

10/30/22

Animal Expressions

Estimated play time: Approximately 15 minutes

Number of players: Unlimited

Supplies needed: Scoring board/pad; noisemakers

Suitable for visually impaired players.

Overview:

There are many sayings, idioms, similes and metaphors in English that involve animals. For example, we can think of eight expressions that include the word *cat*:

Curiosity killed the cat

Fight like cats and dogs

Don't be a 'fraidy-cat

Copycat

Cat got your tongue

Play cat and mouse

Raining cats and dogs

When the cat's away the mice will play

In this game, we have provided images of twelve animals. How many common expressions or sayings can you come up with for each animal?

(Note: We have indicated in parentheses how many answers we came up with.)

Instructions:

No scoring in this game – just name the animal and see how many expressions the players can come up with.

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Instructions: How many sayings, idioms, similes, and metaphors can you come up with that include the animals pictured below?



1. Pig/Hog/Swine (8)



2. Bat (3)



3. Fly (3)



4. Mouse (3)



5. Bull (5)



6. Rabbit/Bunny (7)



7. Elephant (4)



8. Fish (8)



9. Lamb/Sheep (6)



10. Horse (8)



11. Goose (7)



12. Monkey (5)

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ANSWERS

(Other correct answers are possible.)

1. Pig/Hog/Swine Cast pearls before swine; fat as a pig; buy a pig in a poke; make a silk purse out of a sow's ear; when pigs fly; live high on (or off) the hog; go hog wild; go whole hog
2. Bat Bats in the belfry; blind as a bat; like a bat out of hell
3. Fly Dropping like flies; a fly on the wall; a fly in the ointment
4. Mouse Quiet as a mouse; poor as a church mouse; play cat and mouse
5. Bull Take the bull by the horns; like a bull in a china shop; hit the bullseye
6. Rabbit/Bunny Scared as a rabbit; breed like rabbits; go down the rabbit hole; the rabbit died; pulled a rabbit out of your hat; quick as a bunny; dumb bunny
7. Elephant Elephant in the room; memory like an elephant; white elephant; pink elephants
8. Fish Swim with the fishes; a cold fish; like a fish out of water; a fine kettle of fish; have bigger fish to fry; drink like a fish; fish or cut bait; plenty of fish in the sea
9. Lamb/Sheep Gentle as a lamb; innocent as a lamb; meek/timid as a lamb; the black sheep of the family; in two shakes of a lamb's tail; like lambs to the slaughter
10. Horse Straight from the horse's mouth; beat a dead horse; I could eat a horse; hold your horses; horse around; look a gift horse in the mouth; put the cart before the horse; work like a horse
11. Goose What's good for the goose is good for the gander; silly goose; your goose is cooked; goose pimples; goose egg; kill the goose that laid the golden egg; wild goose chase
12. Monkey I'll be a monkey's uncle; make a monkey out of someone; monkey business/shines; a monkey on your back; more fun than a barrel of monkeys