

“Dog Talk” - A00104

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(<http://learningenglish.voanews.com/content/words-and-their-stories-dog-talk-129522603/118829.html>)

Now, the VOA Special English program WORDS AND THEIR STORIES.

Americans use many expressions with the word **dog**. People in the United States love their dogs and treat them well. They take their dogs for walks, let them play outside and give them good food and medical care. However, dogs without owners to care for them lead a different kind of life. The expression, **to lead a dog's life**, describes a person who has an unhappy existence.

Some people say we live in a **dog-eat-dog world**. That means many people are competing for the same things, like good jobs. They say that to be successful, a person has to **work like a dog**. This means they have to work very, very hard. Such hard work can make people **dog-tired**. And, the situation would be even worse if they became **sick as a dog**.

Still, people say **every dog has its day**. This means that every person enjoys a successful period during his or her life. To be successful, people often have to learn new skills. Yet, some people say that **you can never teach an old dog new tricks**. They believe that older people do not like to learn new things and will not change the way they do things.

Some people are compared to dogs in bad ways. People who are unkind or uncaring can be described as **meaner than a junkyard dog**. Junkyard dogs live in places where people throw away things they do not want. Mean dogs are often used to guard this property. They bark or attack people who try to enter the property. However, sometimes a person who appears to be mean and threatening is really not so bad. We say **his bark is worse than his bite**.

A junkyard is not a fun place for a dog. Many dogs in the United States sleep in safe little houses near their owners' home. These doghouses provide shelter. Yet they can be cold and lonely in the winter.

Husbands and wives use this **doghouse** term when they are angry at each other. For example, a woman might get angry at her husband for coming home late or forgetting their wedding anniversary. She might tell him that he is **in the doghouse**. She may not treat him nicely until he apologizes. However, the husband may decide that it is best to leave things alone and not create more problems. He might decide **to let sleeping dogs lie**.

Dog expressions also are used to describe the weather. **The dog days of summer** are the hottest days of the year. A rainstorm may cool the weather. But we do not want it to rain too hard. We do not want it **to rain cats and dogs**.



Dog Talk

(adapted from "VOA Special English program WORDS AND THEIR STORIES.")

Name: _____

Americans use many expressions with the word **dog**.

Some people _____ we live in a **dog-eat-dog world**. That means _____ people are competing for the same things, like good _____. They say that to be successful, a person _____ to **work like a dog**. This means they have to _____ very, very hard. Such hard work _____ make people **dog-tired**. And, the situation would be even _____ if they became **sick as a dog**.



Still, _____ say **every dog has its day**. This means _____ every person enjoys a _____ period during his or her _____. To be successful, people often have to _____ new skills. Yet, _____ people _____ that **you can never teach an old dog new tricks**. They _____ that older people do _____ like to learn _____ things and will not _____ the way they _____ things.

Sometimes a person _____ appears to be mean and threatening _____ really not so bad. We _____ **his bark is worse than his bite**.



Many dogs in the United States _____ in little houses near their owners' home. _____ doghouses provide shelter. Yet _____ can be _____ and lonely in the winter.

Husbands and _____ use this “**doghouse**” term when _____ are angry at each other. For _____, a woman might get angry at _____ husband for coming _____ late or forgetting their wedding anniversary. _____ might tell him that _____ is **in the doghouse**.

Dog expressions _____ are used to describe the _____.



The dog days of summer are the _____ days of the _____. A rainstorm may _____ the weather. But we do not _____ it to _____ too hard. We do not _____ it **to rain cats and dogs**.

Check comprehension:

Match the meaning with the expression

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1. ____ She has a fever and is coughing and sneezing. | A. bark is worse than his bite |
| 2. ____ He cannot learn the new job. | B. in the doghouse |
| 3. ____ It is raining hard and the street looks like a river. | C. dog tired |
| 4. ____ Tom is very loud but he is really very nice. | D. sick as a dog |
| 5. ____ Mike’s wife is angry with him. | E. cannot teach an old dog new tricks |
| 6. ____ Mary worked 12 hours today. | F. raining cats and dogs |

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Still, people _____ say **every dog has its day**. This means that _____ every person enjoys a successful _____ period during his or her life _____. To be successful, people often have to learn _____ new skills. Yet, some _____ people say _____ that **you can never teach an old dog new tricks**. They believe _____ that older people do not _____ like to learn new _____ things and will not change _____ the way they do _____ things.

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Husbands and wives use this “**doghouse**” term when they are angry at each other. For example, a woman might get angry at her husband for coming home late or forgetting their wedding anniversary. She might tell him that he is **in the doghouse**.

Dog expressions also are used to describe the weather.



The dog days of summer are the hottest days of the year. A rainstorm may cool the weather. But we do not want it to rain too hard. We do not want it **to rain cats and dogs**.

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