



Fish out of water

When we say someone is a "fish out of water," we mean that they feel uncomfortable or out of place in a situation or new environment. It's like they've been taken away from their natural home, where they do well, and put into a new place where they have a hard time adapting.

Examples

1. Imagine you move to a big city from a small town. You might feel like a "fish out of water" in the city because everything is so different.
2. If you're good at basketball but have to play football and don't know the rules, you'd say, "I felt like a fish out of water on the basketball court."
3. Think of someone who loves science but has to join a dance competition. They might feel like a "fish out of water" on the dance floor.

Where it came from

This phrase goes back a long time to the 15th century when the famous English writer Geoffrey Chaucer first used it in his work "The Canterbury Tales". He talked about someone feeling uneasy while riding a horse. Later, people started using it more widely to describe feeling uncomfortable in new situations.

Why it's important

Understanding idioms like "**fish out of water**" helps us express when we feel out of place. It reminds us to be kind to others who might feel this way and encourages us to learn and adapt when things are new and different, just like a fish adapting to a different environment.