

Teatime Titbits

FUN ON FRIDAY

**Fun, Frolics
& F-bombs**



**Tina freaks out every Friday at 9.05 am
by Dave Preston**

Thank you for buying or stealing (just joking!) this book. True to Teatime Titbits this book will edutain you and grow your vocab / grammar in a fun way like no other book out there – as I know.

If you follow my Teatime Titbits, you will know that there are no limits when it comes to Fun on Friday posts, they dare to go where others won't, they take no prisoners and ultimately give you the edge in your English because you understand better than most informal, colloquial, slang English, not to mention, bad language and swear words. You could beat a native at his/her own game, if you want!

So without further ado, take a look at the contents pages and then dive into fun, frolics and f-bombs and have a fucking good time learning the stuff - school didn't want you to know!

P.S. Please don't be selfish, pass this onto as many people as you can so they too can know the secrets of the natives. Cheers.

Take care.

Dave

to dare to do sth (es wagen, etw zu tun), **to take no prisoners** (keine Gefangener machen), **to give sb an edge** (jdm einem Vorteil verschaffen), **colloquial (English)** (Umgangssprache), **not to mention** (geschweige denn), **swear word** (Schimpfwort), **without further ado** (ohne langes Federlesen), **frolics** (Scherze), **f-bomb** (F-Wort (sagen)), **selfish** (egoistisch), **to pass sth onto sb** (jdm weitergeben), **cheers** (Hier: Danke).

Contents.

Chapter 1. Slang up your Friday .

1. The real McCoy 1 Introduction to Fun on Friday
2. The real McCoy 2 Informal English
3. The real McCoy 3 Phrasal verbs, colloquialisms, idioms
4. The real McCoy 4 Accents, bad grammar, slang
5. The real McCoy 5 Three in the bed – standard /colloquial/slang

Chapter 2. Phantastic Phrases to delight any native.

1. Just pop it there
2. 5 fun English phrases to sex up your English
3. 5 fun phrasal verbs to sex up your English
4. 5 phrases to delight your native friends
5. 5 fun idioms to start your own list.

Chapter 3 The Language of ‘Thingybob’ 1.

1. Glorious day - The language of weather
2. How was it for you darling ? – The language of the weekend
3. Easy-peasy lemon squeezy -The language of easy
4. Are you pulling my leg, mate? - The language of being surprised and/or shocked
5. Fancy a rant? - The language of ranting

Chapter 4. Texts to Tickle you.

1. With Christ’s sky journey, a bridge day and a weekend
2. They spider the Britons
3. Babbling.
4. Hey Tosser
5. Learning with a smile on your face.

Chapter 5. Quizzes to go.

1. Translations that will surprise you
2. Slang up your Friday quiz 1
3. Who wants to be a millionaire?
4. Who are these people?
5. What's gonna happen next?

Chapter 6. Texts to Tickle you 2.

1. Why is English so hard to learn
2. "Wenn schon, denn schon"
3. 'Manspreading'!!
4. The Full Monty – a stag night to remember.
5. Pissed.

Chapter 7. Learning from vids, jokes & lyrics.

1. Learning from vids 1: Awesome German products
2. Learning from jokes 1: Joking aside
3. Learning from lyrics 1: If I lay here. ...
4. Learning from vids 2: Spot the mistakes?
5. Learning from lyrics 2 I used to love her

Chapter 8. Learning from stories, poems and conversations.

1. Brain at work
2. You make some, you lose some
3. The super short story of a shitty decision
4. Wild office
5. Monday morning

Chapter 9. Tricky translations.

1. It's the way it is.
2. Lost in translation.
3. Translate this one if you can! Hitzefrei
4. Getting places!
5. Good try No1.

Chapter 10. Slang up your Friday 2 (Let's party, booze, schmooze & swear a lot !)

1. Know your drinkingisms?
2. Getting to grips with pissed
3. Modern day Romeo and Juliet. SLANG CITY
4. The morning after the night before
5. Effining & blinding: Degree of vulgarity.

Chapter 1. Slang up your Friday.

The real McCoy 1 Introduction to Fun on Friday (FOF).

I vividly remember my first school exchange partnership in France and realizing very quickly that my school French is grossly inadequate to even understand much, let alone, make myself understood in France. Luckily for me and looking back, shame on me, Arnaud's (my exchange partner) English was good enough to allow us to communicate and interpret for me (both ways) with family & friends when my French reached its limit – usually not so long after the “Ca va, merci, et vous?”.

Nonetheless, I was eager to learn – to not always look so dumb in the eyes of my French hosts. I had a little vocab books – you know the type – and would spend time diligently writing in new vocab with the help of Arnaud – If you're out there – zillions of thanx– this book is dedicated to you, Arnaud.

In conversations, I would hear words ask him what they meant and a lot of the time get the answer “c'est l'argot, David” – I love how the French say “Daveede” – that meant you guessed it “That's slang man!” And my French teacher had failed to tell me that “poutain” (literary: prostitute), which is the used a lot like our “fuck” every second word (especially at that age - 14!!) and if you wanted to add even more fuck to the fuck, if you will, then you poutain de merde (literary: prostitute of shit – whatever that means!

These words went straight to the BACK of my vocab book entitled “swear words & bad language.” and the rest of the common/useful slang words filled up the rest of the book very quickly. I learnt more French in a week that in a whole school year.

This book is your English common/useful slang, colloquialisms, idioms to save you the trouble and expense of travelling to an English speaking country because in Fun on Friday posts Teatime Titbits dares to go where others don't!!!!

Don't worry, it's not just a lists of words, phrases and translations, it's a collection of previous 'Fun on Friday' posts looking at fun side of English, which includes fuck & Co but also 'phantastic phrases to delight any native', 'the language of thingybob' (you know from the WED 1. Buy the book below),

<https://teatimetitbits.de/downloads/walking-english-dictionary-1/>

texts to tickle you and, of course, a few vid recommendations thrown in to improve your listening skills.

The real McCoy (Der wahre Jakob), **to remember sth vividly** (etw noch genau vor Augen haben), **school exchange** (Schulaustausch), **to realize sth** (begreifen), **grossly** (extrem), **let alone** (ganz zu schweigen von), **to make oneself understood** (sich verständigen), **luckily** (glücklicherweise), **“shame on me”** (Ich sollte mich schämen), **exchange pupil** (Austauschschüler), **to interpret** (dolmetschen), **to go to the limits** (bis an die Grenzen gehen), **nonetheless** (Nichtdestotrotz), **to be eager** (gierig), **host** (Gastgeber), **diligently**(fleißig), **zillion** (zigtausend), **to dedicate sth to sb** (jdm etw widmen), **to fail to do sth** (etw nicht tun), **literary** (wörtlich), **if you will** (wenn man so will), **to be entitled** (mit dem Titel), **swear words** (Schimpfwörter), **colloquialism** (Umgangssprache), **idiom** (Redewendung), **to save sb sth** (jdn etw (er)sparen), **trouble** (die Mühe), **expense** (Kosten), **to dare to do sth** (es wagen etw zu tun), **to delight sb** (jdn begeistern), **native (speaker)** (Muttersprachler), **thingybob** (Dingsbums), **to tickle sb** (hier: jdn amüsieren), **recommendations** (Empfehlungen), **to improve sth** (etw verbessern).

The real McCoy 2. Informal English.

This is what separates the wheat from chaff and like every other part of English, it's something that needs to be learnt if you want to have any chance of understanding native speakers. Unfortunately, it's something that is often neglected by the learner (and maybe trainer) because they have to /want to focus on 'standard' English, which they meet mostly in English language books.

At the latest when they have to deal with natives who don't speak 'received pronunciation' maybe have an accent and on top of that use informal English like short forms, phrasal verbs and idioms, not to mention use bad grammar (see free PDF download below) and slang

<https://teatimetitbits.de/download/common-mistakes-even-natives-make/>

Let's kick off with short forms like: 'gonna' (to be going to), 'wanna' (to want), 'gotta' (to have got), 'you'd like' (the “d” is short for “would”) or even 'you'd better' (here confusingly, the “d” is short for “had”). Yes, when it comes to speaking, WE are lazy, we shorten whatever we can to speed things up & cut out the superfluous fluff.

However, the undisputed star, the gold medal winner (for efficiency) – presenting on the winners' podium ----- 'AIN'T! The contraction for 'am not', 'is not', 'are not', 'has not' and 'have not'.

That's all well and good, we want some nice examples. Your wish is my command. Here's my top 5.

1. If it ain't (isn't) broke, don't fix it = Man soll nicht reparieren, was nicht kaputt ist.
2. Life ain't (isn't) easy = Das Leben ist kein Zuckerschlecken
3. There ain't (isn't) no such thing as a free lunch = Nichts ist umsonst
4. "You ain't (haven't) seen nothing yet" = song title by the BTO band (1974).
5. Ain't (isn't) half bad this 'slang up your Friday', malarkey = Ganz gut.

To separate the wheat from the chaff (die Spreu vom Weizen trennen), **to neglect sth** (etw außer Acht lassen), **to deal with sb** (mit jdm umgehen), **'received pronunciation RP'** (britische Standardaussprache), **to shorten** (verkürzen), **superfluous** (überflüssig) **fluff** (Fluse), **undisputed** (unbestritten), **winners' podium** (Siegertreppchen), **malarkey** (Quatsch)

The real McCoy 3. Phrasal verbs, colloquialisms & idioms.

OMG there are 15,000 page books and complete websites, which solely focus on these topics and even natives pick up new tidbits here & there on a daily basis – I know I do, especially when it comes to 'idioms'.

So before we go any further what are phrasal verbs, colloquialisms and idioms.

Phrasal verbs are 'verb phrases including a verb and one or more prepositions' (which are grammatically known as 'adverbials' because they add to verbs) and are often used by natives as a replacements for more standard words. For instance "to put something e.g. meeting off" means the same as "to postpone" a meeting". So you could say "The meeting has been put off" instead of "The meeting has been postponed." The tricky thing for learners is that most phrasal verbs don't really make it easy to understand them. Everyone understands 'put' and 'off' but together, what can it mean. Add the word 'meeting' & 'put off' & a context, then maybe you can guess the meaning. Other phrasal verbs, however, even without an object/context can be easy to understand, take 'put down' e.g. "Put it down before you drop it" any parents out there will be fluent in this phrasal verb, but did you know, if you simply replace the

'it' with an animal "We had to put the dog down", it means to ?
Shocking the difference a word can make, eh?

I call phrasal verbs the secret language of the natives and have included a couple of 'Secret Language Of The Natives (SLN) blog posts' in my book Workplace English Toolkit (WET). Buy below.

<https://teatimetitbits.de/downloads/your-busines-english-workplace-toolkit/>

and will be more in the updated version in January 2020. As they are a grammar to themselves many grammar book have sections on phrasal verbs. My highly recommended book is Murphy (Buy below through my affiliate link – thanx !!!!)

<https://amzn.to/2B9r0X5> (I get a small commission at no extra cost to you!!!)

Next up, a 'colloquialism' is a word or phrase that is used in conversation but not in FORMAL speech or writing and guess what a synonym of the adjective 'colloquial' is? INFORMAL.

Finally, idioms, a group of words whose meaning is different from the meanings of the individual words e.g. 'Let the cat out of the bag' is an idiom meaning to tell a secret by mistake. Thanx Oxford (Advanced) Learner's Dictionary (OALD) www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com as ever for providing an expert definition and example to boot.

