

BIRD IDIOMS AND EXPRESSIONS

idiom	meaning	example
a little bird told me	you hear something from someone	A little bird told me that Hayley wants a pony for Christmas.
as dead as a dodo	dead and lifeless	My phone is as dead as a dodo, I took loads of videos of the concert.
as free as a bird	you can do whatever you like, you have no ties	Sally is as free as a bird. She goes on holiday whenever she feels like it.
as the crow flies	a straight direct route	We live 4 miles from the airport as the crow flies.
bird's eye view	see something from above	I'd love a helicopter ride over the Grand Canyon. The bird's eye view would be amazing.
birdbrain	a silly or stupid person	Don't invite that bird-brained idiot Rodney. I want to make a good impression.
birds of a feather flock together	people are friends with like-minded people	My friend is out of jail, but he still hangs around with criminals.
chicken out	decide not to do something because you are afraid	The boy chickened out of throwing a pen at the teacher.
culture vulture	someone who is interested in art, music, theatre etc.	Rupert is a culture vulture. He'll probably go to the theatre with you.
eagle-eyed	a very observant person	The mother kept an eagle-eye on her son to make sure he didn't try to escape.
go cold turkey	completely stop taking a substance	I've quit smoking. It was easy, I just went cold turkey.
goosebumps	bumps on the skin due to fear, excitement, or the cold	Take the kids in and give them a hot chocolate. They've got goosebumps.

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lame duck	useless, ineffective	All my boyfriends turn out to be lame ducks.
live in cloud cuckoo land	a fantasy land	You're living in cloud cuckoo land if you think your wife will take you back.
lovely weather for ducks	wet/rainy weather	It's lovely weather for ducks but sadly not for the beach.
night owl	someone who stays up late and/or prefers to work at night	I'll start revising tonight, I'm a night owl.
one swallow doesn't make a summer	one good result doesn't mean a good overall situation	Sales were up 5% on last month, but one swallow doesn't make a summer.
put the cat among the pigeons	do something that will cause trouble/a disturbance	I won't tell Sarah I saw Tim with another woman, I don't want to put the cat among the pigeons.
sitting duck	an easy target	The soldiers ran out of bullets, they were sitting ducks for the enemy.
spring chicken	a young person	Helen is still a spring chicken; she has plenty of time to have kids.
swan around	walk around thinking you're the best	I wish someone would punch Cara. She's always swanning around like she's the queen.
swan in	arrive without a care in the world	He finally swanned in around midnight stinking of booze. I didn't even get an apology.
swan off	leave/escape your duties	I'd love to have Kirsty's lifestyle. She just swans off on holiday whenever she feels like it.
swansong	the final act/performance/activity of a person's career	We need to get tickets to the tour, it's their swansong.

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take to something like a duck to water	have a natural ability	Hayley has taken to motherhood like a duck to water. She is a natural.
the birds and the bees	sex education	My dad is talking to my little brother about the birds and the bees.
watch like a hawk	watch very closely	Money has been going missing from our charity box. I'm watching everyone like a hawk.
water off a duck's back	insults, criticism etc. have no effect on a person	All the criticism is like water off a duck's back to Henry. He just tries even harder.
wild goose chase	search for something that often doesn't exist	Let's send the apprentice on a wild goose chase for a left-handed screwdriver.
wouldn't say boo to a goose	a shy person	I can't believe he is a drug dealer! He wouldn't say boo to a goose when he was younger.

