

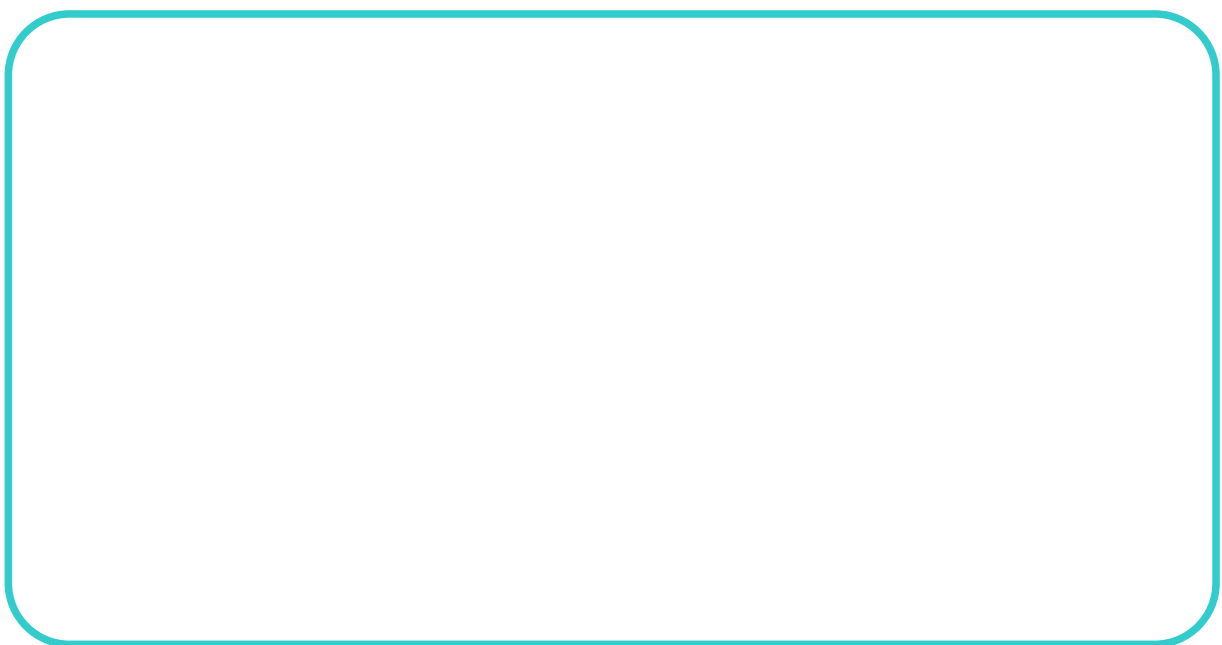
**Task 1**

Do you know the expression *It's raining cats and dogs*?

Draw a picture below to show the image created by the expression.



Now draw a picture to show what the expression really means.



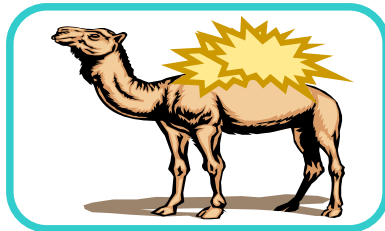
*It's raining cats and dogs* is an **idiom**: a commonly used expression whose real meaning is different from the meaning of the actual words.

## Task 2

Discuss the possible meanings of each **idiom**. Then match the *meanings* on the right to the **idioms**.



When she heard she'd won, she was **as pleased as a dog with two tails**.



The fact that it started raining was **the final straw that broke the camel's back**.



His comment really **put the cat among the pigeons**.



He rushed into the debate **like a bull in a china shop**.

*clumsy or tactless*

*to cause trouble*

*very pleased with oneself*

*the last problem that makes everything impossible to cope with*

Task 3

Try to guess the **idiom** from the picture and the meaning. Then match the **idioms** on the right to the pictures.



*a very hard life*

Sally could **talk the hind legs off a donkey**.



