



THINGS PEOPLE SAY

Watch it | That does it | Join the club | That figures*

Viele idiomatisch feststehende Ausdrücke des Englischen sind nicht „wörtlich zu nehmen“ oder gar zu „übersetzen“.

Als unentbehrliche Teile der lebendigen Kommunikation des Alltags bringen sie Leben und Farbe in die Sprache und schlagkräftig und anschaulich Bedeutungen und Sprechabsichten direkt auf den Punkt, ohne zu umständlichen Erklärungen greifen zu müssen.

Auch für Sprachenlerner sind solche 'fixed expressions' ein wichtiges Feld: An der richtigen Stelle im passenden situativen und sozialen Zusammenhang und mit der korrekten Intonation verwendet, sind sie wichtige Teile der kollektiven Sprachkompetenz. Bleiben sie in bestimmten Situationen aus, wird dies leicht als störende Leerstelle erlebt, die den Unterhaltungsfluss stört.

Nur mit dieser „soziokulturellen Kompetenz“ wird man letztlich in der Fremdsprache heimisch und darf sich zu den „advanced non-native speakers“ zählen.

THINGS PEOPLE SAY möchte mit einer Vielzahl von unterhaltsamen Übungen auf diesem Weg begleiten. Besonderer Wert liegt dabei auf deutsch-englischen inhaltlichen Übereinstimmungen, die aber sehr oft durch unterschiedliche Ausdrücke sprachlich realisiert werden.

-
- * Watch it – Pass auf, ich warne dich
 - That does it – Jetzt reicht's aber
 - Join the club – Geht mir genauso
 - That figures – War ja klar/war ja zu erwarten

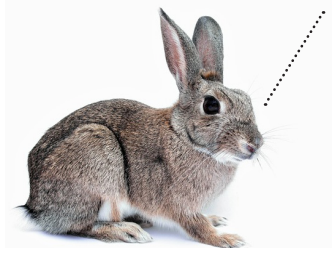
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Have you heard the latest about Bunny Bubbles?



Fire away, I'm all ears.



FIRE AWAY!

Viele feststehende Ausdrücke des Alltagsenglischen sind nicht „übersetzbar“; man muss sie stets als Ganzes lernen.



FÜHRE DIE DEUTSCHEN UND ENGLISCHEN AUSDRÜCKE ZUSAMMEN

Ich bin ganz Ohr _____	Count me out
Ohne mich! _____	Don't get me wrong
So ist es nun mal _____	Fire away
Wird nicht verraten! _____	I'm all ears It is what it is
Halte du dich da raus _____	It is what it is
Wie ich es erwartet habe _____	You keep out of this
Versteh' mich nicht falsch _____	That would be telling
(Na dann) Schieß (mal) los _____	Fire away That figures
.....	
Na endlich _____	Don't ask
Nie im Leben. _____	Steady on.
Das macht nichts _____	The heart bleeds
(Ach) frag mich nicht _____	At long last
Weiß nicht, keine Ahnung _____	Don't mention it
Gern geschehen. / Keine Ursache _____	You've got me there
Langsam / Immer mit der Ruhe _____	No way. Not on your life
Mir kommen die Tränen (Sarkasmus) _____	Never mind, that's okay



HIT THE BULLSEYE

Viele idiomatisch-bildhafte Ausdrücke des Deutschen und Englischen drücken die gleiche Bedeutung aus; allerdings sind die dabei verwendeten Substantive oft nicht zu „übersetzen“ und sollte man sich die englischen Idioms stets als Gesamtheit einprägen.



COMPLETE THE IDIOMS WITH THE NOUNS FROM THE COLUMN

-A-	bullseye	■ _____ ins Schwarze treffen ▶ hit the _____ bullseye
	floor	■ _____ aus dem Ruder laufen ▶ get out of _____
	hand	■ _____ (Kleidung) von der Stange kaufen ▶ buy off the _____
	mark	■ _____ Mir fällt ein Stein vom Herzen ▶ That's a load off my _____
	mind	■ _____ in den Keller gehen (z.B. Preise) ▶ go through the _____
	peg	■ _____ über das Ziel hinausschießen ▶ overshoot the _____

-B-	back	■ _____ Leib und Leben riskieren ▶ risk life and _____
	battle	■ _____ Besetzzeichen (Telefon) ▶ busy _____
	fire	■ _____ Das ist schon die halbe Miete ▶ That's half the _____
	limb	■ _____ auf die Schulter klopfen (loben) ▶ pat someone on the _____
	signal	■ _____ unter Beschuss geraten ▶ come under _____
	stick	■ _____ Zuckerbrot und Peitsche ▶ the carrot and the _____



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REPLIES • 3

YES, PLEASE

In colloquial English we often use short idiomatic phrases to reply or react to what someone has said.

