

Proverbs and Sayings

A shotgun wedding Mußheirat *In former times a couple had to have a shotgun wedding if a baby was on its way. Nowadays they don't bother to get married.*

And I am left holding the baby Und ich bin der Angeschmierte *You all go out and enjoy yourselves and let me do the washing up. I don't mind being left holding the baby.*

As dead as a doornail Mausestot sein *There is no sound at all coming from the telephone - the line seems to be as dead as a doornail.*

As smooth as a baby's bottom Seidenweich *After Christine had visited her beautician her skin was as smooth as a baby's bottom.*

As thick as two short planks Dumm wie Bohnenstroh *I can't understand why an intelligent girl like Helen could fall in love with a man like Brian - he's as thick as two short planks.*

Don't count your chickens before they're hatched Du sollst den Tag nicht vor dem Abend loben *You shouldn't count your chickens before they're hatched. Although your boss told you you would get the new job, the committee still has to approve it.*

A drop in the ocean Ein Tropfen auf dem heißen Stein *Even if I lent my brother quite a lot of money it would only be a drop in the ocean and wouldn't solve his money problems for him.*

Don't get your knickers in a twist Rege Dich nicht so auf *Babs is easily upset - she tends to get her knickers in a twist when the slightest thing goes wrong.*

Everybody thinks the grass is greener on the other side Jeder glaubt, des Nachbarns Kirschen sind süßer *Whatever we have in life we still think the grass is greener on the other side and everybody else is better off than we are.*

He dropped a brick Ins Fettnäpfchen treten *Len really dropped a brick when he mentioned in front of Jenny that he didn't like Linda. He didn't know Linda was Jennifer's best friend.*

He has his head in the clouds Er ist ein Träumer *Greg seems to be completely out of touch with reality. He walks about with his head in the clouds.*

He is as cool as a cucumber Er ist kalt wie eine Hundeschнауze *Whatever you say to him you can't upset him - he always remains as cool as a cucumber.*

He is breathing down my neck Er ist hinter mir her *I can't concentrate on the work I am supposed to be doing because that boss of ours keeps breathing down my neck and won't let me work in peace.*

He is kicking up the daisies Er hat das Zeitliche gesehnet *You must be surprised that you haven't seen Tom for so long. Well I'm afraid you won't ever see him again because he is now kicking up the daisies.*

He is on cloud number nine Er ist im siebten Himmel *You can see Jason is in love. He looks as though he is on cloud number nine.*

He is on his last legs Er pfeift aus dem letzten Loch *That horse won't be able to be entered for another race as he is on his last legs and wouldn't survive the strain.*

He made a song and dance about it Er machte viel Aufhebens darüber *He made a real song and dance about it when I forget to give him the telephone message. I didn't think it was so important.*

He smelled a rat Er hat Lunte gerochen *When the man came to the door selling carpets John smelt a rat and suspected the carpets had been stolen.*

He was sick as a parrot Ihm war speiübel *Poor Harry was as sick as a parrot the first time he crossed the Channel by the ferry boat.*

Head over heels in love Hals über Kopf verliebt *It's the most wonderful feeling in the world to be head over heels in love.*

I am cheesed off Ich habe die Schnauze voll *I'm completely cheesed off at the moment. This is the third time this week my boss has asked me to do overtime.*

I have a bone to pick with you Ich muß ein Hühnchen mit Dir rupfen *I've got a bone to pick with you as I don't like the stories you have been telling about me.*

I scratch your back you scratch my back Eine Hand wäscht die andere *If Alan does you a favour he always expects you to do something for him in return. His motto is, "You scratch my back, I'll scratch yours".*

In for a penny, in for a pound Wer A sagt, muß auch B sagen *There's no point in making a decision and not following it up. In for a penny in for a pound is what I think.*

It is all Greek to me Mir kommt dies alles spanisch vor *It's no good my trying to understand mathematics - it's all Greek to me.*

It is like drawing blood from a stone Versuche einem nackten Mann Geld aus der Tasche zu ziehen *Trying to get Hilda to contribute some money towards a present for a colleague is like trying to draw blood from a stone. She never gives anything.*

It was only a flash in the pan Es war nur ein Strohfeuer *His initial success as Advertising Manager was only a flash in the pan. After that he didn't come up with any more good ideas.*

It's raining cats and dogs Es regnet Bindfäden *We can't possibly go out for a walk at the moment - it's raining cats and dogs outside and we would only get very wet.*

Once bitten twice shy Gebranntes Kind scheut das Feuer *After Harry's marriage broke up he swore he would never fall in love again. It was a case of once bitten twice shy.*

She is hand in glove with him Sie steckt mit ihm unter einer Decke *Vivian and Mike are hand in glove with one another; they always stick together against the rest of the office staff.*

She looks like the back of a bus Sie sieht häßlich aus *One could hardly believe Sarah and Sally were sisters; Sarah was a beauty whereas Sally has a face like the back of a bus.*

That's not my cup of tea Dies ist nicht nach meinem Geschmack *I know you like jazz music but it isn't my cup of tea; I prefer pop music.*

That's the way the cookie crumbles So ist es nun mal.. *Some people seem to have all the luck in life but that's just the way the cookie crumbles.*

There is not enough room to swing a cat Es ist sehr eng *I know you said your room was small but this is ridiculous! There's not even room to swing a cat.*

Those who pay the piper call the tune Wessen Brot ich esse, dessen Lied ich spiele *The Hill's marriage broke up because Mr. Hill had the attitude that who pays the piper calls the tune. Since he was the breadwinner in the family he expected his wife to do everything he said without questioning it.*

To be as fit as a fiddle Fit wie ein Turnschuh sein *Terry often boasted that he was as fit as a fiddle because he went jogging everyday.*

To be caught in the act Auf frischer Tat erwischt werden *The burgler was caught in the act.*

To be dressed to kill Aufgetakelt sein *I never see that old lady but she is dressed to kill. I've never seen her dressed casually even when she is only going to the bottle bank.*

To be the spitting image of Das Ebenbild sein von *It's impossible to tell the twins apart - they are they are the spitting image of one another.*

To behave like a bull in the china shop Sich wie ein Elefant im Porzellanladen benehmen *It's terrible inviting Uncle Tom anywhere as he always manages to break something - he behaves like an elephant in a china shop.*

To bite the dust Draufgehen *In western films many cowboys bite the dust in the course of the film.*

To bite the hand that feeds you Den Ast absägen, auf dem man sitzt *It's not a good idea for youngsters to leave home in anger because they only bite the hand that feeds them.*