

Animal Idioms

Meaning Cards



Animal Idioms Meaning Cards

Barking up the wrong tree

Meaning: To have the wrong idea about someone or something. To make the wrong assumption.



Examples: Mum was barking up the wrong tree when she thought I ate the cake; it was actually Dad!

Alex was barking up the wrong tree when she thought that Tassia had taken her football. It was actually Jess!

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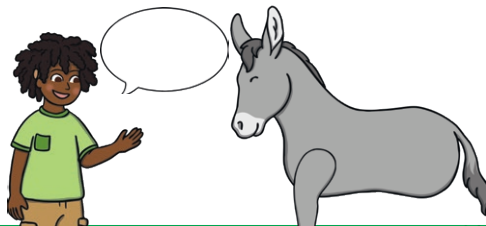
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Talk the hind legs off a donkey

Meaning: To talk a lot.

Examples: Priya could talk the hind legs off a donkey! She was talking for hours non stop!

Aunty Annie talks all the time. I hardly get a word in! She could talk the hind legs off a donkey!



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The cat's whiskers

Meaning: When someone thinks they are better than everyone else.

Examples: He acts like the cat's whiskers! Just because his dad has a new car.

She thinks she's the cat's whiskers now she's top of the class.



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Not enough room to swing a cat

Meaning: Used to describe somewhere that is very small.

Examples: There's not enough room to swing a cat in this kitchen!

I don't know how you manage in that classroom. There's not enough room to swing a cat, never mind having a class of 24!



Wouldn't say boo to a goose

Meaning: Used to describe someone who is nervous.

Examples: I can't believe Sheena's now in charge! She wouldn't say boo to a goose.

I don't understand why they've asked Ahmed to do the presentation. He can't do it; he wouldn't even say boo to a goose.



A cat nap

Meaning: A short sleep taken during the day.

Examples: Granny always has a cat nap after lunch.

"Why don't you have a cat nap," suggested Mum, "It'll make you feel better."

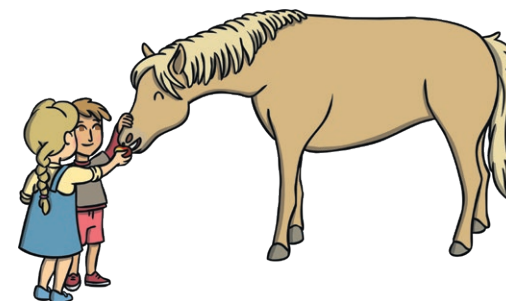


Eat like a horse

Meaning: To eat a lot.

Examples: Paula eats like a horse! She's eaten non stop this evening.

Arvind has eaten a whole pizza, chips, chicken wings and garlic bread! He eats like a horse!



Dog tired

Meaning: To be really tired.

Examples: Jackie looks dog tired today. I think she was out late last night.

I'm dog tired today;
I could hardly sleep
last night.

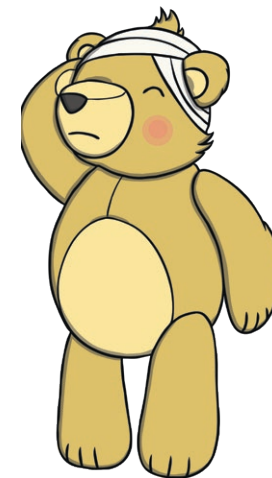


Like a bear with a sore head

Meaning: To be grumpy / in a bad mood.

Examples: Ravi is like a bear with a sore head today; he's being really grumpy.

Hannah is like a bear with a sore head in the mornings. She really doesn't like early mornings!



To cry wolf

Wolf!



Meaning: To raise a false alarm.

Example: Don't take any notice of her; she's always crying wolf.