If you subscribe to the Teatime Titbit weekly newsletter, I always signpost the 'Phrasal Verb Of The Day' (PVOTD) and 'Idiom Of The Day' (IOTD) so you can add them to your lists. Check out chapter 2 "Phantastic Phrases to delight any natives" for more previous 'Fun of Friday' posts with phrasal verbs, colloquialisms and idioms.

solely (ausschließlich), **for instance** (zum Beispiel), **to postpone** (verschieben), **to replace** (etw ersetzen), **to boot** (obendrein), **to subscribe to sth** (abonnieren).

The real McCoy 4. Accents, bad grammar & slang.

Accents* are everywhere and more or less everyone has one - even the Queen (Queen's English as it lovingly referred to !!) and are difficult even sometimes for natives to understand each other. Even on such a small island, Britain has a wide array of accents from Yorkshire (and Scottish,

from Geordie to Cockney. A great and less expensive – corrected free way to experience the sounds of British accents is to watch the following video by one of my favourite YouTubers at Anglophenia.

<https://youtu.be/FyyT2jmVPAk>

Speaking of YouTubers, I have recently written a blog post inspired and adapted from his vlog “10 Common mistakes even native speakers make” <https://youtu.be/vGDb-fbvJmQ> by Langfocus and you as a learner of English (school, grammar and, of course, Teatime Titbits) will be amazed by even the most simple mistakes native speakers make)

Finally, there’s slang, which is very informal words and expressions that are more common in spoken language, especially used by a particular group of people, for example, children, criminals, soldiers, etc. Thanx again OALD. As the above definition makes clear there are zillions of types of slang. In particular, every nation has its own slang Kauderwelch books. Even regions, a cities – think of Cockney Rhyming slang (a deeper look in the upcoming book – Walking English Dictionary 2 – It’s all about the Culture/Culture Counts. (25. November 2019)

*Accents and dialects are often confused as the same thing but indeed aren’t! this is how my trusty OALD define the two:

Definition of accent:

“a way of pronouncing the words of a language that shows which country, area or social class a person comes from”

Definition for dialects:

“the form of a language that is spoken in one area with grammar, words and pronunciation that may be different from other forms of the same language.”

A wide array of (ein breites Spektrum an), **speaking of** (apropos), **in particular** (insbesonderes), **to confuse sth with sth** (etw mit etw verwechseln), **trusty** (hier: zuverlässig), **to define a word** (die Bedeutung eines Wortes bestimmen)

The real McCoy 5. Three In The Bed. (standard / colloquial / slang)

Maybe you’ve met my ‘Three InThe Bed’ posts before where I compare 3 words/phrases, which are very similar and /or go well together. For a bit

of fun on Fun on Friday, I'd like to offer you some 'Threes In The Bed' with synonyms of words starting with the standard word, a more colloquial equivalent and, how could we do without the SLANG version too.

Let's dive into the last real McCoy.

- 1) To reprimand sb / to tell sb off / to bollock sb. These three are a perfect example of a quite formal word with the phrasal verb equivalent and a nice slang term to finish. 'bollock' also means 'testicle' and you also often here 'to give sb a bollocking'. Speaking of bollocks
- 2) (That's) rubbish / (That's) cobblers / (That's) bollocks. If you every want to say that what somebody says isn't true or downright wrong or stupid you can use one of those three.
- 3) To make a mess of sth / to mess sth up / to cock sth up. I could add to this list until next Christmas because there are so many other synonyms, especially in the colloquial (to muck sth up) and in the slang section (to screw sth up & to fuck sth up) to name but a few. With 'fuck' & 'cock' (can also mean 'penis' in slang English) you can also exchange 'mess' and say 'to make a cock-up/fuck-up of sth'
- 4) To tease sb / to take the Michael/Mick (out of sb) / to take the piss (out of sb). I think they speak for themselves. BTW I have no idea why it became Michael and not 'Fred' or even 'Dave' for that matter.
- 5) Last but not least a bit of medical English in the widest sense. To vomit / to throw up / to puke. Again a perfect example of standard & more colloquial phrasal verb version. As always 'puke' can be exchanged with other words like 'spew' and 'chunder'. For the sake of completeness, I typed 'kotzen' into dict.cc (my go to online dictionary also available as app) and it threw up (sorry couldn't resist!!) 'to blow chunks' (US slang), 'to shoot the cat' (UK slang), and wait for it 'to drive/ride the porcelain bus' – all of which I've never heard of!!!

to reprimand sb (jdn zurechtweisen), **term** (Begriff), **'testicle'** (Hoden), **speaking of** (apropos), **(That's) rubbish** (Quatsch), **to make a mess of sth** (vermasseln), **to name but a few** (um nue einige zu nennen), **to tease sb** (jdn auf den Arm nehmen), **for that matter** (hier: übrigens auch), **last but not least** (zu guter Letzt), **in the widest sense of the word** (im weitesten Sinne des Wortes), **for the sake of completeness** (vollständigkeitshalber), **'couldn't resist'** (Ich konnte es nicht widerstehen)

Chapter 2. Phantastic phrases to delight any native.

to delight sb (jdn begeistern), native (speaker) (Muttersprachler)

“Just pop it there, please”.

I often get strange looks when I say things like “Just pop it (down) there, please” - I’m sure I don’t need to explain why. No, it wasn’t a slip of the pen – the verb “to pop” is extremely useful in colloquial English and basically means to do something quickly or for a short period of time. Here are my top 10 ‘popping’ phrases to delight the natives and get funny looks in Germany.

1. Just pop it (down) there, please
2. I’ll pop it in the post on my way home.
3. I’m just popping off for a bite to eat.
4. Pop in/by whenever you like, we aren’t going out.
5. He popped round for a cuppa and a natter.
6. We’ve run out of milk, just pop for a bottle of milk, will you, son?
7. There’s a strange noise outside, pop your shoes on and go look.
8. I’ll pop home and look for it.
9. An idea just popped into my head. Why don’t we?
10. Charity shops are popping up all over the place.

I’ll pop off then - TTFN

to get strange looks (seltsame Blicke bekommen), **slip of the pen** (Schreibfehler), **colloquial English** (umgangssprachliches Englisch), **to get funny looks**, (seltsame Blicke bekommen), **to pop sth in (a place)** (schnell etw irgendwo reintun), **to pop off (to a place)** (schnell verschwinden), **a bite to eat** (eine Kleinigkeit essen), **to pop in/over somebody** (kurz reinschauen), **to pop round** (herüberkommen), **cuppa = a cup of tea** (eine Tasse Tee), **natter** (Schwätzen), **“We’ve run out of milk”** (Uns ist die Milch ausgegangen), **to pop for sth/sb** (schnell (jdn/etw) holen), **to pop sth on** (etw schnell überziehen), **to pop (somewhere)** ((irgendwo) flitzen), **“An idea just popped into my head”** (etw in den Sinn kommen), **charity shop** (Second-Hand-Laden), **to pop up** (aus dem Boden schießen) **TTFN (ta ta for now)** (Tschüss)

5 fun English phrases to sex up your English.

It probably won’t come as any surprise when I say that English is a funny language. Here are 5 funny phrases, which I want to share with you today.

Before reading the examples and explanations, maybe you wanna have a go at figuring out what the phrases mean yourself first. An easy one to get us started:

1. Fire away!
2. to go swimmingly
3. to go pear-shaped
4. to pooh-pooh sth
5. double-dutch

Now for an example:

1. Ok, thanks for waiting, I've now got a pen. Fire away!
2. Everything was going swimmingly and then it all went pear-shaped!
3. That Mike, he just pooh-poohed everything. What's he f**king up to?
4. I just don't get what he's on about, it's all double Dutch to me.

Answers

1. Used to tell sb to begin to speak e.g. give you info. (on the phone) or ask a question (in a presentation)
2. Without any problems or difficulties.
3. Things go wrong.
4. to say that a suggestion, an idea, etc. is not true or not worth thinking about.
5. speech or writing that is impossible to understand, and that seems to be nonsense.

probably (Wahrscheinlich), **to have a go at sth** (Es doch mal versuchen), **to figure sth out** (etw rauskriegen), **“What's he f**king up to?”** (Was hat er verdammt nochmal vor), **“What he's on about?”** (was will er sagen), **Fire away!** (Schieß los!), **to go swimmingly**, (Wie geschmiert laufen), **to go pear-shaped** (schiefgehen), **to pooh-pooh sth** (etw als unbeachtlich behandeln), **double-dutch** (Ich verstehe nur Bahnhof)

5 fun phrasal verbs to sex up your English.

As we found out in yesterday's blog, the phrasal verb is the secret language of native speakers and is something non-natives understandably have difficulty with. So here are 5 more phrasal verbs to sex up your English:

(At work, in a meeting) “Listen up everyone, we’ve got a lot to get through, so let’s crack on“.

(Arriving home) “Ok, I’ll just rustle up some grub.“

(After meal) “You must have been hungry the way you wolfed the meal down“

(Later 2 blokes in the pub)

“Did you see that, the woman at the bar tried to get off with me”

“Ya, ya, pull the other one!“

(Food for thought on Friday) “Keep calm and carry on“ – a very typical British cultural querk – ‘Always keep a stiff upper lip‘.

Did you know it originated as propaganda poster by the British government in WW2, which was never actually made public until it was discovered as recently as 2000? (thanx wikipedia) and look was came out of that discovery: www.keepcalm-o-matic.co.uk

P.S. Which one was your favourite phrasal verb?

phrasal verb e.g. to put sth (= a meeting) off (Verb plus Partikel z.B. etw verschieben), **to crack on** (weitermachen), **to rustle sth (grub = food) up** (“kurz was zu Essen machen“), **to wolf sth (the meal) down** (etw. hinunterschlingen), **blokes** (Kerle), **to get off with sb** (jdn anmachen), **“Pull the other one!“** (Das kannst Du anderen weismachen!), **“Keep calm and carry on!“** (Bleib ruhig und mach weiter!), **cultural querk** (Eigenart), **“Always keep a stiff upper lip.“** (Halt die Ohren Steif / Trag’s mit Fassung), **to make sth public** (etw an die Öffentlichkeit bringen), **to discover** (entdecken), **as recently as** (erst).

5 fun phrases to delight your native friends.

Let’s end the week on a lighter note! Here are some of my fave. (= favourite) phrases, which I regularly use and hear.

1. **‘the nitty gritty’** “**Let’s get down to the nitty gritty.**”
2. **‘Higgledy-piggeldy’** “The storeroom is all **higgledy-piggeldy** at the moment, we are seriously gonna have to sort it out”.
3. **‘Tickety-boo’**. “How are you doing”? “**Tickety-boo**, thank you, and you?”
4. **‘Swings & roundabouts’**. “Whichever way we do it, **it’s swings and roundabouts.**”

5. **'Tata!'** "See you later", **"Aye, tata!"**

on a lighter note (um zu etw Erfreulicherem übergehen), **the nitty gritty** (das Wesentliche), **"Let's get down to the nitty gritty"** (Kommen wir zur Sache), **higgledy-piggledy** (drunter & drüber), **tickety-boo** (in bester Ordnung), **swings & roundabouts** (Es ist gehupft wie gesprungen), **tata** (Tschüss), **Aye** (Scotland/Northern England) (Ja)

5 fun idioms to start your own list.

Let's 1) **let our hair down** as we put another working week to bed! So what better than some fun idioms (in bold). Do you know or can you guess the German equivalent based on the conversations around the idiom? Translations below.

2) "The boss is in a foul mood today".

"Ya, tell me about it, he's been like that since he walked in this morning."

"I guess he must have **got out of the wrong side of the bed this morning.**"

3) "I'm not so sure I wanna try those frogs' legs, they look kind of creepy. "

"Oh, come on, the French do and remember, **when in Rome, do as the Romans.** Bon Appétit"

4) "Ok, ok I didn't tidy up yesterday, I'm sorry! but **don't make a mountain out of a molehill.**"

5) "I really don't give a monkey's, but the boss **will blow her top** when she gets in."

