

ANIMAL VERBS

1. Identify the animal characteristic reflected in the following idiomatic expressions:

(Behaving arrogantly or pompously / Working diligently and persistently / Repeating someone else's words or opinions without thinking critically / Avoiding or evading something, especially work or responsibility / Eating something quickly and voraciously / Pursuing relentlessly or harassing continuously)

a) John's been beavering away all day to get his room tidy before he leaves.

b) Ever since he got that promotion, he's been swanning around the office as if he owned the company.

c) You wolfed that down. I haven't finished eating my first course yet!

d) He always tries to duck out of anything that involves hard work.

e) The press have hounded him day and night ever since he broke the world 100-meter record.

f) He's just parroting what the teacher said. Hasn't he got his own views on the subject?

2. Match the animal verbs with their corresponding meanings:

- a) Hounded
- b) Swanning around
- c) Parroting
- d) Wolfed down
- e) Beavering away
- f) Duck out of

1. To work diligently and persistently _____

2. To behave arrogantly or pompously _____

3. To eat something quickly and voraciously _____

4. To avoid or evade something, especially work or responsibility _____

5. To pursue relentlessly or harass continuously _____

6. To repeat someone else's words or opinions without thinking critically _____

3. Use the animal verbs in sentences that reflect their meanings:

a) She's been _____ all day, trying to finish her project before the deadline.

b) Ever since his promotion, he's been _____ as if he's the boss.

c) You _____ your lunch! Slow down and enjoy your meal.

d) He always tries to _____ whenever there's hard work involved.

e) The paparazzi have _____ the celebrity ever since the scandal broke.

f) Instead of expressing his own thoughts, he's just _____ what the professor said.

4. Complete the sentences with the correct animal verbs:

- a) She's been _____ all night to finish her presentation for tomorrow.
- b) After winning the championship, he's been _____ with pride.
- c) He _____ of the meeting when he realized how much work it would involve.
- d) The journalists have _____ the politician for weeks for comments on the recent scandal.
- e) Instead of coming up with original ideas, he's just _____ what his colleagues say.

5. Rewrite the sentences using the animal verbs:

- a) She has been working diligently all night to finish her presentation for tomorrow.
- b) After winning the championship, he has been behaving arrogantly with pride.
- c) He has been avoiding the meeting when he realized how much work it would involve.
- d) The journalists have been pursuing the politician for weeks for comments on the recent scandal.
- e) Instead of coming up with original ideas, he has been repeating what his colleagues say.