



Smell a rat

When we say we "smell a rat," it means we have a feeling that something is not right or that someone might be hiding something from us. It's like having a gut feeling that something is wrong.

Examples

1. Imagine your friend owes you money, but they keep avoiding the topic. You might say, "I smell a rat; they're not being honest about the money."
2. If you notice your classmates whispering and looking at you strangely, you might think, "I smell a rat; maybe they're planning a surprise for my birthday."
3. Imagine a family member acting secretly. You could say, "I smell a rat; they're doing something they don't want me to know."

Where it comes from

The origin of this idiom dates back to the 1500s. In those times, people talked about how dogs could "smell rat," meaning they were good at finding rats. Over time, this expression became a way to describe our feeling that something isn't right.

Why it's important

The idiom "**smell a rat**" is important because it reminds us to trust our feelings and instincts when situations seem strange. It encourages us to question things when our gut feeling tells us something is off. It's a way to protect ourselves and make wise decisions.