

A CONVERSATIONAL IDIOM BOOK

朗朗上口学成语

A stylized face graphic on a dark blue background. It features two large, irregularly shaped eyes with black pupils and a large, white, serif letter 'A' for a mouth.

A

A very basic, short course on Idioms.
地道美语系列

[美] Nina Weinstein 著



中国水利水电出版社
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C R A Z Y I D I O M S

A
CONVERSATIONAL
IDIOM
BOOK

NINA WEINST IN

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藏书章



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内 容 提 要

精选美国人日常生活中常用的惯用语，以最生活化与口语化的例句和练习，来实现每则惯用语的精髓。

本书包括以下方面的惯用语：动物、食品、颜色、身体、危险。

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Introduction

Crazy Idioms is a very basic, short course on idioms that's a lot of fun and can be learned in a few weeks. Because it's easier to remember idioms that have something in common, the forty-five idioms in *Crazy Idioms* are divided into the following categories: **Animal Idioms**, **Food Idioms**, **Color Idioms**, **Body Idioms**, and **Dangerous Idioms** (idioms with double meanings).

The exercises are simple and fun. Each unit ends with a "Use What You Learned" section that gives students practice in using the idioms in semifree conversation. Everyone in the class gets up from his or her seat. Then students are told to find someone who, for example, "eats like a bird." They must ask everyone in the class "Do you eat like a bird?" until they find someone who says "Yes." That person signs his or her name in the space provided. There are several questions of this type, and it's expected that students will do each question at a different pace so that the atmosphere in the classroom becomes like a party. The teacher is free to walk around the classroom and supervise those who need it.

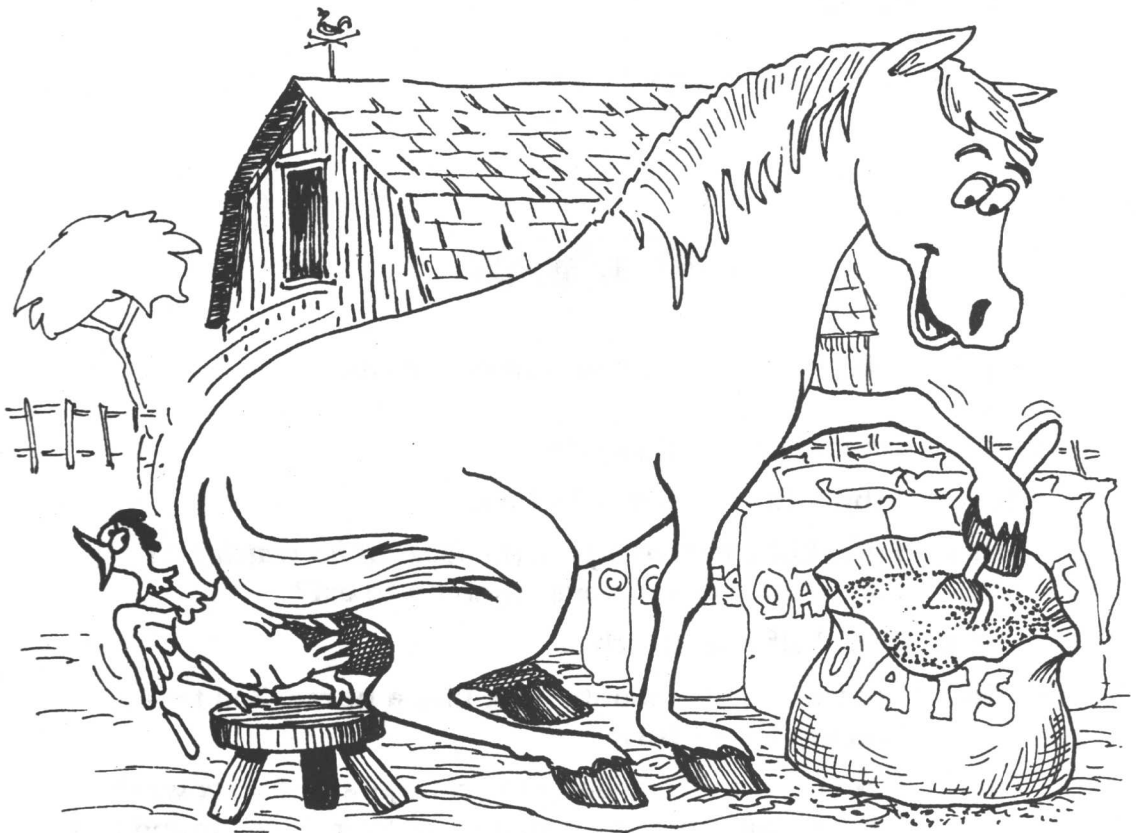
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UNIT 1

ANIMAL IDIOMS, PART 1



Idiom Preview

Can you guess what these idioms mean?

