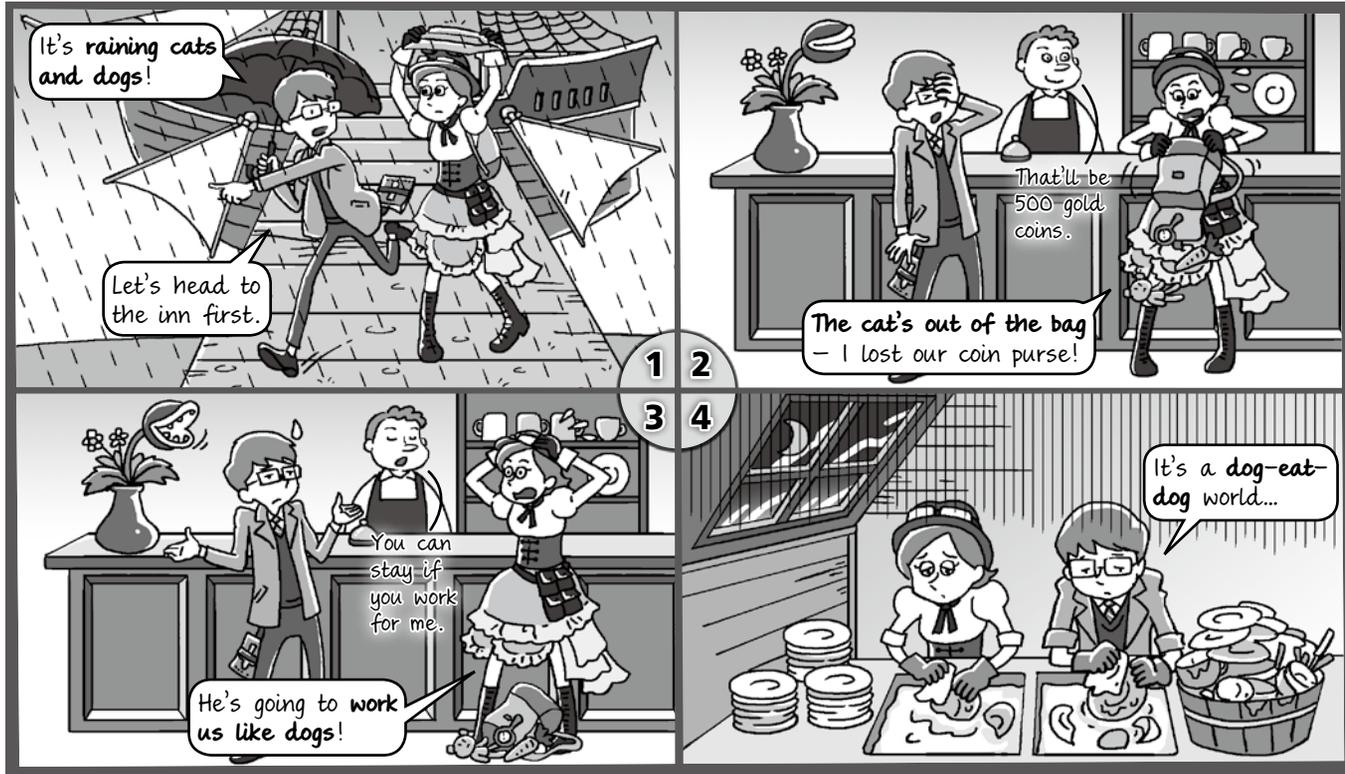


Dogs and cats



Guess the meaning

Guess the meaning of the idioms used in the comic by drawing a line to connect them to their definition. One of the definitions is not used.

A. Raining cats and dogs ●

B. The cat's out of the bag ●

C. Work one like a dog ●

D. Dog-eat-dog ●

1. The secret has been revealed

2. To be very unlucky

3. Very harsh

4. To work very hard

5. It is raining heavily

The Idiom Book

Raining cats and dogs



What it means:
Raining heavily

Example:
The weather was great yesterday, but today it's **raining cats and dogs**.

The cat's (cat is) out of the bag



What it means:
The secret is out or has been revealed

Example:
Dad found his birthday present hidden under your pillow, so **the cat's out of the bag**.

Work like a dog / Work one like a dog



What it means:
Work very hard / Be made to work very hard (Note: The second definition is only when 'work' is followed by the subject)

Example:
I **worked like a dog** when I was a waiter at that restaurant. / Our boss **worked us like dogs**.

Dog-eat-dog



What it means:
Very harsh or is a competitive environment (Note: Used like an adjective, so 'eat' is never conjugated)

Example:
I've heard that only hard workers can succeed in our **dog-eat-dog** football team.

Cat got your tongue



What it means:
Unable to speak

Example:
He had practised his speech over and over, but when he went on stage the **cat got his tongue**.

Fat cat



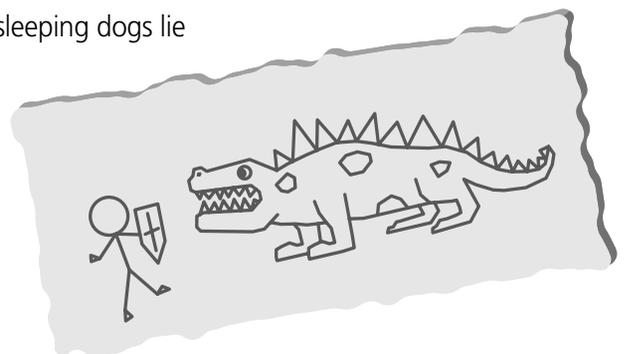
What it means:
A wealthy, powerful person who may not deserve to be

Example:
Those **fat cats** would rather spend their money on a tenth sports car than donate to those in need.

