



ANIMAL IDIOMS

Read the sentences and try to guess the meaning of the **bold** idioms. Then match them to definitions A–O.

- 1 I **worked like a dog** on this project, so I hope I'm going to get the credit for it.
- 2 I told him what I thought of him but it's **like water off a duck's back** for him.
- 3 He was **like a fish out of water** when he left his small town and went to live in Los Angeles.
- 4 You *think* you've passed the test, but **don't count your chickens (before they hatch)**.
- 5 I decided to **take the bull by the horns** and went to see my boss.
- 6 When they divorced, Nick's wife got **the lion's share** of everything they owned.
- 7 Jim Phelps was a **dark horse** in the mayoral election, but he ended up winning.
- 8 I'm **in the doghouse** because I forgot our wedding anniversary.
- 9 He **made a real pig of himself** at the dinner. He had second helpings of everything.
- 10 When my car broke down at the end of such an awful day, it was really **the last straw** (that breaks the camel's back).
- 11 The company says they're not going to lay anyone off with the restructuring, but **I smell a rat**.
- 12 If we have the meeting in Salt Lake City, we can go and visit my mother at the same time and **kill two birds with one stone**.
- 13 My boss can seem kind of aggressive, but in fact **her bark is worse than her bite**.
- 14 After playing so badly he walked off **with his tail between his legs**.
- 15 I wouldn't bring up the subject again if I were you. I'd **let sleeping dogs lie**.

- A face a difficult situation directly and with courage
- B work very hard
- C not mention something that happened in the past to avoid arguments or problems
- D criticism doesn't affect him
- E manage to achieve two things by doing one action
- F a little-known participant in a competition who surprises everyone by winning
- G the largest or best part
- H not be *too* confident that something will be successful
- I eat and drink too much, be very greedy
- J the last in a series of bad events that makes you unable to accept the situation any longer
- K feeling ashamed, embarrassed, or unhappy because you have been defeated or punished
- L somebody (usually your partner) is annoyed with you about something
- M sb whose words are worse than their actions
- N think that sth is wrong or that sb is trying to deceive you
- O feel uncomfortable or awkward in unfamiliar surroundings