And a couple of bonus ones. **It only remains for me to say "Keep your pecker up!"** and have a great weekend.

to let one's hair down (sich gehen lassen), **to be in a foul mood** (in mieser Laune sein), **to get out of the wrong side of the bed** (mit dem linken Fuß zuerst aufstehen), **frog's legs** (Froschschenkel), **creepy** (gruselig) **When in Rome, do as the Romans** (Andere Länder, andere Sitten), **to tidy up** (aufräumen) **Don't make a mountain out of a molehill** (Mach doch aus einer Mücke keinen Elefanten), **"I don't**

give a monkey's (fart) "Das ist mir scheißegal", **to blow one's top** (An die Decke gehen), **"It only remains for me to say"** (Damit bleibt mir nur noch zu sagen), **Keep your pecker up** (Halt die Ohren steif).

Chapter 3. The Language of ‘Thingybob’ 4 FOF.

Tibitonians will know my blog posts ‘The Language of Thingybobs’ from both my blog and the book ‘Walking English Dictionary 1’, in which I focus on vocabulary relating to a topic in order to grow your vocab aka Viagra for your vocab!! Here are 5 posts that I think fit well into the Fun on Friday category.

Thingybob (dingsbums), **to relate to sth** (sich auf etw beziehen)

Glorious day ! - The language of weather

Inspired by the gorgeous weather we had yesterday, I thought it would be a great chance to dispel a myth about us Brits – we’re always talking about the weather. Not true, believe me.

That being said, it’s common as an opener to get a conversations going, especially with a stranger. Here are my top 5 weather starters for any eventuality:

1. A tad nippy, isn’t it? = It’s a little cold
2. Glorious / gorgeous day = very nice weather
3. It’s blowing a (10 force) gale outside = very wind
4. Brass monkey weather, eh (slang) = very cold weather
5. It’s a real scorcher! = very hot

Don’t worry too much about the last one, you’ll only need it once in a blue moon.

If you want to learn another ten weather related idioms, why not check out the following link? Good stuff!!! <https://youtu.be/O0N-4spJDw0>

Gorgeous (wunderschön), **to dispel a myth** (mit einem Mythos aufräumen), **that being said** (Abgesehen davon), **for any eventuality** (für alle Fälle), **once in a blue moon** (alle Jubeljahre).

How was it for you, darling? – The language of the weekend.

Steady on, Tibitonians, I’m talking about what your weekend was like? Not what you’re (possibly) thinking.

Here's a 'speak like a native' top 10 (slangy) weekend activities!

1. On Friday evening I went out for a couple of pints with my mates.
2. I stopped (Br) /stayed (US) out until 1 a.m.
3. On Saturday morning I was knackered & did bugger all.
4. In the afternoon I did some exercise to clear the head.
5. My wife and I dropped in on the in-laws.
6. On Saturday evening, we ate out at our favourite Indian restaurant.
7. On Sunday we lay in until 10 ish.
8. We went for a long walk in the countryside.
9. We had a quiet one (evening) in & got a takeaway in.
10. In the evening, we cuddled up on the couch & watched a film on the box.

Steady on (Immer mit der Ruhe), **To go out for a couple of pints** (auf ein Paar Bier gehen), **mate** (Kumpel), **to stop(Br) /stay(US) out** (ausbleiben / nicht heimgehen), **to be knackered** (todmüde), **to do bugger all** (einen Scheiß tun), **to do exercise** (Sport treiben), **to drop in on sb** (reinschauen), **the in-laws** (Schwiegereltern), **to eat out** (essen gehen), **to lie in** (ausschlafen), **-ish** (gegen), **to have a quiet one (evening) in** (in Ruhe zuhause bleiben), **to get a takeaway** (Essen zum mitnehmen), **to cuddle up** (sich zusammenkuscheln), **on the box** (Fernseher).

Easy-peasy lemon squeezy – The language of easy.

The German team manager Joachim Löw is said to be "relieved" with the "doable tasks" of playing against: Czech Republic, Northern Ireland, Norway, Azerbaijan and San Mario.

"Doable tasks" is an understatement. I'm sure he'll be rubbing his hands together and saying "Easy peasy lemon squeezy, that's that sorted"

Monday morning quiz to get you started!!! How many English phrases can you think of meaning 'easy'?

Here's my list starting EASY first!

Child's play
A doddle
As easy as pie
As easy as ABC
As easy as falling off a log
Easy peasy
There's nothing to it

A walk in the park
I can do it blindfolded
A piece of piss! Beware!!!

As for the 'home nations' as the Brits call them, the draw also threw up some exciting derbies e.g. Wales vs. Republic of Ireland and England vs. Scotland.

<http://de.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=easy+peasy+lemon+squeezy>

to be "relieved" (erleichtert sein), **"doable tasks"** (lösbare Aufgaben), **understatement** (Untertreibung), **to rub one's hands** (sich die Hände reiben), **"Easy peasy lemon squeezy"** (pillepalle), **"that's that sorted"** (erledigt), **"I can do it blindfolded"** (etw (wie) im Schlaf machen), **"A piece of piss!"** (nicht schwierig), **as for** (was.... angeht), **'Home Nations'** (England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland & Republic of Ireland), **draw** (Auslösung), **to throw up** (hier: sich ergeben), **vs.** (**versus** = gegen)

Are you pulling my leg, mate? – The language of being surprised and shocked.

Sometimes in conversation people exaggerate, tell little (big) white lies, or try to banter/joke with each other. Maybe you don't believe something or somebody, find it far-fetched or are surprised and shocked.

How to respond? – Here's 10 top ways – beware there are some naughty ones! Well it is Fun on Friday.

- Are you pulling my leg?
- No kidding.
- Come off it.
- You're bullshitting me*/ That's a load of BS.
- You're taking the Mick/piss*.
- Get away/real.
- You can't be serious.
- Are you winding me up? / Is this a wind-up?
- That's rubbish/cobblers*/bollocks**.

*be careful ** be very careful

to exaggerate (übertreiben), **to tell little (big) white lies** (fromme Lüge erzählen), **to banter/joke with sb** (scherzen), **naughty** (unanständig) **far-fetched** (weithergeholt), **to pull sb's leg?** (jdn auf den Arm nehmen), **No kidding** (kein Scherz), **come off it** (Red doch keinen Unsinn), **to bullshit sb** (jdn verscheißern), **to take the Mick/piss*** (jdn verarschen), **to wind sb up** (jdn veräppeln), **“That’s rubbish /cobblers* /bollocks**** (Schwachsinn / N.B. bollocks can also mean Eier/Hoden).

Fancy a rant? – The language of ranting!

Everyone loves a good old rant (= when you speak or complain about something in a loud and/or angry way) every now and again to vent or in other words let off steam and get something off one’s chest.

As you can see below, it’s a very simple construction but do you know all the possibilities, when it comes to ‘choosing’ your words correctly:

“What really (anger / annoys / gets / bugs / riles / pisses me off) is (that)

You can get away with the first 3 in a professional situation whereas bugs etc are better placed down the pub.

This construction can also be used in other situations e.g. to express surprise/disbelief:

“What really (surprises / amazes / confuses / astounds me) is (that)

Another great phrase is “It beggars belief” and when I think of the word ‘beg’, you can also disagree with someone by using “I beg to differ” or what about “It begs the question” for your meetings.

Anyway, here’s a RANT I prepared earlier:

“What really pisses me off is this damn incessant rain” See, I already feel much better!!

Happy ranting.

Fancy (Lust auf.....), **‘to rant’** (Tirade loslassen), **to let one’s hair down** (sich gehen lassen), **to vent** (etw rauslassen), **to let off steam** (Luft ablassen), **to get something off one’s chest** (sich etw von der Seele reden), **to get away with sth** (mit etw davon kommen), **disbelief** (Fassungslosigkeit), **“It beggars belief”** (es ist

unfassbar), **to disagree with sb** (mit jdm nicht übereinstimmen), **“I beg to differ”** (“Ich bin anderer Ansicht”), **“It begs the question”** (Damit stellt sich die Frage), **damn** (verdammt), **incessant rain** (Dauerregen).

Bonus quicky: Why on earth ...? – The language of disbelief

Lost for words?!! Why on earth would so-and-so do that? How often do we ask ourselves WHY..., whether it is something we see/hear about in the news, what a family member or work colleague does/says/did etc.

Obviously, your choice of language depends on the situation. Here are 4 alternatives to the above ‘Why on earth’- which is acceptable really in any context. I’ll leave it up to you to decide on what is appropriate when.

“Why the devil did you do that?”

“What the heck did you do that for?”

“What the (fucking) hell are you doing there?”

“Why the fuck would you admit to your boss that you fucked up?”

Have a great weekend safe in the knowledge you’ll never be lost for words again. Cheerio

Why on earth (um Himmels willen), **disbelief** (Fassungslosigkeit), **so-an d-so** (Dingenskirchen), **obviously** (offensichtlich), **to leave it up to sb** (jdn etw überlassen), **appropriate** (angemessen), **to admit to sb** (jdm etw eingestehen), **to fuck up** (Scheiße bauen), **safe in the knowledge** (in der Gewissheit,dass), **cheerio** (Tschüss)

Chapter 4. Texts to Tickle you.

When somebody tickles you, you smile, giggle, break into a laugh and maybe even laugh so much it hurts. I hope these texts will at least edutain you and maybe even tickle you into a smile, giggle or laugh.

To tickle (kitzeln), **to smile** (lächeln), **to giggle** (kichern), **to break into a laugh** (in ein Gelächter ausbrechen)

With Christ's sky journey, a bridge day and a weekend.

Inspired by the literal translation above, I thought you might like to find out my TOP 10 favourite funny literal translations. So here we go:

1. Dust sucker.
2. Breast warts.
3. Up goes the post.
4. I believe I spider.
5. Don't go me on the cookie.
6. I understand train station.
7. (On a Spa website) "Massage on the back side (= Arse)"
8. (On a flyer at a hotel) "Please enjoy your stay in full trains"

The last are my absolute favourites because they are German towns you could visit over the 'Christ's sky journey' break if you were that way inclined.

9. Backside monkey's castle
10. Horny churches.

Can you guess all the German phrases? Here's a last one for you "I wish you all what, Dave!!!!!!"

literal translation (wörtliche Übersetzung), **to be that way inclined** (geneigt sein)

They spider the Britons.

When Asterix & Co arrived in Britain, the Brits suddenly stopped fighting slap-bang in the middle of a battle to have a brew. Astounded, one of them exclaimed "Die spinnen die Briton"! Maybe they are right after all.

I know we have some the strangest traditions and customs ranging from morris dancing to cheese rolling and competitions like ‘tug of war’ and ‘tossing the caber’.

However, I have never heard of the main event at the Cotswold (region in the west of England) Olimpick Games – wait for it – shin-kicking championships – don’t believe me?

Check out the vid. https://youtu.be/04phu_Yp8UU . Please forgive the sound quality, but as they say “A picture paints a thousand words”.

Slap-bang in the middle (genau in der Mitte), **battle** (Gefecht), **to have a brew** (hier: Tee trinken), **astounded** (erstaunt), **to exclaim** (ausrufen), **customs** (Gebräuche), **competition** (Wettkampf), **tug of war** (Tauziehen), **to toss the caber** (Baumstammwerfen), **shin** (Schienbein), **a picture paints a thousand words** (Ein Bild sagt mehr als tausend Wörter)

Babbling.

