

Famous (animal) Proverbs

To be a rare bird

(essere speciali, importanti.)

To go to bed with the chickens

(andare a letto molto presto)

To be a dark horse

(persona che sa nascondere bene le cose.)

To be in the doghouse

(essere nei guai o in punizione)

Like a cat on a hot tin roof

(essere molto nervosi)

As poor as a church mouse

(essere molto poveri)

A paper tiger

(essere fifoni)

The black sheep of the family

(distinguersi, in senso negativo)

To juggle frogs

(compiere un'azione difficile)

EXAMPLES

He always says that I am a rare bird.

I can never talk with Tom at night, it seems like he goes to bed with chickens

I didn't know you could cook so well, you are a real dark horse!

Alisha didn't come home until 3 a.m., so now she is in the doghouse.

My mum was like a cat on a hot tin roof the first time she had to meet my dad's parents

Bob gave the child some money, because he seemed as poor as a church mouse.

When we had to climb the mountain, Tiffany turned out to be a paper tiger

I didn't invite my sister to my wedding; she is the black sheep of the family!

That doctor is operating on three patients at the same time in the emergency: we could say that he is juggling frogs.

A bull in a china shop

(persona molto maldestra che causa danni)

She asked him to give her an injection, but he was like a bull in a china shop!

Hold your horses

(aspetta un po'! Non avere fretta.)

I'll be ready soon, so hold your horses!

Birds of a feather flock together

(i simili si attraggono)

Thanks to their passion for art now they are married. It's true that birds of a feather flock together.

To feel like a fish out of water

(sentirsi a disagio)

Everyone was talking in German and I couldn't understand a word. I felt like a fish out of water.

Donkey's years

(passano tanti anni)

I haven't seen him for donkey's years!

To have a cow

(innervosirsi, spesso per nulla)

Tomorrow I have my final exam; I'm having a cow right now!

A foxy woman

(donna molto attraente)

In my opinion, all those models are foxy women!

To be the cat's whiskers

(essere il meglio del meglio)

David thinks he is the cat's whiskers

A fat cat

(molto ricchi e potenti, capitani dell'industria)

Most fat cats don't care about the workers.

