

# ENGLISH

matters

DODATEK

53/2015



# IDIOMS & SIMILES

# ENGLISH

matters

## Language Guide

### poradnik językowy

Dear Readers!

Welcome to the summer *English Matters*' language guide. Summer is definitely not the time to be as sick as a dog. This is the season when everyone feels, or tries to be, as fit as a fiddle and as happy as a clam. Some of us do our best to be as light as a feather and as thin as a rake. In summer, each traveller or holiday maker makes new friends with whom they immediately feel as thick as thieves. When the sunny season draws to a close, though, it often turns out that those new pals and us are literally as different as chalk and cheese. Fortunately, friends may come and go, but *English Matters*' language guide may be in your pocket, backpack or suitcase both in summer and in winter. What is more, when you learn all the similes described in it you'll definitely feel as proud as a peacock.

**to do one's best** | dawać z siebie wszystko

**feather** 'feðə(r) / 'feðər | piórko, pióro

**rake** | grabie

**holiday maker** | urlopowicz

**thief** | złodziej

**to draw to a close** | zbliżać się ku końcowi

**to turn out** | okazywać się

**pal** | pot. kumpel

**literally** | dosłownie

**chalk** | kreda

**fortunately** | na szczęście

**to come and go** | *tu:* przychodzić i odchodzić

**backpack** | plecak

**suitcase** | walizka

**simile** 'sɪməli | porównanie

**peacock** | paw

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**Poradnik językowy** jest bezpłatnym dodatkiem do *English Matters* nr 53/2015.

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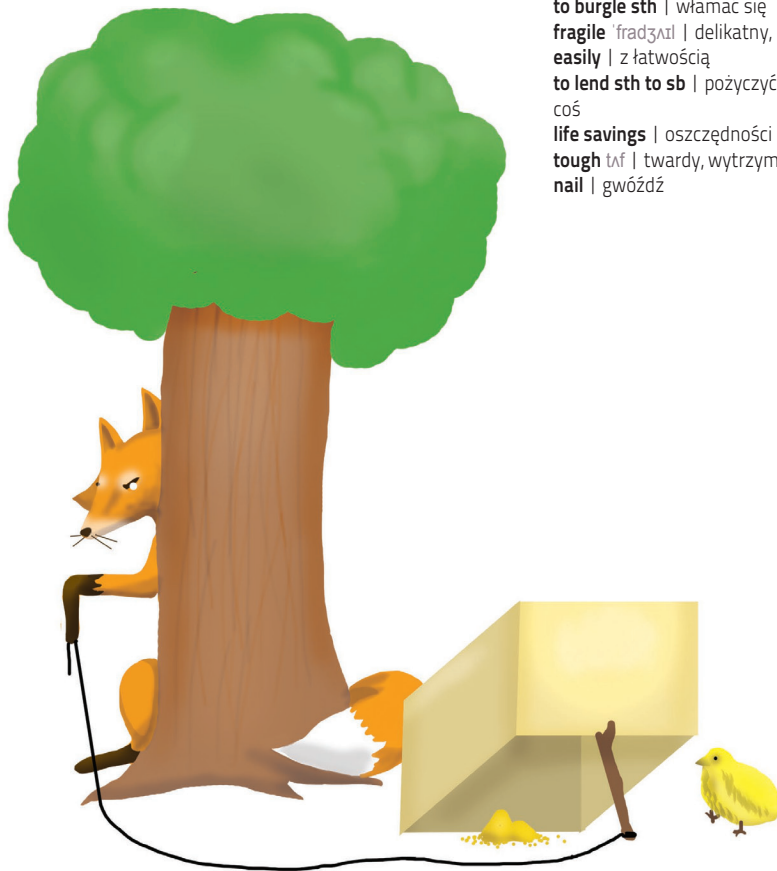
Ilustracja na okładce: moodboard

## as cunning as a fox

very smart, sly and clever; being able to get what you want often by tricking others

- Although the thief burgled two houses in the same night, he hasn't been caught yet. He must be as cunning as a fox.
- Be careful! Mary seems very naive and fragile, but she is as cunning as a fox and will easily trick you into lending her your life savings.
- It is not easy to win an election. That's why it is believed that a politician needs to be as cunning as a fox and as tough as nails.

cunning | chytry, przebiegły  
 sly | przebiegły, cwany  
 to trick sb | oszukiwać kogoś  
 to burgle sth | włamać się  
 fragile 'fradzajl | delikatny, kruchy  
 easily | z łatwością  
 to lend sth to sb | pożyczyć komuś  
 coś  
 life savings | oszczędności życia  
 tough tʌf | twardy, wytrzymały  
 nail | gwóźdź



## as proud as a peacock

excessively proud; having very high self-esteem

- She strutted along the catwalk, proud as a peacock.
- Don't make a move on him. He is as dull as ditchwater and as proud as a peacock.
- In this photograph, you look as proud as a peacock.