I’m sure you’ve heard about the language training company ‘Babbel’, but did you know that ‘to babble’ in English actually means to talk quickly in a way that is difficult to understand. A marketing cock-up?

Sorry, I’m really not here to knock the guys from Babbel, on the contrary, I’m all for anyone, who tries to make language learning fun and accessible for everyone!!!!!!

‘Talking’ is obviously an important part of cultures because there are so many words connected to it. Here’s a few I prepared earlier.

Take for example ‘to chatter on about sth’ means to talk continuously about things that are not important or interesting. Replace ‘chatter’ with an animal with long ears and which has lots of sex – as hearsay would have it - ‘rabbit’ of course, you have a colloquial synonym. A person, who is like this can be said to ‘talk the hind legs off a donkey’

Then you can ‘be/go/keep & bang on about sth’, which means you talk in a boring or complaining way about something.

Do you know what you call sb, who likes talking? He/she is ‘talkative’ and a ‘chatterbox’ (particularly children) if they talk too much. If someone

'talks nineteen to the dozen' i.e. talking without stopping, they could be called in a rather derogatory way 'motor mouth'.

Finally, 'put a sock in it, will you?' is one of the many common phrases thrown in the direction of a motor mouth to make him/her be quiet.

cock-up (Pfusch), **to knock sb** (über jdn/etw herziehen), **accessible** (erschwinglich), **as hearsay** (Hörensagen), **derogatory** (abwertend)

"Hey tosser" - daring marketing?!?!

When I first saw this advert warning Australians not to throw litter anywhere except in a bin, I creased up – what a fantastic play on words!

Of course, 'to toss' normally means 'to throw' but then I thought to myself, do Aussies actually know/use the word 'tossers' like in British slang? Grabbing the nearest Aussie I asked the million dollar question "Does the word 'tossers' have any other meaning?"

"If you mean 'wanker', then yes"? came his reply. Would you Adam 'n' Eve it? How daring is that? Downright clever or downright daring? What's your take?

<http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/litter/hey-tosser.htm>

Litter (Müll), **except** (außer), **to crease up** (jdn stark zum Lachen bringen), **play on words** (Wortspiel), **to grab sb** (hier: jdn packen), **Aussie** (slang: Australian), **'wanker'** (wichser), **reply** (Antwort), **"Would you Adam 'n' Eve it?"** (es glauben), **daring** (wagemutig), **downright** (total), **What's your take?** (Wie sieht Ihr das?)

Learning with a smile on your face.

"There's many a true word spoken in jest" as the saying goes and Whatsapp or FB help us pass on those wonderful little tidbits and bring a smile to their face.

Thankfully I also have my sources for daily smiles and what a better time to share these than in a 'Fun on Friday' post.

A common topic, which often tickles my fancy is the tried and true men/women or husband/wife. So here goes,

1. Message from a wife to a mother-in-law.

“Dear Mother-in-law.

Don’t teach me how to handle my children. I am living with one of yours and he needs a lot of improvement.”

Here’s some food for thought, which I didn’t want you to miss.

2. 3 kinds of men.

There are 3 kinds of men in this world. Some remain single and make wonders happen. Some have girlfriends and see wonders happen, the rest get married and wonder what happened.

“**There’s many a true word spoken in jest**“ (Manch wahres Wort wird im Scherz gesprochen), **saying** (Sprichwort), **source** (Quelle), **to tickle sb’s fancy** (jdn reizen), **tried & true** (altbewährt), **mother-in-law** (Schwiegermutter), **to remain** (blieben), **wonder** (Wunder), **to wonder** (sich wundern)

Chapter 5. Quizzes to go.

Translations that WILL surprise you.

In my trainings I love it when the participants start to mellow out and the jokes, fun & banter start. People start asking for the craziest translations but then seem surprised when there is one.

participants (Teilnehmer), **to mellow out** (sich entspannen), **banter** (Neckerei),

Can you figure out, which ones match up!

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. "So kann ich nicht arbeiten" | a) In a jiffy! |
| 2. "Zack zack" | b) Life's a bitch! |
| 3. "Geht doch" | c) "Thingybob or thingamajig" |
| 4. "Ist so!" | d) "Chop chop" |
| 5. "Dingsbums!" | e) "I'm in or I'm game" |
| 6. "Ich bin dabei" | f) "You can't get the staff" |
| 7. "Ich komme gleich" | g) "It's the way it is" |
| 8. "Das Leben ist hart/ungerecht" | h) "There you go" |

Answers template:

1) , 2) , 3) , 4)..... , 5)..... , 6)..... ,
7) , 8)

Answers: 1) F, 2) D, 3) H, 4) G, 5) C, 6) E, 7) A, 8) B

"You can't get the staff" ("So kann ich nicht arbeiten"), **"Chop chop"** (Zack zack), **"There you go"** ("Geht doch"), **"It's the way it is"** ("Ist so!"), **"Thingybob or thingamajig"** (Dingsbums), **"I'm in or I'm game"** ("Ich bin dabei"), **"In a jiffy"** ("Ich komme gleich"), **"Life's a bitch"** ("Das Leben ist ungerecht"),

Slang up your Friday quiz 1.

A bit of fun on Friday - 5 slangers (NOT a real word!!!). Have you ever heard of the following 5 slang words/phrases?

1. to chuck
2. to have a butcher's
3. to flog
4. to use your loaf
5. to bung

Here's a clue, do you know which every day verbs they are 'more or less' synonyms of? Think, sell, put, throw & look.

Any warmer? What about some example phrases?

1. Chuck me the newspaper, would you?
2. I wanna have a butcher's at the footy pages.
3. Hey, listen, Man Utd (Manchester United) are apparently gonna flog (Wayne) Rooney to Real (Madrid).
4. No, they won't, use your loaf, he's their only half descent striker.
5. Anyway, I'm off, bung the paper back in my bag when you're done.

Give up ?! – here are the answers:

to chuck – throw,
 to flog – sell,
 to bung – put,
 to use your loaf – think,
 to have a butchers – look

clue (Tipp), **footy** (football), **apparently** (angeblich), **gonna** (be going to), **half descent** (halbwegs gut), **striker** (Sturmer), **"I'm off"** (Ich bin dann weg).

Who wants to be a millionaire!

Just for fun, see how far you could get with our compact, who wants to be a millionaire – withOUT the cash, obviously! Today you have to choose which preposition goes in the following expressions:

1. € 50.
 The boss is away business in France.
 A) of B) on C) in D) to

2. € 1000.
 I can't remember who's in charge that project.
 A) of B) on C) in D) at

3. € 50 000.

I think we're all in agreement that.

A) of B) on C) in D) at

4. € 100 000.

We don't seem to have much common

A) of B) on C) at D) in

5. € 500 000.

Tell me, how do you stand that, Frank?

A) of B) on C) at D) to

6. € 1 million.

We seem to be talking cross purposes

A) of B) on C) at D) in

Answers template

1) , 2) , 3) , 4)..... , 5)..... , 6)..... ,

Just for fun (J4F) (nur zum Spaß), **obviously** (offensichtlich), **to be in charged** **sth** (verantwortlich für etw), **to be in agreement** **sth** (einig sein), **to have sth** **common (with sb)** (etw mit jdm gemein haben), **to talk** **cross purposes with sb** (aneinander vorbeireden).

Answers: 1) **on** 2) **of** 3) **on** 4) **in** 5) **on** 6) **at**

Who or what are these things?

Any ideas what we mean in English when we say that a person or a thing is

1) a clock-watcher

2) to be henpecked

3) a godsend

4) a stickler

5) a conman

6) to be double Dutch

7) to be knackered

8) to be skint

9) to be famished

10) a stick-in-the-mud

Answers template

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)
- 6)
- 7)
- 8)
- 9)
- 10)

Answers:

- 1) **a clock-watcher** = a worker who is always checking the time to make sure that they do not work longer than they need to
- 2) **henpecked** = a man who has a wife who is always telling him what to do, and he is too weak to disagree with her
- 3) **a godsend** = something good that happens unexpectedly and helps sb/sth when they need help
- 4) **a stickler** = a person who thinks that a particular quality or type of behaviour is very important and expects other people to think and behave in the same way
- 5) **a conman** = a man who tricks others into giving him money, etc.
- 6) **double Dutch** = speech or writing that is impossible to understand, and that seems to be nonsense
- 7) **knackered** = very tired (slang)
- 8) **skint** = have no money (slang)
- 9) **famished** = very hungry = starving
- 10) **a stick-in-the-mud** = a person who refuses to try anything new or exciting

What's gonna happen next?

On the British BBC TV sports quiz 'A Question of Sport', one quiz was called 'What happened next' The contestants are shown sporting footage, which is paused and they are asked to guess what happened next.

Did you know that the 'be going to' form in English can also be used to 'predict an future event based on what you know, feel or can see? For instance, you see black clouds above you can say "I guess, it's going to (gonna) rain soon".

As a bit of fun on Friday, I found two old adverts on youtube. Watch them and guess what's gonna happen next.

Vid one: <https://youtu.be/5WSq0szWigI> pause at 12 sec.

Vid two: <https://youtu.be/hZ17hTauYmI> pause at 15 sec.

Watch the clips again for yourself to see if you were right – great exercise to expand your (Friday) vocab.

contestant (Kandidat), **footage** (Filmmaterial), **to guess** (raten), **to predict sth** (etw vorhersagen), **for instance** (zum Beispiel), **advert** (Spot), **exercise** (Übung)

Bonus Quicky: Conundrum

I discovered a fantastic TV programme called “8 of 10 cats” which is a spoof on a programme called “Countdown”. Contestants have just 30 seconds – the countdown – to solve word & number puzzles.

The last round is always the ‘Conundrum’ round. The contestants are given a word jumbled up which they have to unjumble e.g. GEGS = eggs

Inspired by this, here's your conundrum ‘TIMER’. A clue to help: “you use this word to talk about your job.” Can you work out which word.

Answer: remit

to discover (entdecken), **spoof** (Parodie), **contestant** (Kandidat), **‘conundrum’** (hier: Scherzfrage), **to jumble up** (durcheinanderwerfen), **clue** (Tipp), **remit** (Auftrag/Aufgabenbereich)

Chapter 6. Texts to Tickle you 2.

Why English is hard to learn.

I love a rhyme and even dabble in a bit myself with very mediocre success, but rhyming and teaching at the same time is an art, I'm sure you'll agree!

While sorting out some old files, I came across this little gem, which had been filed and forgotten.

So resurrected and typed up, I proudly present "Why English is hard to learn". Unfortunately, a verse not of my making!!!!

We'll begin with box; the plural is boxes
But the plural of ox is oxen, not oxes.
One fowl is a goose, and two are called geese,
Yet the plural of moose is never called meese.

You may find a lone mouse or a house full of mice;
But the plural of house is houses, not hice.
The plural of man is always men,
But the plural of pan is never pen.

If I speak of a foot, and you show me two feet,
And I give you a book, would a pair be a beek?
If one is a tooth and a whole set are teeth,
Why shouldn't two booths be called beeth?

If the singular's this and the plural is these,
Should the plural of kiss be ever called keese?

We speak of a brother and also of brethren,
But though we say mother, we never say methren.
Then the masculine pronouns are he, his and him;
But imagine the feminine ... she, shis and shim!

Anonymous

rhyme (Reim), **to dabble in** (sich versuchen), **mediocre** (mittelmäßig), **file** (Ordner), **to come across sth** (etw zufällig finden), **gem** (Schmuckstück), **to file sth** (etw einheften), **(to be) resurrected** (hier: wieder ausgegraben)

'Wenn schon, denn schon'.

Hope you all had a great hols, if you've already had yours and if not, I hope you'll have a good one to come.