Test your understanding

A. Choose the correct idioms that can replace the **bolded** words.

1. He won't do well in that **competitive** class if he studies so little.
 A. dog-eat-dog B. fat cat C. nine lives
2. Our star player was **very pleased** after she scored the winning goal.
 A. a far cry B. cat got his tongue C. like a dog with two tails
3. Carly must think she **is extremely lucky** if she's willing to touch that giant snake.
 A. is letting dogs lie B. has nine lives C. is raining cats and dogs
4. I would run away from a giant snake **immediately**.
 A. in a far cry B. working like a dog C. in a heartbeat
5. Travelling by aeroplane is **very different** from crossing the ocean by ship.
 A. out of the bag B. a dog with two tails C. a far cry
6. Dad found out that you failed the test, so **the secret is out**.
 A. the cat is out of the bag B. it is puppy love
 C. the cat got his tongue
7. Rosie is already bothered by you being late; you'd better **not purposely upset her**.
 A. work like a dog B. let sleeping dogs lie C. have nine lives
8. It's really unfair how those **(i) wealthy people (ii) make their staff work very hard** while they themselves don't do anything.
(i) A. fat cats B. love puppies
 C. two-tailed dogs
(ii) A. treat their staff like cats B. let sleeping dogs lie
 C. work their staff like dogs



**Real talk**

What if somebody said these things to you? Select a response to each statement on the left from the answers on the right. Write the letter of your chosen response in the space provided.

1.

'Bring an umbrella, it's raining cats and dogs!'

A. 'Actually, it's raining water.'

B. 'An umbrella won't protect us from falling cats and dogs.'

C. 'I can go get it now, but we can also wait for the rain to get weaker.'

2.

'I've been working like a dog recently.'

A. 'What's so hard about lying around like a dog all day?'

B. 'That's terrible. Let me treat you to dinner some time.'

C. 'I'll call the Labour Department to inform them of worker abuse.'

3.

'You were like a dog with two tails when you got full marks on the test!'

A. 'I'm happy all my studying paid off.'

B. 'What did you call me?'

C. 'There's no such thing as a dog with two tails.'

4.

'George is still angry; you should just let sleeping dogs lie.'

A. 'George is a liar and I was right to call him one.'

B. 'Stop comparing our friends to dogs.'

C. 'Yeah, I should probably leave George alone for now.'

Step 2 Before you read the following passage, copy the answers you wrote on the previous page into the blanks. Make sure to match the answers to the blanks by number. Then, read out the story to see how silly (or serious) it has become!

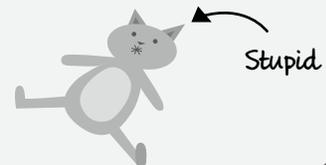
 Carly's Diary

Dear diary,

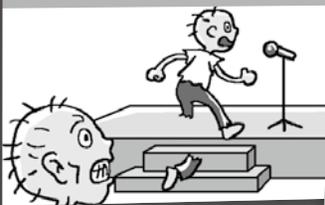
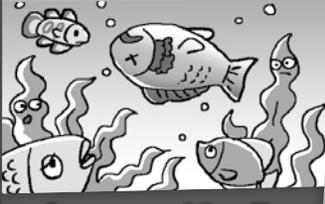
Today was day ① _____ of our airship trip to Ibis. I'm so bored! I wish we could arrive already. Dami isn't bored though. In fact, he's been **like a dog with two tails**, playing with the ② _____ he brought with him. I want to ③ _____ his ② _____ when he's not looking, but I should probably **let sleeping dogs lie**.

As you know, we share our room in the ship with a **fat cat** ④ _____. Something pretty silly happened between us today, during lunchtime. When the stewardess came with the food cart, I was so ⑤ _____ to see that she brought us ⑥ _____ again. Dami started eating his ⑥ _____ quietly, but the ④ _____ said 'a picky eater like you won't survive in this **dog-eat-dog** world' to me! In response I threw my ⑥ _____ at him. The food fight had begun!

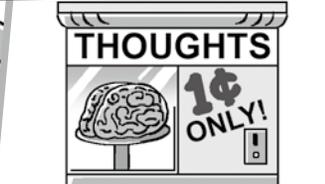
Dami tried to stay out of it, but **in a heartbeat** I grabbed him to use as a shield to block the ⑦ _____ tossed at me. Next the guy tried to spill his ⑧ _____ on me, but I was able to block it all (using Dami). Unluckily for him, I learned how to throw ⑨ _____ at a speed of ⑩ _____ kilometres per hour during my time in the army. I threw my ⑪ _____ at him with all my strength, but he somehow got out of the way in time – some people just **have nine lives**! My ⑪ _____ flew past him and shattered the ⑫ _____ into a million pieces! The stewardess rushed in after she heard the noise. Fortunately, my opponent realized we could all get in trouble and lied that the ⑫ _____ fell apart by itself. Thank goodness he didn't **let the cat out of the bag**.



Body parts and appearance (p.61)

 <p>Looking slim Frank</p>			 <p>I hear you</p>
A bag of bones	Have seen better days	Under one's nose	Be all ears
			
Break a leg	Cold feet	Get one's feet wet	Get (something) off one's chest
	 <p>Suzy is going out with Frank</p>		
Green around the gills	Word of mouth	Out of the frying pan into the fire	It's a long story

Arguments and enemies (p.75)

			 <p>Give me the cookies</p> <p>No</p>
Get one's knickers in a twist	A penny for your thoughts	Hate one's guts	Over one's dead body
			
A chip on one's shoulder	Add fuel to the fire	Drive a hard bargain	Make a mountain out of a molehill
		 <p>How could you</p>	
Rub it in	Split hairs	Stab someone in the back	Swim against the tide