

Subject: Animal Kingdom**I. Match the animal with the correct idiom.**

1. ducks
2. horse
3. elephant
4. crocodile
5. dogs

- a. go to the ...
- b. ... in the room
- c. ... tears
- d. get your ... in a row
- e. flog a dead ...

II. Match the idioms from exercise I to their meaning.

1. to make all the arrangements needed to do something
2. a topic everyone is aware of, but nobody wants to discuss
3. insincere expression of sorrow
4. to waste time on a lost cause
5. to deteriorate rapidly

Answer key:
1. get your ducks in a row;
2. elephant in the room;
3. crocodile tears;
4. flog a dead horse;
5. go to the dogs

Answer key:
1. d; 2. e; 3. b; 4. c; 5. a

III. Each of the below idiom pairs refer to the same animal. Choose the correct animal.

1. to cry ... - to ask for help when it's not necessary
lone ... - a person who prefers to be alone
2. raining ... and dogs – raining heavily; pouring
to let the ... out of the bag – to reveal a secret
3. to fight like a ... - to fight fiercely, with great bravery
... share – the biggest part of something
4. a dark... - an unexpected winner
don't look a gift ... in the mouth – accept gifts without questioning their quality or value
5. a wolf in ... clothing – someone or something that appears to be good, but turns out to be bad
a black ... - a person who doesn't fit a group

Answer key:
1. wolf; 2. cats, cat; 3. lion, lion's;
4. horse; 5. sheep's, sheep

IV. Replace the underlined words and expressions with their synonyms.

upsets | suspicious | getting worse | take the matter into your own hands | avoid

- This area is (1.) going to the dogs. I pay so much in rent for such a small apartment. There's not enough room to swing a cat!
- It's a good apartment for a lone wolf... If it (2.) bothers you so much, (3.) take the bull by the horns and search the web for a better offer.
- It's flogging a dead horse. This is the best offer I could find. There were some nice apartments available in the area, but the landlords seemed (4.) fishy. They tried to (5.) weasel out of answering detailed questions.
- Well, I agree there's a lot of monkey business going on on the housing market right now.

Answer key:
1. getting worse;
2.; upsets;
3. take the matter into your own hands;
4. suspicious;
5. avoid

V. Find one mistake in each sentence and correct it.

1. If you happen to have a relative who is just out of prison after serving five years for money ironing, the chances are that he or she is the black sheep in your family.
2. Nowadays, the idiom applies to both men and women whose behaviour is considered a loof.
3. People called eager beavers is thought to be diligent and industrious, not afraid of putting their backs into their work.
4. It is a whip with nine lashes that was often used in the British Army to meet out punishment to offenders.
5. In this day and age, we may ask for a doggy bag in a restaurant to take un finished food away for ourselves.

Answer Key:
1. ironing – laundering;
2. a loof – a loof;
3. is – are;
4. meet - mete
5. un finished – unfinished