When I stopped writing the blog for the summer break, I had intended just to take a few weeks off and look how it turned out. When thinking about my first title back after the break, there was only one phrase that came to mind, but what "wenn schon, denn schon" doesn't sound too English, does it now?

Yep, I admit it, it came before "Let's go the whole hog", "if you're gonna do sth, then do it well/right" or even the proverb "You might as well be hanged for a sheep as a lamb" (one I'd never even heard of).

Other words/phrases that expats (watered-down Brits) maybe choose ahead of their own include my usual bad boys 'Hauptbahnhof', 'Steuerberater' to name but a few.

Apart from reminding me that some German vocab/phrase come before my native lingo (language), it reminds me how some languages are able to express things that others can't or in a better way – e.g. 'Schadenfreude' etc.

For more of how German can express things in a word, which other languages need full sentences for, check out this cool vid.

<https://youtu.be/dH1SvGMY4Qs>

If you don't have the time to watch, here's the list:

- 0.34: 'Erklärungsnot'
- 1.02: 'Futterneid'
- 1.22: 'Luftschloß'
- 1.39: 'Backpfeifengesicht'
- 1.56: 'Ruinenlust'
- 2.16: 'Kummerspeck'
- 2.30: 'Fremdschämen'
- 2.45: 'Weltschmerz'
- 3.09: 'Schadenfreude'

I love 'Backpfeifengesicht' (had never heard it before) but I guess that you probably already guessed that would be my fave (favourite) .

QOTD. What is yours?

to intend (vorhaben), **to turn out** (sich herausstellen), **to come to mind** (jdm in den Sinn kommen), **to admit sth** (zugeben), **proverb** (Sprichwort), **expat** (im Ausland lebender), **ahead of** (hier: vor), **to name but a few** (um nur einige zu nennen), **to express** (etw ausdrücken), **full sentence** (Hier: Satz).

'Manspreading'!!

Every now and again new words officially enter the English language as they are accepted into the Oxford dictionary. Today I thought I'd share a couple that took my fancy .

Firstly, there's the term 'dad bod or dadsbod' – any guesses what it could mean? It's a short form of 'dad's body', meaning after a man becomes a father, they often let their bodies go and as a result it becomes 'cuddly' .

Secondly, There the term 'menspreading' see photo below. According to the Oxford, it is 'when a man sits with his legs wide apart on public transport, encroaching on another seat'.

Thirdly, apparently there is female equivalent of menspreading wait for it ... 'shebagging' !!

Finally, this is a word I would like to put forward to the Oxford dictionary 'get-off-the-mobile-you-f**kin-annoying-person', which is a word I thought up following a 1 ½ hour train journey in which a young woman felt the need to share her life (and that of her friends) with the whole train compartment during most of my time on the train. I know it's a bit long-winded, but it hits the mark, don't you think? Do you think it'll catch on?

Have a great weekend & watch where you sit this weekend.

To take one's fancy (jdm gefallen), **term** (Begriff), **any guesses** (rate mal ...), **to let one's bodies go** (vernachlässigen), **'cuddly'** (kuschelig), **according to** (Laut), **to encroach on sb/sth** (sich mehr und mehr ausdehnen über), **apparently** (angeblich), **long-winded** (langatmig), **to catch on** (sich durchsetzen)

The Full Monty – a stag night to remember.

Before British men and women get hitched (married), they celebrate the last evening(s) of freedom at a stag night for men and a hen night for women.

These events have always been yet another excuse to get completely wasted, let their hair down and often a lot more.

Since the launch of cheaper flights thanx to Ryanair & Co, a stag/hen night have become nights away in some foreign city (often where there is cheaper alcohol e.g. Bratislava), changing the common phrase 'what happens is (Las) Vegas stays in Las Vegas' completely by simply inserting the name of some other place.

If, of course, they even get there. I had to laugh (I know I shouldn't really) at the story of the 12 Brits travelling out to Bratislava for a stag weekend. As per normal, they got tanked up before and during the flight, proceeded to become loud, sing songs, a one even performed a Full Monty (full strip performance) to the delight of the fellow passengers.

Unfortunately, the pilot wasn't so amused on hearing about the incident and took a little detour to Berlin to literally kick 6 of the 12 off the plane into the waiting arms of the German police before flying on.

I now have visions as I write this of a grandpa groom telling his grandchildren of the stag night of the century, if he actually still gets married to his fiancée at all.

to get hitched (married), **stag** (Hirsch), **hen** (Henne), **to get wasted** (besoffen), **to let one's hair down** (sich gehen lassen), **launch** (Start) **stag/hen night** (Junggesellenabende / Junggesellinnenabende), **to insert** (einfügen), **to get tanked up** (sich volllaufen lassen), **to proceed to do sth** (anfangen, etw zu tun), **delight** (Freude), **fellow passengers** (Mitreisende), **incident** (Vorfall), **to take a detour to** (einen Umweg machen), **literally** (buchstäblich), **groom** (Bräutigam), **century** (Jahrhundert), **fiancée** (Verlobte).

Pissed (Warning: bad language)

One language?!?! Check out this conversation between a Brit & an American.

"I mean, he was pissed" American.

"At work? What did the boss have to say about it – working under the influence and all that?" Brit.

"What are you talking about, I mean he got very angry" American

"Well you didn't say that." Brit

“Yes, I did – ‘pissed’ means angry.” American

“Where I come from ‘pissed’ means ‘drunk’, you know as in drunk too much alcohol” Brit

“No shit – you’re bullshitting me, right?” American

“If BSing me means “having you on” then I’m not!” Brit

“So how do you guys say ‘pissed’?” American

“Pissed off” Brit

“Well, I’ll be fucking damned – you learn something everyday’ American

To bullshit sb (jdm verscheißen), **to have sb on** (veräppeln), **“I’ll be damned** (Ich fasse es nicht!)

Chapter 7. Learning from vids, jokes & lyrics.

Learning from vids 1: Awesome German products

I've talked about the Germany vs. USA series a number of times. Alex (a German guy) and Jim (an American) talk about various aspects of life in Germany and the USA in an entertaining way.

In the episode 'Awesome German Products' they talk about German products that Jim likes to take back to the USA from Germany.

<https://youtu.be/Dhw95N0pHdE>

What kind of products do you think he will talk about? Watch the 10 minute film, you'll be in for a few surprises.

Here are my top 5 items of vocab for you to help understanding:

to hold off (doing sth), (mit etw warten), **treat** (Leckerbissen), **to grab sth** (etw zugreifen), **to stumble upon sth** (Zufällig auf etw stoßen), **pick-me-up** (Stärkungsmittel)

P.S. Which German products could you not do without?

Learning from jokes: Joking aside

Everyone loves to hear a good joke, often the dirtier the better. Indeed, finding a good old honest clean, PC (politically correct), not dirty or sexist etc, joke is some like finding the proverbial needle in the haystack.

Jokes can also be amazing for picking up new Titbits for your English. Vocab for sure, grammar too and would you believe even cultural insights.

When I was growing up (back in the dark ages) we also laughed to the 'English, Irish, Scots jokes', with the Irish being the brunt /butt of the joke. I'm sure in Ireland the English were the butt of the joke.

So here's a joke I prepared earlier, which is safe to publish outside Fun on Friday posts and is actually a great source of vocab & grammar Titbits – 6 in all.

Proudly presenting the joke:

“A man asks a farmer near a field, “Sorry, Sir. Would you mind if I crossed your field instead of going around it? You see I have to catch the 4.23 train.”

The farmer says ” Sure, go right ahead. And if the bull sees you, you’ll even catch the 4.11 one.”

Vocab. Titbit 1. “mind“ It has many different meanings. Here, it is used as asking for permission to do something. Literally, “Do you object to.. .“ = “Haben Sie etwas dagegen.....“

Vocab. Titbit 2. “to catch a train/bus“ is a collocation, which translated may seem a little strange. Here: „den Zug erwischen“.

Vocab Titbit 3: “Sure, go right ahead“ used here as a synonym for “No problem, do it“ or “Feel free“ or “be my guest“.

What about grammar?

Grammar Titbit 1. As mentioned above “Do / would you mind“. After the “Would you mind, if I crossed ..“. We often use the ‘past’ – ‘crossed’ because it is a hypothetical question, like in 2nd conditional structures.

Grammar Titbit 2. “instead of GOING“! When you need a verb after a preposition, you have to use the gerund form i.e. verb-ing form.

Grammar Titbit 2. „If my bull sees you, you’ll even catch the 4.11 one.“ is a classic example for conditional 1. In the first part, (I call it ‘the If bit’) you see the present simple form and in the second part, (I call it ‘the result bit’) you see the will form + infinitive (form of the verb). We use this form to talk about situations, which are likely to happen.

Culturally, there is the aspect of literally just using the time for the train you want to catch. This is especially commonly used by commuters to and from London.

the proverbial (sprichwörtlich), **to find needle in the haystack** (eine Nadel in einem Heuhaufen), **to bear the brunt** (Hauptleidtragender sein), **to ask for permission** (um Erlaubnis bitten), **“be my guest“** (aber natürlich), **as mentioned above** (wie oben erwähnt), **hypothetical** (hypothetisch), **instead of** (anstatt), **gerund form** (Gerundium), **i.e.** (d.h.), **to be likely** (wahrscheinlich), **commuter** (Pendler).

Learning from lyrics 1: If I lay here

Remember the great song by Snow Patrol entitled 'Chasing Cars'? As always they pulled off a massive song with moving lyrics and music.

But hold on now there, did you ever ask yourself "Why 'lay' and not 'lie'"? If you watch the video, you'll understand that the lead singer is asking somebody to 'lie' next to him on the road and watch cars – pretty dangerous & stupid right?!

That's why they use 'lay' - the past tense form of 'lie', because it is an unreal, imaginary situation. In this case we use the second conditional in English e.g. "If + past tense form, would + infinitive." So from the lyrics, "if you lay with me, would you lie with me?"

Vid with lyrics <https://youtu.be/XaKr98ktoxU>

Original vid: <https://youtu.be/GemKqzILV4w>

Enjoy the song and have a great weekend.

To be entitled (mit dem Titel), **to pull sth off** (hier: es schaffen), **massive (song)** (hier: großartig), **moving lyrics** (bewegende Songtexte), **"hold on now there"** (Moment mal), **imaginary situation** (unwirklich),

Learning from vids 2: Spot the mistakes?

In this short film a German employee would like to make an appointment with a British customer/colleague: <https://youtu.be/zmuRyKBn12w>

Unfortunately, he drops some typical cultural and grammatical clangers – can you spot them? Don't worry, the presenter then points out the mistakes before they replay the story in a correct version.

So pen and paper at the ready, good luck, on your marks, get set, go ...

to drop a clanger (sich Schnitzer machen), **to point sth out** (auf etw hinweisen), **on your marks, get set, go** (auf die Plätze, fertig, los)

Learning from Lyrics 2: I used to love her.

The well-known Irish band 'The Saw Doctors' wrote a great song entitled 'I useta love her'. <https://youtu.be/QtAxF3BQFRg>. With lyrics:

Grammar doesn't always have to be boring, you can learn a lot by simply trying to understand the lyrics of songs. 'I useta love her' is the perfect example as it combines both grammar & interesting vocab.

Here's a little story to explain 'useta' aka 'used to'. During my trip to the UK, we actually returned to my childhood summer holiday destination, where we 'used to' have a caravan and spend most of my holidays.

*Talking about things that happened regularly in the past, but no longer.

Blast from the past – walk down memory lane, it reminded me of back then when I USED TO play footy/cricket on the beach, bury my Dad in the sand & go swimming in temperatures that would give me a heart attack nowadays. Back then we DIDN'T USE to have a toilet or shower in the caravan – just a toilet & shower block – ah those were the days!

