

HORSE IDIOMS AND EXPRESSIONS

idiom	meaning	example
as stubborn as a mule	an extremely obstinate/stubborn person	Dean won't come out; he's made up his mind. He's as stubborn as a mule.
back the wrong horse	make the wrong decision/support the losing side	I lost £2000 this morning on the stock market. I backed the wrong horse.
clothes horse	an indoor frame to hang wet clothes on	I hate having no garden. I prefer a washing line than a clothes horse.
dark horse	an unknown competitor or a person who keeps their talents secret	The dark horse, Duke Runalot beat the favourites to win the race.
don't look a gift horse in the mouth	don't be ungrateful, graciously accept gifts	I know you shouldn't look a gift horse in the mouth, but I really can't accept £500.
eat like a horse	eat a lot	I need to increase my son's rent. He eats like a horse.
flog a dead horse	continue to focus on something that isn't going to be a success	Stop flogging a dead horse. Ciara doesn't want to be with you, stop pestering her.
get off one's high horse	stop acting like you are better than others	My sister needs to get off her high horse. She can't lecture me about skiving school.
hold your horses	wait and be patient before doing something	Hold your horses. I need to read the contract in detail before I sign anything.
one trick pony	someone who is skilled/successful in one area	Reed is more than just a one trick pony; he can score and defend.

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one-horse town	a small boring town	I left the one-horse town I was born in and moved to a big city.
put the cart before the horse	do things in the wrong order	They are spending money before they've earned it. They're putting the cart before the horse.
straight from the horse's mouth	hear something from the source/most reliable person	I don't believe you. I need to hear it straight from the horse's mouth.
two-horse race	a competition where there are only two teams/candidates with a chance of winning	The election is turning into a two-horse race.
wild horses wouldn't...	nothing would stop you from doing something	I'll stay at the rave until the end. Wild horses wouldn't drag me away.