USE THE REPLIES BELOW TO COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

A	<input type="radio"/> Yes, please	<input type="radio"/> Same here	<input type="radio"/> Lucky you	<input type="radio"/> I'm easy
B	<input type="radio"/> Good luck	<input type="radio"/> I'm sorry	<input type="radio"/> You're on	<input type="radio"/> I understand
C	<input type="radio"/> Well done	<input type="radio"/> That's okay	<input type="radio"/> You're welcome	<input type="radio"/> That figures

- A**
- Would you like a cup of coffee? – _____ I'm gasping for a drink.
 - I'm really hungry. – _____ I haven't had anything to eat all day.
 - I'm going to Spain tomorrow. – _____, enjoy your holiday.
 - Tea or coffee? – Oh, _____. I'll take whatever is most convenient to you.
- B**
- I'm taking my exam tomorrow. – _____. I hope all goes well for you.
 - No, this is not Celia, you must have dialled the wrong number. – Oh, _____.
 - It's going to rain today, do you want to bet? – _____, five pounds on sunshine.
 - Sue and Alan are getting married, but don't tell anybody. – _____, I'll keep quiet.
- C**
- Could you take a look at my art project, Mrs Teacher? – _____, Diana. It looks really great.
 - Sorry, I got stuck in traffic, I'm afraid I am going to be late for the meeting. – _____.
 - Thank you for helping me. – _____. It's been a pleasure.
 - Steve had to pay a fine for speeding. – _____, he always drives too fast.

GO FOR IT

Für Antworten, Stellungnahmen oder andere Reaktionen verwendet das umgangssprachliche Englisch oft idiomatische Wendungen, die lebendiger und interessanter sind als ein einfaches „Ja, nein, weiß ich nicht“.



TICK THE CORRECT MEANINGS, THEN USE THEM TO COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

■ That's rich coming from you

- Thank you for letting me have all that money
- You are no better than the person you criticise
- As a rich person you should help others

■ You don't say

- What you say surprises me
- You don't know what you're talking about
- Don't say things like that

■ Go for it!

- Go and get me a coffee
- Do it! It's the right decision
- Take part in the London Marathon

■ What's the catch?

- How many fish did you catch?
- What is the hidden problem or difficulty?
- How much does it cost?

■ Search me!

- I really don't know
- I've got a present for you
- Let's play hide and seek

■ Nothing doing

- I haven't got anything to do
- Impossible / Absolutely not
- It doesn't matter

■ We haven't got all day

- It will be dark soon
- Let's put off things till tomorrow
- Hurry up

■ What are you driving at?

- What are you trying to say?
- Where are you going?
- What will you be doing next?

1. Bill offered to lend me his car. – Really? _____? I suppose the tank is empty.
2. What is the capital of Nepal? – _____, how should I know?
3. You are so vague, _____? I just can't figure out what you mean.
4. Can you pick me up at the station? – Sorry, _____. My car broke down this morning.
5. Jo has grown rather fat, hasn't he? – _____, have you looked in the mirror recently?
6. I'm thinking of applying for a new teaching job. – _____! I'm sure you'll feel happier at a new school.
7. Did you hear that James has moved to London? – _____, I always thought he hated cities.
8. Aren't you ready yet? We must be going, _____, you know.



LOVE ME, LOVE MY DOG

USE THE EXPRESSIONS BELOW TO COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

A

Never mind

Any port in a storm

Don't give up the day job

There's a sucker born every minute

I wasn't born yesterday

B

Rather you than me

Love me, love my dog

Ignorance is no excuse

Better be safe than sorry

Tomorrow is another day

- A**
1. Sorry, I didn't get round to doing the shopping. – _____, there's plenty of food in the fridge.
 2. Painting is a nice hobby but you can't live on it, so take my advice and _____.
 3. You lent money to a perfect stranger? Well, it's true what they say: _____.
 4. I don't like Asian food, but the 'Delhi Palace' was the only place open, so _____.
 5. What makes you think you can fool me with your lies? _____, you know.
- B**
6. I know the weather's supposed to be fine, but I'll take an umbrella anyway – _____.
 7. If you want to marry me you'll have to accept my friends as well. _____.
 8. 'I'm going to clear out the garage over the weekend.' – _____, that's quite a big job.
 9. I didn't know there was a speed limit, do I really have to pay a fine? – _____, Sir.
 10. Not getting that job must be disappointing, but don't give up, _____.