Well-known (bekannt), **lyrics** (Texte), **to use to (do sth)** (pflegen, etw zu tun), **blast from the past** (eine Begegnung mit der Vergangenheit), **to walk down memory lane** (in Erinnerungen schwelgen), **to bury** (begraben), **heart attack** (Herzinfarkt) **caravan** (Wohnwagen)

Bonus Quicky: Learning from vids 3 Fluency MC

Have problems remembering your irregular verb forms, check out this vid and accompanying text. Happy sing along! <https://youtu.be/gZzKe1BC2XU>

Accompanying text (Begleittext)

Bonus Quicky: Learning from jokes 2: Englishman, Irishman, Scotsman Jokes

In most cultures/countries/regions there are always those people, who have to take the brunt of jokes. In the UK it's no different, when it comes

to “stinginess” the Scots or the Yorkshire folk come off worst and “stupidity”, it tends to be the Irish.

The old “Englishman, Irishman, Scotsman jokes” have always been used to poke fun at the Irish and here’s one I chose entitled “Stupid” Wives, adapted from <http://www.paddyjokes.com>.

An Englishman, an Irishman and a Scotsman were sitting in a bar, drinking and discussing how stupid their wives were.

The Englishman says, "I tell you, my wife is so stupid. Last week she went to the supermarket and bought \$300 worth of meat because it was on sale, and we don't even have a freezer to keep it in."

The Scotsman agrees that she sounds pretty thick, but says his wife is thicker. "Just last week, she went out and spent \$17,000 on a new car," he laments, "and she doesn't even know how to drive!"

The Irishman nods sagely, and agrees that these two women sound like they both fell out of the stupid tree and got hit by every branch. However, he still thinks his wife is dumber.

"Ah, it kills me every time I think of it," he chuckles. "My wife just left to go on a holiday in Greece. I watched her packing her bag, and she must have put about 100 condoms in there. And she doesn't even have a penis!"

to take the brunt of (etw. voll abkriegen), **“stinginess”** (Knauserigkeit), **to come off worst** (sehr schlecht wegkommen), **to poke fun at sb** (sich über jdm lustig machen), **thick** (dumm), **to lament** (jammern), **to nod** (nicken), **sagely** (Klughaft), **to chuckle** (Kichern).

Chapter 8. Learning from stories, poems & conversations

The BRAIN at work.

As we all know the BRAIN is a brilliant thing and to celebrate this, I've collected 5 phrases with the BRAIN at work.

Imagine, if you will, anycompany, in anyplace, which does anything. Mrs Anyboss calls together her anyheads (of departments) to BRAINSTORM an anyconcept/project.

"Welcome. First things first, let's BRAINSTORM and BRAINDUMP them on the flipchart. Then we can get into the nitty gritty afterwards. Anyone volunteer to write anyideas up?" announced Mrs Anyboss.

"Thanks, Mr anymanager, o.k. then who's gonna get the ball rolling?"

Mr anymanager: "Why don't we ...anyidea?"

Mrs Anyboss: "Nice one, write it up, please".

Mrs anymanger: "We could always anyidea?"

Mrs Anyboss: "Yep pop that one up".

Mr anymanger: "What about anyidea?"

Mr anyothermanger: "Hmmm, isn't that like ... anyidea?"

Mrs Anyboss: "No, it doesn't matter right now, we're just in the BRAINDUMPING stage. So crack on, up it goes."

Anyminutes later, miss anymanager: "I've just had a BRAINWAVE, I reckon we should ... anyidea?"

Mrs anyboss: "Well, I think that draws our BRAINDUMPING session to a close. Anymorethoughts?"

Anyhours later, anyboss: "Hey guys, we've got a hell of a lot done in this session. Anyassistant will send the minutes with the 'to do list' around to you anytime soon."

Anyboss: “Thanx a million for your help – hope you’re not too BRAINDEAD and can get back to BRAINWASHING our employees and customers alike that we ARE experts in anything (at all).”

Anymanagers roar with laughter, clap, pat anyothermanagers on their backs, give anyothermanagers a high five and shout in unison “Yes, we can.”

The End.

to get into the nitty gritty (ans Eingemachte gehen), **volunteer** (Freiwilliger), **to crack on** (weitermachen), **BRAINWAVE** (Geistebliitz), **to reckon** (glauben), **the minutes** (Protokoll), **BRAINDEAD** (hier: Erschöpft), **high five** (jdn abklatschen), **to shout in unison** (im Sprechchor rufen)

You make some, you lose some.

Adapted from the common saying ‘you win some, you lose some’, today’s post is all about ‘money’ slang. A story of rags to riches and back again.

You make dough to earn a crust and make ends meet,
Put the quids, the fivers, the tenners aside,
and watch the coffers grow to a great size.

Keep your nose to the grindstone all hours god sends,
Grand after grand you rake it in, my friend,
and in the end, you will be rewarded!
Congrats you’re now loaded.

Flush with mega bucks, you lose the plot,
stop to work and spend the lot.
Who would ever Adam & Eve it
that you of all people would end up skint?

Dough (Kohle), **to earn a crust** (sich seine Brötchen verdienen), **to make ends meet** (über die Runden kommen), **quid** (1 Pfund), **fiver** (5 Pfund), **tenner** (10 Pfund), **the coffers** (Geldsäckel), **to keep your nose to the grindstone** (hart und lange arbeiten), **grand** (1000 Pfund), **to rake it in** (Geld absahnen), **to be loaded** (schwerreich sein), **to be flush with mega bucks** (in Geld schwimmen), **to lose the plot** (austicken), **to Adam & Eve it** (es glauben), **to be skint** (Pleite)

The super short story of a shitty decision.

Once upon a time Dave went shopping for a new used car and happened upon a local dealership of dubious character. Dave went in, walked around, stopped to stare longingly at a car and was immediately jumped on by a fast talking salesman.

“Ahhh, yes excellent choice, Beamer (BMW), can’t go wrong there – German quality and she purrs – like a dream, fancy a spin? er - I’m Steve – nice to meet you”

“Dave, likewise, er, go on, hell why not?” “Coming darling?” Dave shouted over.

“No, I’ll give it a miss, are you sure?” Steve interrupted

“Jump in. Dave. Here, catch, let’s see what she can do.”

Half an hour later & Dave was grinning like a Cheshire cat. I knew that grin, Dave was gonna pull the trigger. I hate his snap decisions. I couldn’t talk him out of it, Steve made sure of that. I had sussed Steve’s game out, unfortunately Dave hadn’t, as gullible as ever!

“I’ve got a great feeling about this car, darlin“

My gut instinct told me Steve had Dave over a barrel.

And we drove happily ever after !?!?! I wish!!!

A week later the engine conked out. It turned out that the 100,000 on the clock was actually more like 550 000 before Steve had fiddled with it.

Dave, the mug, was no longer as happy as Larry, but as sick as a parrot. The moral of this story:”All that glistens isn’t gold.” !!!

used car (gebrauchtes Auto), **to happen upon** (zufällig auf etw stoßen), **dealership** (Autohaus), **dubious** (zweifelhaft), **undeterred** (nicht abgeschreckt), **Beamer** (BMW), **to purr** (schnurren), **“fancy a spin?”** (Bock auf eine Spritztour?), **to give sth a miss** (etw bleiben lassen), **to interrupt** (unterbrechen), **to grin like a Cheshire cat** (bis über beide Ohren grinsen), **to pull the trigger** (hier: etw durchziehen), **snap decision** (spontaner Entschluss), **to talk sb out of it** (jdm etw ausreden), **to suss sth out** (etw dahintergekommen), **gullible** (leichtgläubig), **gut instinct** (Bauchgefühl), **to have sb over a barrel** (jdn in der Hand haben), **to conk out** (den Geist aufgeben), **to turn out** (herausstellen), **on the clock** (Kilometeruhr), **to**

fiddled with sth (an etw herummachen), **the mug**, (Trottel), **to be as happy as Larry** (überglücklich), **to be as sick as a parrot** (extreme enttäuscht), **"All that glistens isn't gold."** !!!! (Es ist nicht alles Gold, was glänzt)

Wild office!

Inspired by a visit to the zoo with my little fella (my son), I decided to write an office scenario using as many ANIMALLY terms as I could fit in. Enter the wild office at your peril!

The Personal Assistant puts the receiver down and speaks to another colleague in the room

P.A. "That was Dave & he's not a happy bunny!"

Colleague. "What's up?"

P.A. "He just wanted to know if the boss was in"

Colleague" What's rattled his cage this time? Let me guess, he's got the hump about André. He's gonna charge into the office like a bull in a china shop and badger the boss to take André off the team, am I right or am I right?

P.A. "No shit, Sherlock! I mean Dave's got this bee in his bonnet that André isn't pulling his weight & letting the others do the lion's share.

Colleague "If you ask me, Dave's making a mountain out of a mole hill!

P.A. "I don't know, slippery as an eel that André. He seems to have wriggled into the boss's good books and now the whole pecking order in the marketing department has been turned on its head. I saw his job application, in his last place, he was a mere paper tiger but on the strength of him studying Marketing & Social Media at some evening school he got the job.

Colleague "Maybe sly fox is the better expression. Oh, I'd love to be a fly on the wall when Dave bursts in but I've gotta go. Do me a favour ...

P.A. ... and give you a blow by blow account at lunch? No worries. Toodeloo!, chuck!

at your peril (auf deine Gefahr), **to put the receiver down** (Hörer auflegen), **to rattle sb's cage** (jdn verärgern), **to get the hump about sb/sth** (schlechte Laune haben), **to charge into a place** (stürmen), **like a bull in a china shop** (wie ein Elefant im Porzellanladen), **to badger the boss** (bedrängen), **"No shit"** (Hier: Was du nicht sagst), **Sherlock** (von Sherlock Holmes (der berühmte Detektiv) ironisch gemeint = schlaumeier), **to have a bee in one's bonnet** (fixe Ideen haben), **to pull one's weight** (sich am Riemen reisen), **to do the lion's share** (den Löwenanteil machen), **to make a mountain out of a mole hill** (aus einer Mücke einen Elefanten machen), **slippery as an eel** (aalglatt), **to wriggle into sth** (sich hineinschlängeln), **to be in sb's good books** (gut bei jdm angeschrieben sein), **the whole pecking order** (Hackordnung), **to turn sth on its head** (etw auf den Kopf stellen), **mere** (nur), **paper tiger** (Hier = Admin staff = Verwaltungspersonal), **on the strength of** (aufgrund), **sly fox** (schlauer Fuchs), **to be a fly on the wall** (Mäuschen spielen), **to burst in** (hereinplatzen), **a blow by blow account** (Bericht bis ins letzte Detail), **Toodeloo** (Bis gleich/Tschüss!), **chuck** (Liebling)!

Monday morning.

Hallelujah, back in the office. A little office conversation for Monday morning. Beware: Bad language!

Chris: Jesus, Mike, you look worse for wear, what did you get up to then?

Mike: Tell me about it! I feel like death warmed up and I went on a bit of a bender on Saturday with some mates.

Jenny: Serves you right! Why did you bother coming in today?

Mike: The boss'll smell a rat & next thing, I'll be his office getting a real bollocking.

Jenny: Well, do you really think you'll be any good to us today?

Mike: Sure thing, I'll put the kettle on have a brew and I'll be as right as rain.

Chris: And pigs'll fly! Why don't you just go to the boss and say you feel a bit under the weather.

Mike: Chris, are you off your rocker? He'll never fall for that one. No, I'm gonna sit it out and hopefully sneak off a bit earlier.

