



SPEAKING OF CHICKENS...

Chickens are a part of cultures world wide. They are so universal that they are reflected in our everyday speech and in the proverbs we use to communicate feelings and lessons. Maybe even more than you realize.

Here is just a sampling of some sayings and proverbs referring to chickens. How many of them do you know? How many of them do you use?

- 1. Like walking on eggs or eggshells**
being extra-careful, conversationally as well as in other behavior
- 2. Ain't no spring chicken**
Term originates from farmers trying to sell old chickens as fresh spring chickens. Term now refers to someone or thing that is past it's plump or prime.
- 3. Scarce as a hen's tooth**
Since chicken don't have teeth, something that is scarce as a hen's tooth means it is few or non-existent
- 4. Getting up with the chickens**
Getting up before the sun has even begun to show
- 5. Go to sleep with the chickens**
Go to bed early, before the has set
- 6. Don't count your chickens before they hatch**
Warns a person to wait until a future event happens before making plans based on it happening
- 7. Chickens coming home to roost**
One has to face the consequences of one's past actions. In English, the proverb goes back to Chaucer's 'Parson's Tale' (c 1390).

8. **Well, don't lay an egg!**
Don't get overly excited or overreact
9. **Lay an egg**
Cricket term referring to a zero score, since a zero is round like an egg.
10. **Henpecked**
Refers to a man who is controlled by or verbally attacked by females
11. **Chicken Feed**
Became popular among riverboat gamblers to mean a small amount of money
12. **A chicken and egg situation**
Situation in which it is impossible to say which of two events happened first and which was the cause of the other.
13. **Chicken-hearted**
Not brave
14. **Running around like a chicken with it's head cut off**
To proceed quickly and mindlessly or frantically
15. **Bet on a lame rooster**
To bet on a loser



16. **Chick**
Girl or young woman
17. **Chick Flick**
Movie for or about women
18. **A chicken in every pot**
Enough food for a whole family
19. **Chicken on a June bug**
Very quickly
20. **Some chick**
Beautiful woman
21. **Chickensh*t**
Dishonorable or cowardly person, petty stuff

22. **To be chicken or a chicken**
Cowardly, frightened, wimp

23. **To be a Rooster Prick**
Obnoxious, wanting attention like a rooster fighting for attention. (not sexual)

24. **Flew the coop**
Departed, left home



25. **Having something to crow about**
Having good news, notable event to share

26. **A good egg**
A good-natured person

27. **Don't put all your eggs in one basket**
Don't put all your investments in one company

28. **All your eggs in one basket**
Depending on one plan or investment

29. **To have egg on one's face**
Embarrassed, outsmarted

30. **Egg someone on**
Provide encouragement, convince or tell another person to do something

31. **Nest egg**
Money for retirement or savings

32. **Don't teach your grandmother how to suck eggs**
Don't tell me what I already know, don't state the obvious

33. **Suck eggs**
Go, leave, have a bad experience, up yours

34. **Rooster that rules the roost**
Person in charge

35. **Cock of the North**
Strongest, hardest, bravest warrior

36. **A Bad Egg**
Undesirable person

37. **An egg today is better than a chicken tomorrow**
Saying by Benjamin Franklin, a certain thing today is better than a speculation about a future event or gain

38. **Where there are many chickens, don't spill maize**
Use discretion, act with caution, don't act foolhardy





39. A chicken is never declared innocent in a court of hawks.

Biased conclusion or proceedings.

40. When you eat an egg, don't insult the chicken.

Don't bite the hand that feeds you.

Be a respectful guest.

41. The chicken that digs for food will not sleep hungry

Hard work pays off.

Good planning reaps future rewards.

42. As the old cock crows the young cock learns.

Experience comes with age.

43. The salt (we have for seasoning) the chicken is insufficient, and you (go and) kill a goat (besides)!

What suffices for a small project won't do for an enormous project.

44. A chicken egg can't turn over a hen

Advice given to young people who by their book knowledge, might claim to know better than their parents

45. Hard boiled

Tough

46. The meat of chicken is bad only when cooked badly.

Everything is good when properly used.

47. When the chicken is drinking water, it lifts its head to heaven. Even the chicken prays

One who does not ask, does not receive

48. Scrambled Eggs

Gold trim on the brim of navy officers hats

49. A night without roosters will still end

Hope does not necessarily have to be based on tangible signs

50. A hen pecks and wipes its beak

Many people are not ready to admit their mistakes.

51. The house is turned entirely upside down when the hen crows and the cock is silent.

Bad things are going to happen, will follow if the pending action is taken.

52. A chattering bird builds no nest.

Talking doesn't get the work done.



- 53. You may have a heart of gold - but so does a hard-boiled egg.**
Remember, people will judge you by your actions, not your intentions.
- 54. If you be a cock, crow; if a hen, lay eggs.**
Don't mess with fate or try to change intended outcomes.
- 55. Fly the coop**
Leave home
- 56. Does a chicken have lips?**
It was a stupid thing to say
- 57. Chicken Scratch**
Handwriting
- 58. Hen Party**
Women gathering to chat and laugh
- 59. Dumb cluck**
Someone who doesn't get it
- 60. A chattering bird builds no nest.**
Talking doesn't get the work done.

