

Всероссийская олимпиада школьников по английскому языку
Муниципальный этап

9 -11 form

Listening 1

Today we explain some expressions about birds. For example, if something is **for the birds**, it is worthless or not very interesting. Someone who **eats like a bird** eats very little. And a **birds-eye view** is a general look at an area from above.

Did you know that if you tell a young person about the **birds and the bees** you are explaining about sex and birth? Have you ever observed that **birds of a feather flock together**? In other words, people who are similar become friends or do things together. Here is some good advice: **a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush**. This means you should not risk losing something you have by trying to get more of something you do not have.

Sometimes I can do two things by performing only one action. This is called **killing two birds with one stone**. But I would never really kill any birds. I love all kinds of animals. This is a real **feather in my cap**. It is something to be proud of.

Most of the people I work with are **early birds**. They believe that **the early bird catches the worm**. They think that a person who gets up early in the morning for work has the best chance of success. Everyone in my office works hard, but some people have had their **wings clipped**. Their jobs have been limited. This is because the office is organized by **pecking order**. People with more years and experience are given more responsibility.

Some bird expressions are about crows, chickens and ducks. For example, when I am driving, I always travel **as the crow flies**. I go the most direct way. Anyone who **eats crow** has to admit a mistake or defeat.

Now let's talk about my sister. She is not very young. She is no **spring chicken**. She will work any job for **chicken feed** -- a small amount of money. She is easily frightened. For example, she is too **chicken-livered** to walk down a dark street alone at night. Often she will **chicken out** – she will not go out alone at night.

My sister was an **ugly duckling**. She looked strange when she was a child, but she grew up to be a beautiful woman. Sometimes she thinks too much about having something in the future before she really has it. She **counts her chickens before they are hatched**. Sometimes her **chickens come home to roost**. That means her actions or words cause trouble for her. However, my sister does not worry about what people say about her. Criticism falls off her **like water off a duck's back**.

Politicians are sometimes considered **lame ducks** after losing an election. They have little time left in office and not much power. Congress holds a **lame duck session** after an election. Important laws are not passed during this period.

Listening 2

It's almost spring. You know, the time when flowers bloom and birds sing. Ah birds...you know, that reminds me. In English, we have a lot of idioms about animals, and since it's almost spring, how about we take a look at some bird idioms! Are you ready? Let's check it out!

The first one is **a night owl**. A night owl is a bird and hunts at night. We use an idiom a night owl to talk about a person who likes to stay awake all night or very late in the night. For example, Jenny is **a night owl**. It's hard for her to wake up early. I was a night owl when I was in university, but these days I'm usually asleep by 11pm.

The next one is goosebumps. Goosebumps are small bumps that appear on your skin usually on your arms. This can happen when you're excited or very nervous. Here are some examples. That scary movie last night gave me **goosebumps**. I got goosebumps when I sat in the roller coaster seat for the first time.

Next is like water off a duck's back. Like water off a duck's back. Ducks have waterproof feathers on their backs and when they get wet the water falls right off. So, water doesn't bother a duck. If someone tries to speak badly to you or scolded you unnecessarily and it doesn't bother you, you can say that it's like water off a duck's back. For example, the bullies in school were teasing Johnny but it was like **water off a duck's back** because he's a strong willed boy. Even though the boss was yelling at me for missing my sales target, it was like water off a duck's back. I know I'm a good sales person. I just had a slow month.

Next is chicken. We call a person who is not very brave chicken. I'm not sure why that is, but maybe chickens aren't brave animals. You can say that someone is chicken as an adjective or someone is a chicken as a noun. There're some examples. It seems like Tommy was **too chicken** to ask that girl for a date. There is no way I'm going to ask the boss for a day off. I admit it. I'm a chicken.

The next one is to be free as a bird or as free as a bird. Birds can fly wherever they want. They're free. When someone is free as a bird it means that they're care free and don't have any responsibilities or attachments. For example, I just finished my final exams and turned in all of my papers, so I am **free as a bird**. Kathy finally broke up with her boyfriend, so she is as free as a bird. You should ask her out for a date.

And finally we have a word birdbrain. A birdbrain. The size of a birdbrain is pretty small, so we use the idiom birdbrain to talk about a person who is not very intelligent. You know their brain is the size of a bird's brain. For example, the new salesman in our office is a nice guy, but he is a bit of **a birdbrain**. I had to tell him three times how to log into the database system. Jenny's new boyfriend might be a good looking guy, but he's kind of a birdbrain.

Well, that's all English lessons for today.