



IDIOMS AND EXPRESSIONS

Elementary

Animal Idioms

- 1 His wife never lets him do what he wants and as a result he **leads a dog's life**.
 - (a) eats what he can
 - (b) never sleeps
 - (c) has an unhappy time
 - (d) goes everywhere on foot

- 2 A word of warning: don't let him **make a monkey of you**.
 - (a) make you jump up and down
 - (b) make faces at you
 - (c) make you spend your money
 - (d) make a fool of you

- 3 I would advise you to wait and see **which way the cat jumps**.
 - (a) what develops
 - (b) what goes
 - (c) what comes
 - (d) what falls

- 4 I don't honestly think he is capable of being polite as **the leopard never changes his spots**.
 - (a) people always complain
 - (b) people sometimes differ
 - (c) people never change
 - (d) people often shout

- 5 He's very greedy when it comes to eating and always takes the **lion's share of the food**.
 - (a) last portion
 - (b) smallest portion
 - (c) first portion
 - (d) largest portion

- 6 I really don't know how to explain it as I am **completely foxed**.
 - (a) absolutely sure
 - (b) absolutely convinced
 - (c) absolutely confused
 - (d) absolutely curious



- 7 Until he is more serious in his job and stops **playing the goat**, he won't get any more money.
- (a) arriving late all the time
 - (b) eating too much all the time
 - (c) making too much noise all the time
 - (d) making jokes all the time
- 8 He never makes any silly mistakes because he's got too much **horse sense**.
- (a) common sense
 - (b) nonsense
 - (c) absolute sense
 - (d) full sense
- 9 Charlie doesn't like getting too tired so he gets his assistant to do all the **donkey work**.
- (a) academic work
 - (b) artwork
 - (c) homework
 - (d) hard work
- 10 He doesn't really go around with many people because he's a bit of a **lone wolf**.
- (a) single person
 - (b) lonely person
 - (c) unhappy person
 - (d) simple person

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Intermediate

Way Idioms

- 1 **By the way** are you thinking of going on holiday?
- (a) Incidentally
 - (b) However
 - (c) Naturally
 - (d) Nevertheless
- 2 **If I'm in your way**, I'll leave the room.
- (a) I'm confusing you
 - (b) I'm trying you



- (c) I'm hindering you
(d) I'm finding you
- 3 Every investor is really pleased because profits **are way up** this year.
- (a) have gone up some
(b) have gone up gradually
(c) have gone up moderately
(d) have gone up hugely
- 4 As your house is **on our way**, we'll give you a lift home if you like.
- (a) on our trip
(b) on our route
(c) on our excursion
(d) on our crossing
- 5 At the moment plans are **under way** and the work should be finished next year.
- (a) in progress
(b) in the middle
(c) in order
(d) in control
- 6 We don't usually allow refunds but **once in a way** we agree.
- (a) often
(b) directly
(c) frequently
(d) occasionally
- 7 The army commander was very concerned about his troops and would never allow them to be in **harm's way**.
- (a) in fights
(b) in battle
(c) in combat
(d) in danger
- 8 You'll just have to make a decision. You can't **have it both ways**.
- (a) benefit by cancelling two vertical views
(b) benefit by agreeing to two opposite views
(c) benefit by agreeing to two similar views
(d) benefit by agreeing to two average views
- 9 In view of the considerable opposition the members agreed to **give way**.
- (a) yield
(b) sustain



- (c) suspect
- (d) volunteer

- 10 She left school and immediately started to **make her own way** without help from her family.
- (a) find her living
 - (b) try her living
 - (c) earn her living
 - (d) hold her living

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Advanced

Down to Earth

- 1 Poor Charlie has been **down in the dumps** since he learned that he's lost his job.
- (a) miserable
 - (b) angry
 - (c) furious
 - (d) uneasy
- 2 I think we've had our fun and now it's time **we got down to** the idea of earning some money.
- (a) began slowly to consider
 - (b) began easily to consider
 - (c) began seriously to consider
 - (d) began frankly to consider
- 3 As soon as they heard the news that one of their fellow workers had been given the sack, they all **downed tools**.
- (a) went home
 - (b) stopped working
 - (c) stopped talking
 - (d) worked slowly
- 4 She always **talks down** to me as if I'm not worth consideration.
- (a) speaks softly
 - (b) speaks quickly
 - (c) speaks condescendingly
 - (d) speaks continuously



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- 5 In contrast to her husband she's a very **down-to-earth** sort of person who manages to control his wild ideas.
- (a) cynical
 - (b) boring
 - (c) clever
 - (d) practical
- 6 He's certainly picked himself up since we last saw him when he was clearly **down-at-heel**.
- (a) loudly dressed
 - (b) shabbily dressed
 - (c) strangely dressed
 - (d) oddly dressed
- 7 I invested all my money in that failed company and now I find my whole investment **has gone down the drain**.
- (a) has been overtaken
 - (b) has been confirmed
 - (c) has been wasted
 - (d) has been confused
- 8 You can use special symbols in your emails if you want to show you're **down in the mouth**.
- (a) decided
 - (b) definite
 - (c) deflated
 - (d) depressed
- 9 Let's put it like this — you made the decision and so it's **down to you** as to what happens next.
- (a) your responsibility
 - (b) your concern
 - (c) your turn
 - (d) your thought
- 10 They've had enough of the bad climate and high taxes here and have gone to live **down under**.
- (a) in America
 - (b) in China
 - (c) in Australia
 - (d) in India