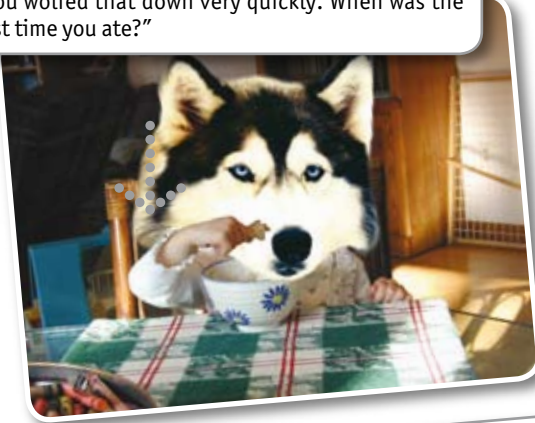


# Idioms *Wolf*

This month we are looking at some wolf idioms. There is one important "wolf" idiom that we have omitted ("a wolf in sheep's clothing"). This was previously covered in Hot English magazine issue 53.

## **Wolf down** (food)

To eat food very quickly because you are so hungry. "You wolfed that down very quickly. When was the last time you ate?"



## **Lone wolf**

A person who prefers to do things on his/her own. "Clint Eastwood plays the typical lone wolf in many of his westerns."



## **Cry wolf**

To ask for help when you don't really need it. "The old man phoned the police six times and asked them to come and see if there was someone in his house. Of course, the police never found anyone. Finally, the old man really did need the police, but they never came because they thought he was crying wolf."



## **Wolf whistle**

A high-pitched noise people make through their mouth when they see an attractive person. "Every time I walk out of the house with this mini-skirt, I get a few wolf whistles from the builders."



## **Keep the wolf from the door**

To only have enough money for food and nothing else; to have a minimum amount of money. "We earn very little money – just enough to keep the wolf from the door."



## **Throw somebody to the wolves**

To cause someone to be in a situation where they are treated badly, and not to help that person. "On my first day at work I was confronted by sixteen angry passengers demanding their money back. I felt as if I'd been thrown to the wolves."

