



EYE on Animal Idioms



1) Choose the right answer a or b.

- If you have butterflies in your stomach,
a) you feel very nervous
b) you feel relaxed
- If you put/set the cat among the pigeons,
a) you achieve your goal
b) you cause trouble by doing or saying something
- If they say that you are a cold fish,
a) you are an unfriendly person
b) you are physically a very inactive person
- If you behave like a dog in the manger,
a) you are an important or powerful person
b) you are a spiteful and mean-spirited person
- If you are doing something for donkey's years,
a) you are doing it for a very short time
b) you are doing it for a very long time



2) Match the idioms with their definitions.

- at a snail's pace
 - smell a rat
 - buy a pig in a poke
 - when pigs fly
 - a lone wolf
 - a fly on the wall
 - kill two birds with one stone
- to buy s/th you don't know; to risk
 - a person who prefers to do things on his own
 - to achieve two useful things by just doing one action
 - very slowly
 - be suspicious
 - never
 - sb who would love to be present to see a secret event



3) Find and correct the mistakes in these sentences.

- Mary got tired and was looking forward to the end of the week, but it seemed to be going at a snail's step.
- Isn't it funny how you can still get butterflies in your stomach?
- Sam Watson is always very cynical, selfish and cold – a lonely wolf, I admit.
- I'd love to be a fly in the wall when Jeremy tells the boss about his resignation.
- The new economic reform put the cat between the pigeons. Now everyone is in the state of crisis.
- Kate was trying to finish her essay for her French class by the end of the week, but it all seemed to be going for donkey's ears.
- I have come to understand that Ted is the dog on the manger.



4) Complete the sentences with animal idioms. Words in the box can help you.

fish
donkey's
pig
birds
dog
pigs
rat

- Are you sure you are not buying _____?
- Alan is a real _____. Nobody can get along with him.
- Don't be such _____ and let your brother use your bike tomorrow.
- Sarah _____ when her boyfriend had his hair cut in a style that she never liked.
- I've been studying Chinese for _____.
- You can't kill _____ by working and living in one place.
- I'll believe Mark's story only when _____.

