducked, the ball would have hit him square in the face.

it is like water off a duck's back for sb: sth does not affect you because you are accustomed to it
His criticisms are like water off a duck's back.

fishy: suspicious
His proposal sounds a bit fishy, so I don't think we should trust him.

to hound sb: to persistently follow sb (used in connection with the press)
The paparazzi hounded her wherever she went.

the lion's share: the biggest part
Julie inherited the lion's share of Uncle Fester's fortune.

to rabbit on (about sth): to talk for a long time in a boring way
She rabbited on for ages.

ratty: bad-tempered/easily made angry
Sorry I was so ratty this morning. I didn't get much sleep last night.

to have a whale of a time: (informal) to really enjoy yourself
The kids had a whale of a time.

a wild goose chase: a search for sth that one is unlikely to find
Looking for him would be a wild goose chase.

to worm your way out of sth: to avoid doing sth you do not want to do
He wormed his way out of the work again!

Practice

1. Choose the correct item.

- 1 Angry? I was absolutely when our appointment was cancelled for the third time.
A annoyed B irritated C livid D cross
- 2 The reason why he gets into trouble so often is that he has a temper.
A fast B rapid C speedy D quick
- 3 What I find most about it is that he didn't even have the decency to say that he was sorry.
A galling B furious C touchy D resentful
- 4 George wasn't in a particularly good mood, but then he is always a bit in the morning.
A irate B crotchety C indignant D infuriated
- 5 Like many children of his age, he is prone to throwing a(n)
A outburst B temper C mood D tantrum
- 6 Mum will hit the when she finds out that you've burnt a hole in her new sofa.
A roof B wall C ceiling D top
- 7 How much longer do we have to wait? This is starting to get on my
A mind B nerves C back D nose
- 8 "I'm to listen to your pathetic excuses," she said.
A sick and tired C having enough
B in no mood D sick to death
- 9 Stop that tapping, will you? I'm trying to concentrate and it is driving me up the
A wall B roof C hill D house
- 10 The whole country is up in about the new tax the government has put on books.
A rage B fists C anger D arms
- 11 It was so embarrassing. We were in the middle of a crowded restaurant when they suddenly had a row.
A blazing B heated C stormy D smouldering

2. Complete the sentences with an appropriate word formed from the animals shown in the pictures below.

- 0 I've known them for *donkey's* years - since I was a child, in fact.
- 1 Throughout his playing career he was by injury.
- 2 He said we could double our money in two days? It sounds a bit to me.
- 3 At first, the criticism he got in the press used to affect him, but now it's like water off a back.
- 4 Of course she didn't see you. She's as blind as a
- 5 Did we enjoy the party? We most certainly did. We had a of a time.
- 6 You can sit there and argue till the come home, but I'm not changing my mind.
- 7 If I hadn't, the ball would have hit me square between the eyes.
- 8 Unlike the other players in the semi-finals, Popov is a bit of a dark
- 9 We're getting nowhere! This is a wild chase.
- 10 It's only fair. It was his idea, so he should get the share of the profits.
- 11 Ted has always been the black of the family. His parents are lawyers, his two brothers are doctors, while he dropped out of school at 15.
- 12 You're not going to your way out of doing the washing-up this time.
- 13 It was a nightmare. She on about her job for hours!