Chris & Jenny: Haha, you wuss! You can't take your booze anymore!

To look worse for wear (mitgenommen aussehen), “**what did you get up to then?**” (Was hast du denn angestellt?), “**Tell me about it!**“ (Du sagst es!), **to feel like death warmed up** (sterberig zumute sein), **to go on a bender** (Sauftour), “**It serves you right!**” (Es geschieht dir recht), **to bother to do sth** (sich hierherbemühen), **to smell a rat** (den Braten riechen), to get a real bollocking. (*von jdm. einen reingewürgt kriegen*), **to put the kettle on** (das Teewasser aufsetzen), **to have a brew** (eine Tasse Tee trinken), **to be as right as rain** (*in Ordnung*), “**pigs will fly!**” (an Sankt Nimmerlein), **to feel under the weather**. (sich angeschlagen fühlen), “**Are you off your rocker?**” (Hast du deinen Verstand verloren?), **to fall for sth** (auf etw reinfallen), **to sit sth out** (etw aussitzen), **to sneak off** (davonschleichen), “**you wuss!**” (Weichei), **booze** (Alkohol)

Bonus Quicky:

Kloppy on top.

Liverpool is on top in Europe,
A feat Kloppy promised the Liverpool kop.
They bulldozed Bayern, bamboozled Messi & Co,
Then they taught Tottenham a thing or two in the final K.O.

The 2019 Premiership season was amazing too,
with a head to head fight between the top two.
Just pipped to the post by the mighty Man city,
A mere one point ahead – what a pity!

Kloppy had lost other finals in the past,
joining Liverpool, he wanted to change that fast.
Last season’s Champions League final was unfortunately a flop,
they made amends this time round with an Origi shot.

Legends like Bill Shankly & Bob Paisley going before,
Joe Fagan, King Kenny (Dalglish) & Rafa Benitez and more.
They’re talking about an Anfield statue of Klopp,
NOW he’s certainly the undisputed King of the Kop.

By Dave Preston

To bulldoze sth (dem Erdboden gleichmachen), **to bamboozle sb** (jdn verblüffen), **to pip sb to the post** (jdn um Haaresbreite schlagen), **a mere etw** (nur ein), **flop** (Misserfolg), **to make amends** (wiedergutmachen), **undisputed** (unbestritten)

Chapter 9. Tricky translations.

It's the way it is.

If I could get €1 every time someone said “it's so”, either generally believing it's correct or just guessing and hoping for the best, I'd be a millionaire by now. Perplexed by my OTT = (over the top) frown or other gesticulation to flag up the mistake, they wonder what they could possibly have said wrong. Think Run DMC I say - “It's the way it is” – your aide memoire for “ist so!!!” <https://youtu.be/nsTbMrUMDqU>

“Your what Dave?” is the common reply. That reminds me of a couple of other gem translations:

“Donkey's bridge” doesn't exist in English (see above= aide memoire). I actually find it quite cool and often use it myself to tease my participants. I love watching their facial expressions, starting with disbelief, then confusion/concentration –“ did he really just say that?” as they furiously type ‘Donkey's bridge’ into their smart phone apps to amusement or sometimes even anger when I let on that I was actually pulling their legs all along.

Next a classic workplace comment, “So kann Ich nicht arbeiten/Einmal mit Profis” - No not what you are thinking! You could use “You can't get the staff” though.

Finally on a more serious note the concept of ‘Brückentag’. As we don't have any in the UK/US it's best simply to explain that “it is a day people tend to take off after a bank/public holiday”.

Do you have anything you'd love to get translated?

to be over the top (übertrieben), **to frown** (Stirnrunzeln), **to flag sth up** (hier: auf etw aufmerksam machen), **aide memoire** (Eselbrücke), **to tease sb** (necken), **disbelief** (Fassungslosigkeit), **to let on** (verraten), **to pull sb legs** (jdn auf den Arm nehmen)

Lost in translation.

In my work I often hear / read some comical things. As sad as it may sound, I write them down as examples of what not to do and share them with my clients for a bit of fun.

Years ago on a platform of the underground train station at Düsseldorf airport, there was (maybe still is) a sign attached to the luggage trolley machine.

German instructions: "Münzen in der Rückseite einwerfen"
English translation: „ Insert coins in backside” (Po)

Needless to say I noticed a lot of strange actions by English speaking travellers!

How would you reword the instructions?

Better translation "Please insert coins on the other side"

Lesson learnt, anything that has a 'Rückseite' e.g. book, sheet of paper, house etc in German, don't translate it with 'backside'.

Platform (Gleis), **luggage trolley** (Gepäckwagen), **instructions** (Anweisungen), **backside** (Po), **needless to say** (hier: selbstverständlich), **to notice** (bemerken), **to reword sth** (etw umformulieren).

Translate this one if you can! Hitzefrei

Troublesome translations are a daily occurrence but check out the following question I got this week. It tickled me so I thought I'd share it with you so you are in the KNOW.

"Dave, what's the translation for 'hitzefrei'?" I burst out laughing. The guy looked a tad (slang: little) perturbed by my laughing and my immediate response "There isn't one!"

His "Oh" with that kind of 'are you sure about that?' hidden message made me realise I had to explain my boisterous laughter and give him some plausible explanation.

"Well, it's quite simple really, we don't have it the UK, it never gets hot enough, but I'll check with my American colleagues (some places get hot!!!), see what they say."

He cottoned on and burst out laughing too saying "Oh yes, I see what you mean."

Later, my American colleague told me that they don't have a term either, he's from California (that hot bit I was talking about) – he said “We have air conditioning”. Nice one, I thought. Better not to tell him about the American take on ‘hitzefrei’

After all the toing and froing, I gave him the best I could think of “to close school (early) or have time of school because it is too hot”.

Speaking of which, I hope you can break off from work earlier today, enjoy the sun and have a chilled (sorry, couldn't resist) weekend. TGIF = Thank god it's Friday.

Troublesome (hier: schwierig), **daily occurrence** (alltägliche Ereignis), **to tickle sb** (jdm amüsieren), **to be in the know** (Bescheid wissen), **to burst out laughing** (losplatzen), **perturbed** (gestört), **boisterous laughter** (lautes Gelächter), **to cotton on** (es schnallen), **term** (Begriff), **toing and froing** (hin und her)

Getting places.

“How do you get there?” I ask

“I drive the train to work.” He answers.

“Oh really, do you have a train driving licence” I ask

“Of course, I haven't” (should, of course, be “I don't – but that's not the issue here)

“Well then, how can you drive the train to work, you're not a qualified train driver?” I say

“Oh, I understand, so I travel/go by train” The penny's dropped!!!

“How did you get home after the party?” I inquire

“I went there to foot” she answered with a proud look on her face as if she had run a marathon

“You mean you hopped home”, respect considering how many cocktails you said you had!

“What means ‘hopped’? (should, of course, be “ what does hopped mean? – but that's not the issue here)

“It means to move by jumping on one foot” I said

“Oh, no, it was hard to go” she said (should, of course, be “I could hardly walk” – but that's not the issue.

“to walk, I could hardly walk” I gently nudged her in the right direction.

“Yes, it was hard to walk at home” (should, of course, be “walk home” – but that's not the issue here).

“So did you walk all the way home?” I ask trying to elicit the correct version. Remember – copy & paste!

“Yes” she said. “It was just round the corner”.

“What was just round the corner? I asked puzzled

“My flat, it’s only 2 mins. by feet away”

“You mean ‘the party was in walking distance’, or ‘you can walk there in 2 mins’ or ‘you can go there on foot in 2 mins’.” I impatiently give her the correct versions.

“Yes, we understand us” (should, of course, be “each other” – but that’s not the issue here).

“English for runaways” I say jokingly.

“How will you get to Paris?” I ask

“We will go by plane from Cologne”.

“You mean ‘fly’!”

“Yes, we will fly by plane from Cologne”

“It’s like with ‘drive a car’ or ‘ride a bike’, you don’t need to say ‘car or bike’ because it’s understood. You only include a vehicle if you don’t use a car – drive a lorry, tractor etc.”

“Oh really, I didn’t know that.”

“No worries, and how will you get to Cologne airport?” Wanting to see if the penny has dropped.

“We will drive by train.”

issue (Thema), **the penny’s dropped** (der Groschen ist gefallen), **to inquire** (nachfragen), **proud** (stolz), **to hop** (hüpfen), **to nudge** (stupsen), **elicit** (etw hervorrufen), **to be puzzled** (verwirrt), **impatiently** (ungeduldig), **jokingly** (zum Spaß).

Good try No1.

“You’re getting on my alarm clock“ Nice try! As visions of me trying to stand on an alarm clock go rushing through my head. Doesn’t really work in English.

Here are some 11 real English options from soft to slang to OFFENSIVELY slang.

“You are getting on my nerves.”

“You are getting up my nose.”

“You are driving me up the wall.”

“You are (really) bugging me.”

“You are a (real) pain in the neck / rear”

Not for the faint hearted, DON'T read the next 3. YOU WERE WARNED!

“You are getting on my tits”

“You are a pain in the ass (A.E.)/arse (Br. E)”

“You’re (really) pissing /f**king me off”

Stay tuned for another ‘Good try!’

Nice try! (Guter Versuch), **to rush through** (durcheilen), **OFFENSIVLEY** (anstößig), **rear** (Hintern), **not for the faint hearted** (nichts für schwache Nerven), **stay tuned** (bleiben Sie dran)

Chapter 10. Slang up your Friday 2 (Let's party, booze, schmooze & swear a lot.)

To **booze** (saufen), to **schmooze** (plaudern), to **swear** (hier: schimpfen)

Know your Drinkingisms?

What a better time to have a drinking quiz. Simply match the English term, with the German equivalent. Answers below – you never know you may need the stuff later if you bump into any English speaking revellers.

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. booze | A) sich jdn schöntrinken |
| 2. tipsy | B) (auf) ex trinken |
| 3. binge drinking | C) Alkohol |
| 4. put on one's beer goggles | D) eine Kneipentour machen |
| 5. be shit-faced | E) Komasaufen |
| 6. hair of the dog | F) Kater |
| 7. down in one ! | G) angeschwipst |
| 8. hangover | H) sich übergeben |
| 9. pub crawl | I) stock besoffen |
| 10. throw up | J) Konterbier |

to **bump into sb** (jdm in die Arme laufen), **reveller** (Feiernder)

For a bit of fun – how many phrases can you think of which mean the same a 'drunk'?

1) 2) 3) 4) 5) 6) 7) 8) 9) 10)

Answers 1) C. 2) G. 3) E. 4) A. 5) I. 6) J. 7) B. 8) F. 9) D. 10) H.

Getting to grips with pissed BEWARE: BAD LANGUAGE CONTENT !

Just in time to the Carnival weekend I figured a deeper look at the term 'pissed' is in order. Why? Because Brits and Americans understand the term "I'm pissed" differently.

To a Brit, it is a slang word for 'drunk' hence the connection to Carnival and the typically associated binge drinking as the Carnival revellers "go out on the piss".

To an American, on the other hand, who without the context of a slurring, hiccupping person swaying to and fro in front of him/her, would understand the person is 'angry'.

If you want to say somebody is 'angry', we Brits have come up with a fantastic solution – add 'off' to 'pissed' and you get 'He's pissed off'* (N.B. it can also mean 'sad'). * Please don't use this to mean 'drunk', which is what I hear a lot of German English speakers do!!

