

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

## ANIMALS & BIRDS / FOOD & DRINKS

### ENGLISH IDIOM – DO YOU EAT LIKE A BIRD?

- Watch the **YouTube** video (3:13) and fill in the missing words.



Easy English Conversation presents . . . “Do you eat like a bird?” In English, when you say that someone eats like a bird, you mean that he or she

(1) \_\_\_\_\_ eat very much food. For example, “My friend Susan is so (2) \_\_\_\_\_ because she eats like a bird.” Here’s another example. “John isn’t (3) \_\_\_\_\_ well. That’s why he’s eating like a bird.”

Usually, when people use this idiom, they are showing that they care about someone’s (4) \_\_\_\_\_. When you say that a person eats like a bird, you are suggesting that he or she should eat more food to stay (5) \_\_\_\_\_. Of course, most birds are very (6) \_\_\_\_\_, so it may seem that they don’t eat very much food. But, you know what? Most birds actually eat very, very, very much food! (7) \_\_\_\_\_, some birds, like sparrows, can eat as much as (8) \_\_\_\_\_ their body weight in food every day! That means, if I ate like a bird, then I would have to eat 20 kilograms (or 44 pounds) of food every day! That’s 176 McDonald’s Quarter Pounders! Wow, I wish I could (9) \_\_\_\_\_ a bird and eat like a bird! So, maybe people should change this idiom. Hey, I have a better idea for an idiom! Maybe we could change the idiom to: “eat like an ant!”

(10) \_\_\_\_\_ you have a better idea!”

**FUN FACT:** The moa bird of New Zealand could grow . . . tall.  
(A) **1.6 meters** (5 feet) / (B) **3.6 meters** (12 feet) / (C) **10.6 meters** (35 feet)

# YOUTUBE IDIOM–MINI LESSON “Do you eat like a bird?”

**Aim** Listening and Reading practice / Learning an Idiom

**Level** Intermediate

**Video** 3 minutes 12 seconds

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ottNem6wjSc&list=PLaLZTMz9Nm0GmFVPr2DIgQVFIGjC2zZVI&index=9&t=0s>

## ANSWER KEY

(1) doesn't, (2) thin, (3) feeling, (4) health, (5) healthy, (6) small,  
(7) in fact, (8) half, (9) become, (10) unless

**FUN FACT:** The moa bird could grow (B) **3.6 meters** (12 feet) tall.

## ACTIVITY NOTES

**1.**

As a fun way to get things started, begin your **Animals & Birds** or **Food & Drinks** lesson by asking your learners if they eat like a bird – and then ask them to guess what this idiom means. Tell them that they will watch a video that explains the meaning.

**2.**

Distribute the attached YouTube Idiom Worksheet and play the video. Be sure to stop the video when you hear the bell and see the words “Fun Fact!” (1:48)

**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 and see the words, “Fun Fact!”

**4.**

Explain that a moa was a large bird that once lived in New Zealand hundreds of years ago, and then ask your learners to guess how tall a moa could grow. Continue the video to find out the answer (3.6 meters).

**5.**

Continue the lesson by discussing what kinds of foods your students like to eat. You may want to assign writing homework directly related to this idiom; you can find this at:

<https://www.allthingstoppers.com/idiom-quiz-eat-like-bird.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).*