

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

ANIMALS & BIRDS

ENGLISH IDIOM – ARE YOU CHICKEN?

- Watch the **YouTube** video (2:33) and fill in the missing words.



Easy English Conversation presents ... “Are You Chicken?” In English, calling someone a chicken doesn’t have a very good meaning. When you call someone a chicken, it means that they are afraid to do **(1)**_____ that most people are NOT afraid to do. **(2)**_____ word for this is “coward.” In English, you can say, “You’re a chicken” Or you can just say, “You’re chicken!” Here, “chicken” is used like an adjective. “You’re afraid!” or “You’re chicken!” So, for **(3)**_____, “Look! John’s afraid to jump into the water! He’s chicken!” What can you say if someone calls you a chicken? “No, I’m NOT chicken,” and then you might jump into the water to **(4)**_____ that you’re not chicken. Or, you might just give an excuse. “No, I’m NOT chicken. But I have to go home now to do my homework. I have lots of homework. I have to go now. Bye.” The **(5)**_____ of being a chicken is being **(6)**_____. Where does this idiom come from? It comes from chickens that usually run away from people. I mean, have you ever tried to catch a chicken? I’ve never tried it, but it looks almost **(7)**_____ ! I guess that’s **(8)**_____ ! When people catch chickens, it’s because they want to eat them! Sometimes, it’s okay to call your good friend a chicken. As a kind of **(9)**_____. But, if you call someone a chicken, and you don’t know that person very well, that person is probably gonna get **(10)**_____ .

FUN FACT: There are about (A) 9 / (B) 19 / (C) 90 billion chickens in the world!

Aim Listening and Reading practice / Learning an idiom

Level Intermediate

Video 2 minutes 33 seconds <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oiW-BUpY7Go>

ANSWER KEY

(1) something, (2) Another, (3) example, (4) show, (5) opposite,
(6) brave, (7) impossible, (8) understandable, (9) joke, (10) angry

FUN FACT: There are about **(B) 19** billion chickens in the world.

ACTIVITY NOTES

1.

As a fun way to get things started, begin your lesson by asking how many chickens there are in the class. If no one raises their hands, admit that there is at least one chicken in the class, and that person is YOU ... at least sometimes you are a chicken (you can talk more about things or activities you are afraid of, but don't volunteer too much information at this point – you can talk more about your fears at the end of the video).

2.

Distribute the attached YouTube Idiom Worksheet and play the video. Be sure to stop the video when you hear the bell sound (1:51) and see the words “Fun Fact!”

3.

Consider playing the video a second time as your learners fill in the missing words. Note that *Closed Captioning** is available, so you may want to turn this function on, the second time, to help your students. Again, as above, stop the video when you hear the bell sound.

4.

Have your learners take a guess at the correct number of chickens there are in the world. Continue the video to find out the answer (about 19 billion chickens in the world).

5.

Continue the lesson by discussing what you and your students are afraid of. You may want to assign writing homework directly related to this idiom; you can find this at: <https://www.allthingstopics.com/idiom-quiz-chicken.html>

** This Closed Captioning function can be found in the bottom bar of the YouTube video. It has been added to the video directly from the script and contains no transcription errors (such as misspellings) that can often occur (when closed captioning is automated).*