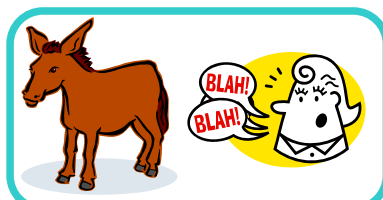
*the largest part of something*

**A:** I had to get up at seven o'clock last Saturday.  
**B:** Oh, it's a **dog's life**!



*someone who goes to bed late*

My dad was growling **like a bear with a sore head**.



*to be very talkative*

At Christmas, my little sister always gets **the lion's share** of the presents.



*very annoyed*

**A:** Do you always go to bed that late?  
**B:** Yes, I'm a bit of a **night owl**.

### Task 4

Discuss the **idioms** and their *meanings*. Then illustrate the **idioms** in the boxes provided.

What's the matter? You look **like a cat on hot bricks!**

*very nervous*

When she heard she'd won, she looked like **the cat that's got the cream.**

*very pleased with oneself*

I thought *Take That* were **as dead as a dodo!**

*dead, extinct or out-of-date*

What's happened to you? You **look like a drowned rat!**

*Appear to be very wet and uncomfortable*

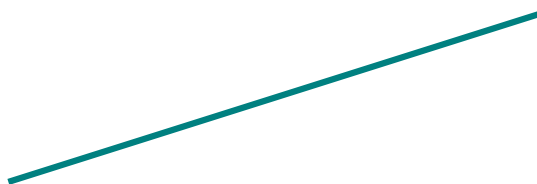
When I broke the window my dad **gave me such a flea in the ear.**

*a telling off*

## Task 5

Match the **idioms** on the right with their *meanings*. The first one has been done for you.

1. <i>a telling off</i>
2. <i>someone who goes to bed late</i>
3. <i>very pleased with oneself</i>
4. <i>the last problem that makes everything impossible to cope with</i>
5. <i>to cause trouble</i>
6. <i>clumsy or tactless</i>
7. <i>very annoyed</i>
8. <i>dead, extinct or out-of-date</i>
9. <i>a hard life</i>
10. <i>to look very wet or uncomfortable</i>
11. <i>very nervous</i>
12. <i>the largest part of something</i>
13. <i>to be very talkative</i>



a. like the cat that's got the cream
b. put the cat among the pigeons
c. like a bull in a china shop
d. the lion's share
e. a flea in the ear
f. look like a drowned rat
g. like a bear with a sore head
h. talk the hind legs off a donkey
i. a night owl
j. as dead as a dodo
k. a dog's life
l. the final straw
m. like a cat on hot bricks

## Answers

## Task 2:

as pleased as a dog with two tails	<i>very pleased with oneself</i>
the final straw that broke the camel's back	<i>the last problem that makes everything impossible to cope with</i>
put the cat among the pigeons	<i>to cause trouble</i>
like a bull in a china shop	<i>clumsy or tactless</i>

## Task 3:

<i>a very hard life</i>	<b>a dog's life</b>
<i>the largest part of something</i>	<b>the lion's share</b>
<i>someone who goes to bed late</i>	<b>a night owl</b>
<i>to be very talkative</i>	<b>talk the hind legs off a donkey</b>
<i>very annoyed</i>	<b>like a bear with a sore head</b>

## Task 4:

1. <i>a telling off</i>	<b>e. a flea in the ear</b>
2. <i>someone who goes to bed late</i>	<b>i. a night owl</b>
3. <i>very pleased with oneself</i>	<b>a. like the cat that's got the cream</b>
4. <i>the last problem that makes everything impossible to cope with</i>	<b>l. the final straw</b>
5. <i>to cause trouble</i>	<b>b. put the cat among the pigeons</b>
6. <i>clumsy or tactless</i>	<b>c. like a bull in a china shop</b>
7. <i>very annoyed</i>	<b>g. like a bear with a sore head</b>
8. <i>dead, extinct or out-of-date</i>	<b>j. as dead as a dodo</b>
9. <i>a hard life</i>	<b>k. a dog's life</b>
10. <i>to look very wet or uncomfortable</i>	<b>f. look like a drowned rat</b>
11. <i>very nervous</i>	<b>m. like a cat on hot bricks</b>
12. <i>the largest part of something</i>	<b>d. the lion's share</b>
13. <i>to be very talkative</i>	<b>h. talk the hind legs off a donkey</b>