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

1. **To eat like a horse**
  2. **Straight from the horse's mouth**
  3. **To flog a dead horse**
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Hello, I'm a very interesting and intelligent man.

And this is Fred, who, as you may have noticed, is a horse. Today Fred and I are going to be helping you to improve your English.

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

Hungry, isn't he? In fact, he eats all the time. He eats like a horse – of course he does – he *is* a horse.

In English, if someone eats a lot we can say 'he eats like a horse'.

**To eat like a horse.** To eat a lot.

[*Neighing and other horsy noises.*]

What's that you say Fred? Ah, just that silly noise horses make.

Anyway, I heard it **straight from the horse's mouth**.

We use this idiom when we've got some information directly from the person responsible for it. For example: my boss is going to fire me. Yes, it's true. I heard it straight from the horse's mouth.

It means my boss told me directly. I didn't hear it from anyone else.

Sad news, I'm afraid... Fred's died.

Which means there's no point in trying to get him work any more.

How do we make a horse work? Yes, that's right, by hitting it, or as we say, 'flogging it'.

Our next horse idiom: '**to flog a dead horse**'. Which as you can see is completely pointless.

'To flog a dead horse'. This means to waste effort on something that we have no chance of succeeding at.

I sometimes feel like I'm flogging a dead horse when I'm teaching. My students, they never seem to learn... I don't quite understand what the problem is.....very frustrating...

[*Horse noises*]