**excessively** | nadmiernie, przesadnie

**self-esteem** | samoocena

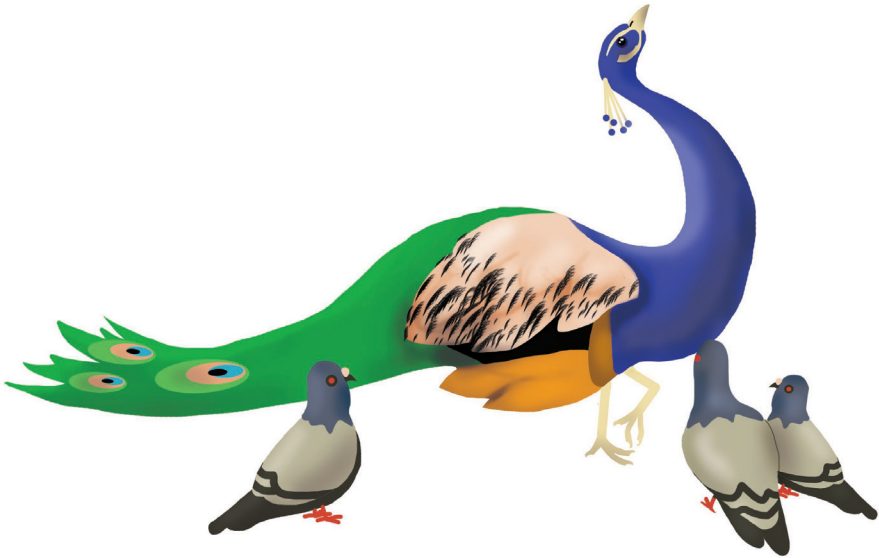
**to strut** | dumnie stąpać/kroczyć

**catwalk** | wybieg (dla modelek)

**to make a move on sb** | podrywać kogoś

**dull** | nudny, tępy

**ditchwater** | woda w rowie





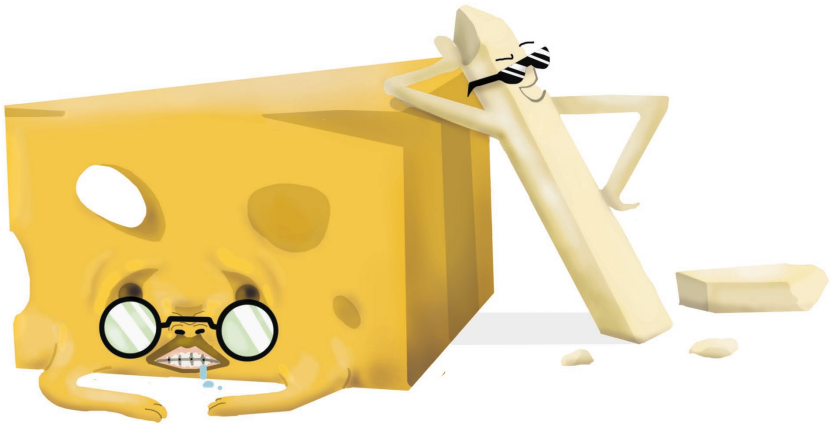
## as different as chalk and cheese

### completely different

- Although they are as different as chalk and cheese, we are keeping our fingers crossed for their marriage.
- Dorian is Peter's twin brother, but you'll be surprised when you get to know him. They are both as different as chalk and cheese.
- They are the same age, but they are as different as chalk and cheese.

to keep one's fingers crossed for sb | trzymać za kogoś kciuki

twin brother | brat bliźniak



## as light as a feather

extremely light in terms of weight and texture

- This time your luggage is as light as a feather. That's a surprise!
- This apple pie is as light as a feather.
- Owing to my last diet, I'm as light as a feather.



in terms of X | pod względem X

weight *wert* | waga

texture | *tu:* budowa

luggage | bagaż

apple pie | szarlotka, jabłecznik

owing to sth | z powodu czegoś

## to be as thick as thieves

to be close friends; to share secrets with each other

- *You'll never come between them. They are as thick as thieves.*
- *Why did you tell her about the merger? Janet and Joel have known each other for years; they are as thick as thieves. No doubt, she'll tell him everything she knows.*
- *I'll miss you. We've always been as thick as thieves.*

to share sth with sb | dzielić się z kimś czymś  
merger | fuzja





## to be as thin as a rake

extremely thin

- *She's as thin as a rake from all the stress she's been exposed to at her new school.*
- *He must be ill. He's constantly tired. His complexion is sallow and he's as thin as a rake.*
- *You can almost see through her. The girl is as thin as a rake.*

**to be exposed to sth** | być na coś narażonym

**constantly** | ciągle, bezustannie

**complexion** | karnacja

**sallow** | ziemisty

**to see through sth/sb** | patrzeć przez coś/kogoś (na wylot)



## as sick as a dog

very sick

- *She is as sick as a dog. What did she eat yesterday?*
- *If we eat in this dive, we'll be as sick as a dog.*
- *I've been sick as a dog since I ate the lasagne.*

dive | pot. speluna



## as fit as a fiddle

very healthy; in good health

- *My son has always been as fit as a fiddle.*
- *After you take this medicine, you'll feel as fit as a fiddle again.*
- *I wish I was as fit as a fiddle and not such a sickly creature.*

fit | sprawny

fiddle | *pot. skrzypce*

medicine | lekarstwo

sickly | chorowity



## as drunk as a lord

completely drunk

- *He mustn't drive. He is as drunk as a lord.*
- *Each Saturday, my neighbour comes home as drunk as a lord.*
- *I'm not going to put up with you being as drunk as a lord.*

neighbour | sąsiad

to put up with sb | znosić kogoś



## as dull as ditchwater

very boring and uninteresting

- *My history teacher is as dull as ditchwater.*
- *His presentation was as dull as ditchwater.*
- *No wonder no one talks to her. She is as dull as ditchwater.*



