

TLP Business English Newsletter 2020 SERIES – Idioms Special



Idioms of character

We love idioms of character and in particular when they are related to animals! Please find our top 15 here.

- 1)To have ants in your pants. To be very restless.
- 2) Bark worse than bite. To pretend to be tough but are not really.
- **3)** To be like a bear with a sore head. *To be grumpy.*
- 4) To be like a bull in a china shop. To be clumsy.
- 5) To have the heart of a lion. *To be courageous/brave.*
- 6) A cold fish. To have no passion, feeling.
- 7) To be as sly/crafty as a fox. To be very intelligent but not for good purposes.
- 8) A black sheep. To be a disgrace to the family.
- 9) To eat like a horse. To be greedy.
- **10)** Mutton dressed (up) as lamb. *To dress like someone much younger!*
- **11)** To be like a rabbit in the headlights. *To be paralysed with fear*.
- **12)** A wolf in sheep's clothing. *To be nasty but to pretend to be nice.*
- 13) To be a chicken. To be a coward.
- 14) To be an early bird. To like getting up early.
- 15) To be a night owl. To come to life at night!

How do you react in a crisis!

Do you bury your head in the sand and pretend everything is normal? Do you have nerves of steel and face danger fearlessly! Are you likely to fly off the handle and get very annoyed with just the slightest provocation or are you as cool as a cucumber despite the stress around you.

"Life is what happens to you while you are busy making other plans." Lyrics in John Lennon song Beautiful boy/darling boy

Vince Lombardi

Legendary American Football coach Vince



Lombardi led the Green Bay Packers to five NFL Championships and 2 Super Bowls in the 1960s. He was a famous tough talker but I think has produced some inspirational quotes.

"It is not whether we get knocked down, it is whether you get up."
"The only place success comes before work is in the dictionary."

"Luck is what happens when preparation meets opportunity". (Used by Vince Lombardi)

There is a lot of anxiety/fear for all of us. Some helpful idioms describing this state.

- 1) My heart was in my mouth/missed a beat.
- 2) I was a bundle of nerves.
- 3) I had butterflies in my stomach.
- 4) I was on the edge of my seat.
- 5) My blood ran cold.