

# BBC Learning English

## The Teacher

### *Bird idioms*



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In this episode, **The Teacher** introduces you to three idiomatic phrases connected with birds.

1. **Birdbrain**
  2. **To have a bird's eye view**
  3. **A little bird told me**
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Hello, I'm a very interesting and intelligent man.  
And today I'm getting together with some of my feathered friends to teach you a thing or two about English idioms.

I bet you've never been never been taught by a bird before.

You might think that birds are not very clever and so not very good teachers – and you're right! I mean look at them.

Their heads are tiny. And a tiny head means a tiny brain. So in English we call someone isn't very bright '**birdbrain**'.

'Birdbrain' – something I've never been called.

Another thing you may have noticed about birds is that they can fly, which is very clever considering they are birdbrains.

Now imagine the view a bird can get when it's flying.  
Here's a bird high in the sky and here's the ground.  
Marvellous. They can see everything.

So, come on, what do you think the idiom 'to have a **bird's eye view**' means?

That's right, it means to be able to see very clearly from a high place.  
What's that you say? Ah, really, is that right, hmm...  
I've got some very interesting information.  
Would you like to know who told me? Well didn't you see? **A little bird told me.**

I can use this idiom when I want to give you some information but I don't want you to know who told me.

A... little... bird... told... me... some very interesting information about... You!