Finally, follow this link to find out 32 other words Americans use to say 'drunk' <http://www.lostinthepond.com/2013/09/32-american-slang-words-for-drunk.html>

So now that's another one of life's little problems solved, let's crack open that bottle of champers, wine, beer and get pissed Sorry, JUICED – like that word!

to be in order (angebracht sein), **binge drinking** (Komasaufen), **Carnival revellers** (Jecken), **to go out on the piss** (saufen gehen), **to slur** (lallen), **to hiccup** (Schluckauf haben), **to sway to and fro** (sich hin und her wiegen), **to crack open** (köpfen)

Modern day Romeo and Juliet. SLANG CITY

Rom's (aka Romeo, real name Dan) 'lads on the lash' night out and Julia's hen party collided with each other in the Roxy disco. Mike and the lads had been drinking in the Fox and Hound pub and were already pretty tanked up (drunk) by the time they got into the disco.

The gang scoured the disco for the perfect prey and swooped on the hen party near the dance floor.

The lasses were downing shots of some pink drink as Andy called out "Alright ladies, what's going off here then"

"Hen's night mate, Fran here is getting wed (married) tomorrow." shouted Sarah back.

"Oh no she isn't, not if I get my hands on her first" shouted Andy. The lads roared with laughter .

“Sorry for Andy, He’s our Mr Sex on legs and always on the pull – harmless enough mind – I’m Rom”. As fate would have it, Rom and Julie had ‘somehow’ already coupled up.

“Don’t worry Fran can stick up for herself – I’m Julie”

“What are you drinking aside from that pinkie stuff” asked Rom

“Cider, cheers” replied Julie

The scene was set, beery banter, booze and boogieing. Rom and Julie always got back together, chatted, joked, drank and then got ripped apart again by a hen dragging Julie back to the dance floor.

Suddenly the music stopped, the lights went on, Rom and Julie were spotted on the dance floor intertwined, snogging, with their hands all over each other. The lads and lasses cheered and R& J lived happily ever after – THE END.

The lads (Jungs), **to be on the lash** (einen draufmachen), **hen party** (Junggesellinnenabschied), **to collide with sth/sb** (aufeinanderprallen), **to scour** (herumstreifen), **prey** (Beute), **to swoop on** (auf jdn herabstoßen), **the lasses** (Mädels), **to down** (auf ex trinken), **shot** (hier: Kurzer), **“Alright ladies, what’s going off here then”** (Hello Mädels, was geht hier ab?), **mate** (Kumpel), **to roar with laughter** (lauthals lachen), **to be on the pull** (auf Aufriss aus sein), **enough mind** (allerdings), **fate** (Schicksal), **to couple up** (paaren), **to stick up for oneself** (für sich eintreten), **to reply** (erwidern), **banter** (Geplänkel), **booze** (alcohol), **to boogie** (rocken), **to drag** (ziehen), **to be spotted** (hier: gesichtet), **to be intertwined** (sich (ineinander) verschlingen), **to snog** (knutschen), **to cheer** (jubeln).

The morning after the night before.

Looking too deep into your glass aka getting drunk has repercussions the next day. Here’s a wordlist, to put a name to your ailment and help you explain with pride /shame how you suffered like a martyr

First of all, too much of the good stuff, already plays with our mind and bodies on the night before. From sober, each drink sends you further down the slippery road to drunkenness via tipsy, to trashed or a myriad of other terms.

This leads to our bodily functions taking over control (or not) starting with a constant need to pee, slurring of words, head spinning aka dizzy, wobbly walking to the toilet to vomit /throw up/ puke/chunder – in various measures of slang to falling head over tit (on your face/arse – depending

on your direction of fall) and even passing out, if that last ONE was that ONE too many.

Wherever you may wake up, the chances are high, you'll be surprised you got there (especially if it happens to be your OWN bed) and you'll be looking the worse for wear and feeling pretty grotty or even like death (warmed up).

Welcome, ladies & gents, to hangoverland – dry mouth, splitting headache, weak and sore body (especially at the part(s) of the body you fell on). Remember?! No, well, there's a surprise, amazing how alcohol wipes your memory bank clean (and not to mention the bank account).

Becoming human again is priority, some swear by the hair of the dog others by tablets, sleep and a little prayer to god vowing that they'll never touch a drop of the BAD stuff ever again! Until the next time.

Happy Recovery.

to have repercussions (Auswirkungen), **ailment** (Leiden), **pride** (Stolz) **shame** (Scham), **sober** (nüchtern), **tipsy** (angeschwipst), **to trashed** (betrunken sein), **myriad** (Vielzahl), **to slur (one's words)** (undeutlich aussprechen), dizzy (schwindelig), **wobbly** (wackelig), **to vomit /throw up/ puke/chunder** (sich übergeben), **to pass out** (bewusstlos werden), **to look the worse for wear** (mitgenommen aussehen), **grotty** (mies), **to feel like death (warmed up)** (sterberig zumute sein), **splitting headache** (rasender Kopfschmerz), **to swear by sth** (auf etw schwören), **hair of the dog** (Katerbier), **to vow** (schwören), to recovery (Besserung).

Effing and Blinding: degree of vulgarity!

Hearing and using (depending on your inclination) so-called swear words are part & parcel of everyday life. I truly believe it needs highlighting & talking about so you know what is acceptable when and if at all.

Remember this is all subjective !!!!!!! However, I recruited the help of www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com to hopefully limit it.

I'd like focus on the following 10 words, which people use (as an adjective) to describe something/a situation or someone.

chuffing, fucking, flipping, effing, bloody, freaking (US), bleeding, flaming, sodding, blooming,

Obviously some are tamer than others but how would you categorise them according to the following 3 categories:

1) Acceptable in most situations

blooming = a mild swear word, used to emphasize a comment or a statement, especially an angry one. "What blooming awful weather!"

flipping = used as a mild swear word by some people to emphasize something or to show that they are annoyed "It's flipping cold today!"

flaming = used to emphasize that you are annoyed. "You flaming idiot!"

chuffing = a mild swear word that some people use when they are annoyed, to avoid saying 'fucking'. "The whole chuffing world's gone mad."

2) Use with care

bloody = a swear word that many people find offensive that is used to emphasize a comment or an angry statement = "What the bloody hell do you think you're doing?"

bleeding = synonym of bloody

freaking = a swear word that many people find offensive, used to emphasize a comment or an angry statement to avoid saying 'fucking'

fricking = synonym of freaking

3) Beware – only in the right circles.

effing = a swear word that many people find offensive that is used to emphasize a comment or an angry statement; used instead of saying 'fucking'. "I'll smash your effing face if you don't eff off."

sodding = a swear word that many people find offensive, used to emphasize a comment or an angry statement. "I couldn't understand a sodding thing!"

fucking = a swear word that many people find offensive that is used to emphasize a comment or an angry statement. "I'm fucking sick of this fucking rain!"

Have a blooming/bloody/effing great weekend !!!

inclination (Neigung), **swear word** (Schimpfwort), **to be part & parcel of sth** (ein fester Bestandteil von etw sein), **tamer** (zahmer), **to emphasize** (betonen), **be annoyed** (verärgert sein).

Bonus quickies. X rated – Look at your peril.

BEWARE: EXTREMELY BAD & OFFENSIVE LANGUAGE.

You have been warned!

Peril (Gefahr), **offensive language** (beleidigende Sprache).

24 words you don't wanna hear thrown in your direction.

I know a lot of people don't like swearing and using bad language. Understandably so! However, like it or not, it is also part & parcel of any language and often commonly used even by people you wouldn't expect to hear it from.

So at least be aware of these 24 words, even if you never plan to use them:

show-off = Aufschneider

poser = Angeber

square / bore / stick-in-the-mud = Langweiler

smart-arse / clever dick = Klugscheißer

stuck-up = hochnäsiger

cocky = arrogant

bossy = herrisch

pillock / plonker = Idiot

prick* / dick* / knob* = Blödmann ('prick', 'knob' and 'dick' mean penis too)

shithead / dickhead / knobhead = Arschloch

bugger / sod = Arschloch / Scheißkerl

wanker / tosser (Brit) / jerk off (U.S) = Wichser

slag = Schlampe

QOTD. So how many of them, did you already know? Be honest now! Don't lie!

Fk Friday! Look how versatile f**K is!!!!!!**

The good thing about Teatime Titbits is that I can/dare go to places, where others can't /daren't go for obvious reasons.

However, once against, if you feel you may be offended by bad language, please DON'T read on. YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED.

Still with me, thought you might be, eager to pick up the odd fucking titbit, eh?

Fuck! / Fucking hell (expresses anger or surprise or both)

Fuck it! / Fuck this for a game of soldiers! (Schluss damit, ich gebs auf!) (expresses resignation/annoyance)

Fuck me! (expresses shock or surprise)

Fuck you / Go and fuck / screw yourself (Go to hell)

Fuck about/around (to spend time doing unimportant things)

Be fucked off (UK) (to be angry)

Fuck sb over (US) (to treat sb in a bad way)

Fuck with sth or sb (to interfere with sth / to play mind games with sb)

Fuck sth up (to ruin sth)

Fuck (a though or care e.g. "He doesn't give a (flying) fuck what other people think")

Fucker (a stupid person, loser – UK also **fuck-face**, **fuckhead**)

Fuck all (UK) (absolutely nothing)

Fuckable (sexually attractive)

Fucked-up (in a very bad state) used in 2 common abbreviations

FUBAR (fucked up beyond all recognition = ruined)

SNAFU (situation normal: all fucked-up= an impossible situation)

For fucks sake (For God's sake!)

I wish you a f**king fantastic weekend.

To dare to do sth (es wagen, etw zu tun), **to be eager** (eifrig sein), “**Fuck this for a game of soldiers!**” (Schluss damit, ich gebs auf!), **to treat sb** (jdn behandeln), **to play mind games with sb** (jdn verunsichern), **to ruin sth** (verderben), “**He doesn’t give a (flying) fuck**” (drauf scheißen), **abbreviation** (Abkürzung), **fucked up beyond all recognition** (bis zur Unkenntlichkeit verstümmelt), **for God’s sake!** (um Himmels Willen!)

Bonus word: Fuckwit (Idiot)

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tool (Werkzeug), **native** (Muttersprachler), **in the meantime** (in der Zwischenzeit), **to boot** (obenrein),

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Walking dictionary (wandelndes Wörterbuch)

Teatime Tuesday Teasers 1 (TTT1).

Learning by doing is what this WED is all about. If you are a regular Teatime Titbitonian, you will know Tuesdays as the quiz day! The 'match-up the words/phrases exercises', 'fill in the gaps', 'guess what?' and 'now-go-do-it-yourself' quizzes/exercises tease you, tax you and train your English. Go on, let me 'entertease' you, download the book!!!! Still only €4.99!

<https://teatimetitbits.de/downloads/teatime-tuesday-teasers/>

FYI (For your information) (Als Information), **to be in the pipeline** (in Vorbereitung sein), **a regular** (Stammleser), **match-up exercise** (Zuordnungsaufgabe), **to fill in the gap** (die Lücke ausfüllen), **to guess** (raten), **to tease sb** (ärgern), **to tax sb** (hier: jds Gehirn viel abverlangen)

UPCOMING:

WED 2. Culture Counts.

This WED brings together Teatime Titbits about culture in the widest sense of the word from the different cultures in the English speaking world, special days and not forgetting in bed with TED (talk) videos

review posts. How could you resist in bed with TED*? Go on play away, download the book!!!

in the widest sense of the word (im weitesten Sinne des Wortes), **TED (talks)** (sind kurze Vorträge bei <https://www.ted.com/>. Ted ist auch ein englische Vorname), **to play away** (hier: Wortwitz: Fremdgehen)

Teatime Titbit Tip: Out on Teatime Titbit's 5th Birthday 25 November 2019