## as happy as a clam

very happy; delighted

- *I was as happy as a clam when I learnt I had hit the jackpot.*
- *The final decision hasn't been announced yet. If I win, I'll be as happy as a clam!*
- *He was as happy as a clam when he finally put aside enough money to buy a motorbike.*

clam | małż

delighted | zachwycony

to hit the jackpot | wygrać na loterii

announced | ogłoszony, obwieszczony

to put aside | zaoszczędzić



## as cool as a cucumber

very calm; showing no emotions, surprise

- Although Chris was totally shocked when he heard the news, he remained as cool as a cucumber and didn't let anyone notice what he really felt.
- – How did she do at the interview?  
– She was as cool as a cucumber.
- He pointed the gun at me – cool as a cucumber.

cucumber 'kju:kʌmbə | ogórek

to remain | pozostawać



## as scarce as hen's teeth

exceptionally rare; almost impossible to find

- Such beautiful flats at such a low price are as scarce as hen's teeth. How did you find it?
- Those spiders are as scarce as hen's teeth. Did you bring them (spiders) from Australia?
- This coin is as scarce as hen's teeth. If you sell it, you'll have enough money to pay off your debts.

**scarce** | znikomy, rzadki

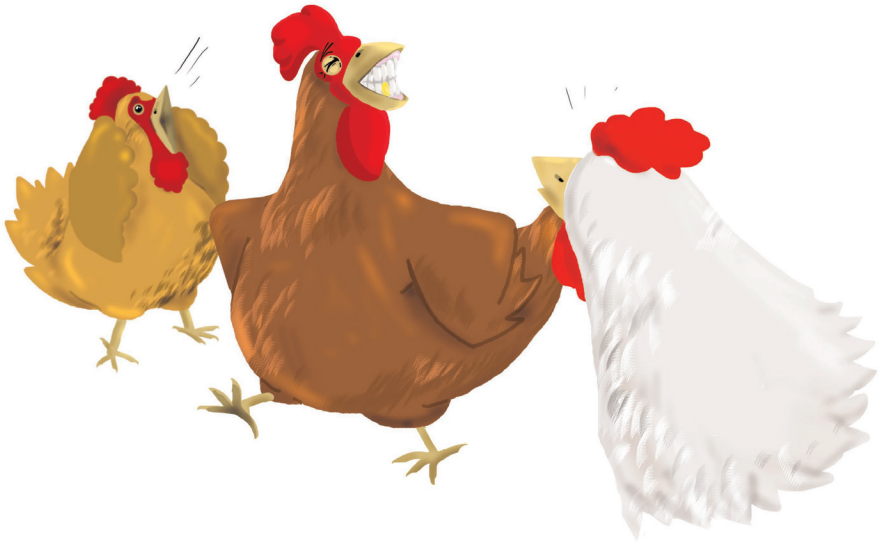
**rare** re: | rzadki

**flat** | mieszkanie

**coin** | moneta

**to pay off sth** | spłacać coś

**debt** det | dług





| English                          | Polish  |
|----------------------------------|---|
| as cunning as a fox              | chytry/przebiegły jak lis                                       |
| as proud as a peacock            | dumny jak paw   |
| as tough/hard as nails           | twardy jak skała  |
| as different as chalk and cheese | jak niebo i ziemia; być podobnym jak dzień do nocy              |
| as light as a feather            | lekki jak piórko  |
| to be as thick as thieves        | znać się jak łyse konie   |
| to be as thin as a rake          | być chudym jak szczapa/patyk                                    |
| as sick as a dog                 | bardzo chory; być bardzo chorym i wymiotować                    |
| as fit as a fiddle               | zdrów jak ryba  |
| as drunk as a lord               | pijany jak bela; pijany jak szewc                               |
| as dull as ditchwater            | nudny jak flaki z olejem  |
| as happy as a clam               | być bardzo szczęśliwym; nie posiadać się ze szczęścia/z radości |
| as cool as a cucumber            | zachowywać stoicki spokój                                       |
| as scarce as hen's teeth         | biały kruk  |

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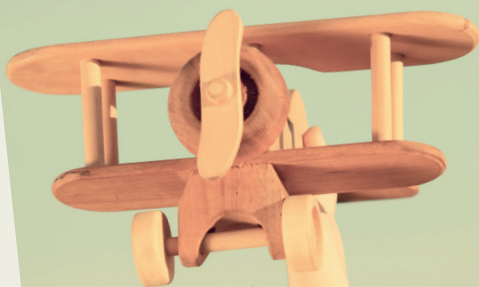
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