

FLORA AND FAUNA

Plant and animal words used of humans and their activities, like 'blowing raspberries' or 'drunk as a skunk'

1. Cool as a cucumber - imperturbable even in fraught situation
2. Feather your nest - selfishly make yourself comfortable (*plum position*)
3. Chew the cud - ruminates carefully over some matter
4. Billing and cooing - softly fondling endearments reminiscent of pigeons
5. Beavering away - labouring industriously (*busy as a bee*)
6. Cauliflower ear - boxer's haematoma
7. Fleecing somebody - overcharging someone dishonestly
8. Pig-headed - stubbornly perverse (*barking up the wrong tree*)
9. Kangaroo court - trial without recourse to law
10. Eagle-eyed - alert to the smallest detail (*nit picker*)
11. Rose-tinted spectacles - designed for optimistic outlook
12. Monkey with - treat someone in a careless or harmful way
13. Parrot fashion - mindless repetition
14. Stubborn as a mule - a robust worker but obstinate
15. Lion-hearted - regally brave
16. Cat's whisker - DIY crystal set
17. Pug-nosed - short, broad and turned up feature
18. Cockney sparrer - typical bird of London
19. Lily-livered - cowardly (*scaredy cat*)
20. Daisy wheel - a child can make flowers on this gadget
21. A hawk - he favours use of force in political relationships
22. Toady - one who sucks up to authority for *personal* advantage (*sponge*)
23. Bat-winged - sleeve with lots of flare (*butterfly sleeves*)
24. Brown as a berry - unlikely colour for a fruit today, but perhaps Chaucer knew others!
25. Motheaten - old and holed (*threadbare !*)
26. Frogmarch - force to walk with arms pinioned behind
27. Apple of one's eye - someone or something dearly loved
28. Dog's dinner - a chaotic situation, event or piece of work (*pig's ear; hornets' nest*)
29. Mousy hair - mop of nondescript colour
30. Fish out of water - uncomfortable in the present situation (*cat on hot bricks*)
31. Know your onions - have good practical knowledge of your subject
32. Blind as a bat - having very poor vision
33. A plum job - a position worth having (*top dog*)
34. Apple pie order - arranged perfectly
35. Go bananas - become excitable and very silly
36. To badger someone - persistently pester (*nag*)
37. Ratty - irritable (*nettled; a bear with a sore head*)
38. Strawberry mark - a natal stain
39. Bulldog spirit - Churchillian liquor
40. Wolf in sheep's clothing - real intention disguised (two for price of one)
41. Keen as mustard - eager as a condiment
42. Owl-ish - intelligent behind the glasses
43. Crocodile tears - Is the reptile distressed?
44. Walrus moustache - a droopy facial growth (*mutton chops; goatee*)
45. Slippery as an eel - very difficult to grasp

46. Peaches and cream complexion - skin smooth and delicately tinted
47. Crow's nest - lofty naval look-out
48. Strawberry blonde - gentlemen's preference, with rosy hue
49. To be a wallflower - too shy in social situations (*shrinking violet*)
50. Butterflies in your stomach - quivering with nervousness (*shaking like a leaf*)
51. Harebrained - dizzily inane (*laughing jackass; act the giddy goat*)
52. Willowy - slim and graceful
53. Playing gooseberry - unwanted third impeding romance
54. Bulls and bears - roars and growls where stock is swapped
55. Lounge lizard - idle frequenter of cocktail bars
56. Hearts of oak - march of regally sturdy English seamen
57. Shrewish - cross as nagging Kate
58. Mole - a penetration agent (*plant*)
59. Dovetail - a perfect fit, as a joiner might say
60. Grasp the nettle - boldly tackle a challenging situation (*take the bull by the horns*)
61. Fungus-face - a mushroom visage
62. Bear hug - ursine embrace
63. Like a duck out of water - uncomfortable in an alien environment
64. Goose pimples - shivering like a gander
65. White elephant - a rarity of little use
66. Up a gum tree - join the koalas
67. Rat race - competitive rodents
68. Ants in the pants - impatiently (and uncomfortably) expectant (*chafing at the bit; butterflies in stomach*)
69. Gild the lily - overdo the adornments (*flowery*)
70. Dark horse - inconspicuous steed
71. Fly in the ointment - insect does little for the medication
72. Catnap - snooze
73. A wild goose chase - pursue without hope of success (*flog a dead horse*)
74. In the dog house - relegated to the kennel
75. Wolf whistle - wild and lustful canine call
76. Frog in the throat - amphibian in the gullet
77. The primrose path - not the narrow way, alas
78. A snake in the grass - teacherous friend lurks in the outfield
79. A can of worms - opening this gives a nasty surprise
80. Birds of a feather - the like-minded gather
81. Quiet as a mouse - as a small, silent but undesirable creature (*flea in the ear*)
82. Coming up roses - outcome better than expected (*fluke*)
83. Bee in her bonnet - single-minded headwear likely to cause distress (*black cap*)
84. Fly on the wall - winged eavesdropper (*earwigger*)
85. Zebra crossing - stripes for safe passage
86. Hold your horses - don't rush into it headlong (*bull in a china shop*)
87. The lion's share - proudly takes the best portion
88. Let the cat out of the bag - released feline spoils the secret
89. Nip in the bud - Don't let trouble develop
90. A queer fish - perceived as rather odd and wet
91. Raining cats and dogs - improbably heavy shower
92. Beat around the bush - fail to go straight to the point
93. A whale of a time - enjoy a killer of a party

94. Take the bull by the horns - Bravely tackle the problem before it gores you
95. A flea in the ear - a stinging rebuff *(Be[e] off; waspish retort)*
96. Snug as a bug in a rug - cosily rhyming on the carpet
97. A stag party - men only here!
98. The early bird catches the worm - rise early for best chance of success
99. Chickens coming home to roost - past misdemeanours catching up with one *(give a dog a bad name)*
100. Dead as a dodo - expired to extinction