

# The Fox What Does The Fox Say



The fox what does the fox say has become a popular phrase that originates from the viral hit song "The Fox (What Does the Fox Say?)" by the Norwegian duo Ylvis. Released in 2013, the song explores the sounds that various animals make, culminating in the question of what sound a fox makes. The catchy tune and humorous music video captured global attention, igniting a fascination with foxes and their vocalizations. This article delves into the characteristics of foxes, their sounds, and the cultural impact of the song.

## Understanding Foxes

Foxes are small to medium-sized, omnivorous mammals belonging to the Canidae family, which also includes dogs, wolves, and coyotes. They are known for their cunning nature and adaptability, often thriving in both rural and urban environments. Below are some key aspects of foxes:

## Species and Habitat

Foxes come in various species, with the red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) being the most common and widely distributed. Other notable species include:

1. Arctic Fox (*Vulpes lagopus*): Found in cold Arctic regions, this fox has a thick, white coat that provides insulation against freezing temperatures.
2. Fennec Fox (*Vulpes zerda*): Known for its large ears and small size, the fennec fox inhabits the Sahara Desert and is well adapted to hot climates.
3. Gray Fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*): This species is unique for its ability to climb trees, allowing it to escape predators easily.

Foxes can adapt to a variety of habitats, including forests, grasslands,

mountains, and even urban areas. Their ability to thrive in diverse environments has made them a common sight across continents.

## Physical Characteristics

The physical appearance of foxes varies by species, but they generally share several characteristics:

- Fur: Foxes have thick, soft fur that can vary in color from reddish-brown to gray, black, or white, depending on the species and the environment.
- Size: Most foxes weigh between 5 to 30 pounds and measure about 18 to 35 inches in length, excluding the tail.
- Tail: Foxes have bushy tails, known as brushes, which help with balance and steering, especially when running through dense vegetation.

## Behavior and Diet

Foxes are primarily solitary animals, though they can form small family groups. They are known for their intelligence and resourcefulness, often using cunning strategies to hunt for food. Their diet is omnivorous and typically includes:

- Small mammals (rabbits, rodents)
- Birds and their eggs
- Fruits and berries
- Insects and carrion

Foxes are crepuscular, meaning they are most active during dawn and dusk, which helps them avoid larger predators.

## The Vocalizations of Foxes

One of the most intriguing aspects of foxes is their vocalizations. They are known to produce a variety of sounds, each serving a different purpose. Here are some common vocalizations made by foxes:

### Common Fox Sounds

1. Barking: A sharp, quick bark is often used to communicate with other foxes or to signal alarm.
2. Howling: Similar to wolves, foxes can howl, usually to establish territory or call to other members of their group.
3. Gekkering: A unique chattering sound, often made during mating season or

when a fox feels threatened. This sound is a series of high-pitched calls and can be quite startling.

4. Screaming: A high-pitched scream, particularly common during the breeding season, can be alarming to humans and is often mistaken for a distress call.

5. Whining: This sound can indicate submission or a request for attention, especially from kits (young foxes) to their parents.

Foxes are capable of producing over 20 different vocalizations, showcasing their complex communication system. Understanding these sounds provides insight into their behavior and social interactions.

## **The Cultural Impact of "What Does the Fox Say?"**

The song "The Fox (What Does the Fox Say?)" by Ylvis became a cultural phenomenon shortly after its release. It has not only popularized foxes in mainstream media but has also inspired numerous parodies, merchandise, and discussions about animal sounds.

### **The Song's Background**

- Release Date: The song was released on September 3, 2013, as part of the Norwegian duo Ylvis's promotional campaign for their television show.
- Music Video: The humorous and absurd music video features a variety of animals and showcases the duo dressed in fox costumes, dancing in a forest setting.
- Viral Success: The video quickly went viral, amassing millions of views on YouTube and dominating social media platforms. It reached the top of the charts in several countries and became a staple at parties and gatherings.

### **Impact on Popular Culture**

The success of "The Fox" has led to several cultural phenomena:

- Merchandising: The song's popularity spawned a line of merchandise, including T-shirts, plush toys, and other fox-related items.
- Parodies and Covers: Many artists and fans have created parodies and covers of the song, some of which have also gained viral status.
- Increased Interest in Foxes: The song has sparked a renewed fascination with foxes, leading to increased attention on their behavior, ecology, and conservation.

# Conservation and Ethical Considerations

With the rise in interest surrounding foxes, it is crucial to discuss their conservation status and the ethical implications of human interaction with wildlife.

## Conservation Status

Most fox species are not currently endangered; however, habitat loss, hunting, and urbanization pose significant threats to their populations. Efforts to conserve foxes include:

- Habitat Protection: Ensuring that natural habitats remain intact and protected from development.
- Education and Awareness: Promoting awareness about the ecological importance of foxes and their role in the ecosystem.
- Research: Conducting studies on fox populations to understand their behavior, health, and threats they face.

## Ethical Considerations

As interest in foxes grows, ethical considerations regarding their treatment and portrayal in media must be addressed:

- Avoiding Anthropomorphism: While it can be entertaining to attribute human-like qualities to foxes, it can lead to misunderstandings about their behavior and needs.
- Responsible Wildlife Observation: Encouraging people to observe foxes from a distance and avoid feeding them, as this can lead to dependency on humans and alter their natural behaviors.

## Conclusion

In summary, the fox what does the fox say has transcended beyond a simple query into a cultural phenomenon that sparks curiosity about these fascinating creatures. From their unique vocalizations and behaviors to their representation in popular media, foxes continue to capture the imagination of people worldwide. As we appreciate the charm and cleverness of foxes, let us also advocate for their conservation and ensure that future generations can enjoy the wonders of these remarkable animals.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## **What is 'The Fox (What Does the Fox Say)?' song about?**

'The Fox (What Does the Fox Say)?' is a comedic song by the Norwegian duo Ylvis that humorously speculates on the sounds a fox makes, contrasting it with the sounds of other animals.

## **When was 'The Fox (What Does the Fox Say)?' released?**

The song was released on September 3, 2013, and quickly went viral, becoming a global phenomenon.

## **Who created the music video for 'The Fox (What Does the Fox Say)?'?**

The music video was created by the Norwegian duo Ylvis, consisting of brothers Vegard and Bård Ylvisåker.

## **What impact did 'The Fox (What Does the Fox Say)?' have on pop culture?**

The song became a viral sensation, inspiring countless parodies, memes, and even discussions about animal sounds in popular culture.

## **What are some of the sounds mentioned in the song?**

The song humorously lists various nonsensical sounds like 'ring-ding-ding' and 'wa-pa-pa-pa-pa-pow' to represent the fox's call.

## **Has 'The Fox (What Does the Fox Say)?' won any awards?**

Yes, the song received several nominations and won the award for Best Comedy Video at the 2014 MTV Europe Music Awards.

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Foxes are small-to-medium-sized omnivorous mammals belonging to several genera of the family Canidae. They have a flattened skull; upright, triangular ears; a pointed, slightly upturned snout; ...

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