

Elementary

There are many idioms in English that are connected with animals. For example, if you think something is 'the bee's knees', you think it is excellent. Try the following exercises to help you be 'top dog' at animal idioms.

Complete these sentences with one of the following animals.

Bull / fish / goose / ants / ape / dog / cat

1. I'm not a lazy person so I always work like _____.
2. Well, I went _____ right before the concert! I just love the music of the Rolling Stones.
3. Don't be like a _____ in a china shop. She is very sensitive about her looks so don't say bad things about her hair.
4. There are lots of great companies in this district so you can see a lot of fat _____ walking around in suits and talking on their mobile phones.
5. Why are you _____ tired? You haven't done any work at all!
6. I'm sorry but I don't have time to listen to your silly gossips, I have other _____ to fry.
7. Sorry, I didn't want to cook your _____. I thought your boyfriend knew about the party! I didn't know it was his surprise birthday party!

Now match the idioms with their meanings.

- a. hullafáradt
- b. úgy dolgozik, mint a hangyák
- c. mint az elefánt a porcelánboltban
- d. elrontani valaki terveit
- e. nagyon izgatott lenni
- f. nagyagyú
- g. jobb dolgom is van

Now translate these sentences.

1. Amikor hullafáradt vagyok, reggel tizenegyig nem kelek fel.
2. Ha úgy dolgozol, mint a hangyák, elő lesz a léptetve.
3. Ő mindig úgy viselkedik, mint az elefánt a porcelánboltban, ezért mindig mindenkit megsért.
4. Elrontotta a testvérem a terveimet, mert én akartam megszervezni a built.
5. A fiúk nagyon izgatottak voltak a világbajnoki döntő előtt, aztán meg nagyon szomorúak, mert a kedvenc csapatuk veszített.
6. Noha ő egy nagyagyú, azért emgmaradt olyannak, amilyen volt.
7. Nem várok tovább. Jobb dolgom is van ennél. Utálom elveszteni az időmet.

Intermediate

There are many idioms in English that are connected with animals. For example, if you think something is 'the bee's knees', you think it is excellent. Try the following exercises to help you be 'top dog' at animal idioms.

Complete these sentences with one of the following animals.

Cat / bull / bird / fish / cat / cats / bug

1. How do you know about my accident? – A little _____ told me.



2. My brother and my boyfriend are bitten by the same _____ so they usually go fishing together.
3. You had better take the _____ by the horns instead of pulling faces and feeling sorry for yourself.
4. Why are you grinning like a Cheshire _____? Did you win the lottery?
5. Don't try to start conversations with her, she is a bag of _____ today. I don't know what could have happened to her.
6. How many right answers did she have? – None of your business. Anyway, curiosity killed the _____.
7. Why do you always _____ for compliments? Is there something wrong with your self-esteem?

Now match the idioms with their meanings.

- a. bad-tempered
- b. have the same hobby or interest
- c. looking to hear a compliment for one's own self
- d. someone told me, but I won't tell you who
- e. be very happy
- f. warning, don't want to know things that are not your business
- g. face and tackle a problem without shirking

Now rewrite the sentences so that they contain the appropriate idioms.

1. She is always so happy, I really envy her for her ability to be so optimistic in all situations.
2. I don't like women who are always looking for compliments. I think everyone should be aware of their abilities and faults without people's telling them.
3. How do you know about this? I haven't even told you yet! – Someone told me but I won't tell you who it was.
4. Don't be so indecisive. Just start dealing with the problem without complaining about it.
5. What did you tell her? – It's not your business, so you don't need to know.
6. We get on very well with each other, and we have a lot in common, for example we have the same hobby.
7. Don't disturb her today. For one reason or another, she is very bad-tempered. I hope she will be better tomorrow.

Advanced

There are many idioms in English that are connected with animals. For example, if you think something is 'the bee's knees', you think it is excellent. Try the following exercises to help you be 'top dog' at animal idioms.

Source: Oxford Dictionary of Idioms
www.oupbooks.hu

Fill in the gaps with the name of one of these animals.

Lion / donkey / duck / snail / grasshopper

1. The traffic was moving at a _____'s pace.
2. Don't forget it was him who did all the _____ work.
3. Criticism doesn't affect him – it's like water off a _____'s back.
4. The US athletes won the _____'s share of the medals at last year's games.
5. I've known him since he was knee-high to a _____.



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The nouns in capitals have got mixed up. Can you move the last word in each sentence to the correct idiom?

Hold your CHICKENS.
She had TEARS.
They are CROCODILE HORSES.
Hair of the HORSE.
He's a DARK DOG.
It's gone to the KITTENS.
He's no spring WOLF.
Don't count your DOGS.
He's a lone CHICKEN.

Which of the idioms in the exercise above could be used as a response to the following?

1. What did Sara say when she saw her phone bill? _____
2. Come on, come on! I'm ready, so let's hurry up and go. _____
3. Why is she crying if she doesn't care? _____
4. Can you believe Dave's going out with a supermodel? _____
5. I'm amazed you're drinking beer today after last night's party! _____
6. I think I've got the job. I'm going out to celebrate. _____
7. Ali doesn't seem to have any friends. _____
8. This used to be a nice neighbourhood, didn't it? _____
9. Dad can't run as fast as he used to. _____