Now think of other situations in which these sayings would be appropriate

LET'S GET CRACKING



TICK THE CORRECT MEANING OF THE SAYINGS, THEN USE THEM TO COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

■ Let's get cracking

- Let's go to sleep
- Let's start our activity in earnest
- Let's crack those nuts and start a cake

■ Now you're talking!

- Don't talk so loud
- Your suggestion is very good
- It's your turn to say something

■ There was nothing to it

- It was easy to do
- It wasn't worth anything
- It's no use trying

■ There's no two ways about it

- This is a one-way street
- We have to decide what to do
- There is no doubt about the situation

■ Hold your horses

- Don't spend so much money
- Wait, slow down, listen
- Mind your own business

■ It takes all sorts (to make a world)

- I like the idea of having a choice
- She/he seems strange, but let's be tolerant
- We need a good mixture of people on our team

■ That's more like it

- That's typical of him/her
- That's too expensive
- That's definitely better than before

■ The sky's the limit

- The sky looks bluer than ever
- There are limits to what you can do
- There's no limit to what you can do or achieve

■ Easy come, easy go

- It was easy to get and easily spent or lost
- Don't stay too long when you visit someone
- I had never thought it was so easy to do

■ The ball is your court

- You have won the tennis match
- Please give it back to me
- It's your turn to take action

1. We're late already and need to finish that job by this evening, so _____!
2. We've done our part of the job. Now _____.
3. Once we get our project financed, nothing can stop us, _____.
4. Some lottery millionaires spend their winnings within a year – a typical case of _____.
5. How did you set up this computer? – _____, really. You just plug it in and start.
6. Okay, shall we lay the carpet now? – _____. First we'll have to move the furniture.
7. Okay, I'll raise my offer to a £ 1,000. – _____. £ 800 wasn't really enough.
8. Dan really came to the funeral in a T-shirt? Oh well, I suppose _____.
9. Let's take a break and go for a coffee. – _____. Is there a Starbucks near here?
10. If we want a better health service we have to pay more in taxes; _____.

KEY

2

FIRE AWAY

A

- Ich bin ganz Ohr – I'm all ears
Ohne mich! – Count me out
So ist es nun mal – It is what it is
Wird nicht verraten! – That would be telling
Halte du dich da raus – You keep out of this
Wie ich es erwartet habe – That figures
Versteh' mich nicht falsch – Don't get me wrong
(Na dann) Schieß (mal) los – Fire away

B

- Na endlich – At long last
Nie im Leben – No way. | Not on your life
Das macht nichts – Never mind, that's okay
(Ach) frag mich nicht – Don't ask
Weiß nicht, keine Ahnung – You've got me there
Gern geschehen – Don't mention it
Immer mit der Ruhe – Steady on
Mir kommen die Tränen – The heart bleeds

3

COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

- ... go ahead, **fire away. I'm all ears.**
- ... **it is what it is**, there's not much you can do about it.
- Sorry, no, **that would be telling.**
- You keep out of this**, it's none of your business.
- Don't get me wrong**, I'd like to meet you, it's just ...
- That figures**, he never had his finances right.
- Count me out**, I can't stand the guy.
- At long last**, it was about time you did so.
- How was your holiday? – **Don't ask** ...
- Never mind, that's okay**, I didn't want it back anyway.
- Don't mention it**, it has been a pleasure.
- Steady on**. There's no need to go to extremes.
- What is the capital of Ecuador? – **You've got me there** ...
- The heart bleeds**, he must be down to his last billion.
- No way**, I hate racists.

4

EVERY DOG HAS HIS DAY

Every dog has his day – Everyone will be successful ...

What is the world coming to? – I'm surprised / shocked

Don't hold your breath – Don't expect too much

Keep your nose clean – Keep out of trouble, behave well

Cool it – Calm down

Long time no see – We haven't met for a long time

It's all in your mind – You're only imagining this ...

In your dreams – ... is not going to happen

- ... super job. Well, well ... **every dog has his day.**
- Keep your nose clean** when starting a new job ...
- Hello Mary, **long time no see** ...
- ... **what is the world coming to?**
- Hey, **cool it!** There's no need to get excited ...
- I say: **Don't hold your breath.**
- It's all in your mind**, we all value your work.
- Can I borrow the car, Dad? – **In your dreams**, son.

5

TIME FLIES

- It seems like yesterday. Oh, well, **time flies.**
- ... a case of **once bitten, twice shy.**
- Old habits die hard.**
- ... my advice is: **Look before you leap.**
- ... but **the boot is on the other foot** – he's the one ...
- ... oh well, – **those were the days.**
- I mean, **if it ain't broke, don't it.**
- ... thinking **lightning never strikes twice.**
- ... I thought **in for a penny, in for a pound** and asked ...
- ... the only advice you can give is **grin and bear it.**