- to eat like a horse
- to be chicken
- to run around like a chicken with its head cut off
- to eat like a bird
- to quit something cold turkey

Moving Day

Carlos is helping Juan move into his new apartment.

Carlos: Do you have a cigarette?

Juan: I thought you quit **cold turkey**.

Carlos: I did, but I started again. (*He looks at his watch.*) It's lunchtime. Do you have anything to eat?

Juan: Only half a sandwich.

Carlos: That won't be enough. I **eat like a horse**. You take it. You **eat like a bird**.

Juan: I'm **chicken**. It's been in the refrigerator for six weeks. I haven't had time to go shopping. Ever since I found this apartment, I've been **running around like a chicken with its head cut off**.

Matching Idioms

Work with a partner. Match each idiom with the correct picture.

___ 1. to eat like a bird



___ 2. to eat like a horse



___ 3. to quit (something)
cold turkey



___ 4. to run around like a
chicken with its
head cut off



___ 5. to be chicken



Comparison

Work with a partner. Discuss the following questions.

1. "To eat like a bird" means to eat small amounts of food. Does "to eat like a bird" mean the same thing in your native language?
2. "To eat like a horse" means to eat large amounts of food. Does it mean the same thing in your native language?
3. "To be chicken" means to be afraid. Do you have any idioms with the word "chicken" in your native language?
4. "To run around like a chicken with its head cut off" means to be so busy, you feel completely disorganized. What idiom means the same thing in your native language?
5. "To quit (something) cold turkey" means to stop a bad habit suddenly. What expression means the same thing in your native language?

Use What You Learned

Get up from your seat. Find a person in your class who:

1. feels that he's/she's running around like a chicken with its head cut off.

(Name of student)

Example: You must ask "Do you feel like you're running around like a chicken with its head cut off?" until you find someone who says "Yes." Then ask that person to sign his/her name in the space.

2. eats like a bird.

(Name of student)

3. eats like a horse.

(Name of student)

4. has quit a bad habit cold turkey.

(Name of student)

5. is chicken to fly in an airplane.

(Name of student)

UNIT 2

ANIMAL IDIOMS, PART 2



Idiom Preview

Can you guess what these idioms mean?

- to work like a dog
- to be foxy
- to eat like a pig
- to be a rat
- to be a turkey

Politicians

Kim and Andre are talking about politicians.

Kim: Who do you think would be the best governor?

Andre: Well, one of them is a **turkey**, and the other is a **rat**.

Kim: I like the young one. He's really **foxy**.

Andre: But he **eats like a pig**.

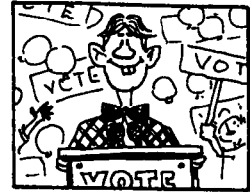
Kim: No one's perfect. Anyway, he **works like a dog**. We need someone like that.

Matching Idioms

Work with a partner. Match each idiom with the correct picture.

_____ 1. to eat like a pig

a.



_____ 2. to work like a dog

b.



_____ 3. to be foxy

c.



_____ 4. to be a turkey

d.



_____ 5. to be a rat

e.



Comparison

Work with a partner. Discuss the following questions.

1. "To be a turkey" means to be a jerk, a stupid person. Does it mean the same thing in your native language?
2. "To be a rat" means to be a bad person; someone who does mean things to other people. Do you have any idioms with the word "rat" in your native language?
3. "To be foxy" means to be sexy. Does it mean the same thing in your native language?
4. "To work like a dog" means to work really hard. What expression means the same thing in your native language?
5. "To eat like a pig" means to have bad table manners. Does it mean the same thing in your native language?

Use What You Learned

Get up from your seat. Find a person in your class who:

1. thinks he/she works like a dog.

(Name of student)

Example: You must ask "Do you think you work like a dog?" until you find someone who says "Yes." Then ask that person to sign his/her name in the space.

2. knows someone who's a rat.

(Name of student)

3. knows someone who eats like a pig.

(Name of student)

4. has a friend who's foxy.

(Name of student)

5. has a friend who's a turkey.

(Name of student)

