



Our Favorite Expressions

Serie 1 ©

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1. Monday

“Pigs Might Fly”

This is used sarcastically to comment on the unlikelihood of something happening. For example, a lazy friend might say “I’m off for a 10 kilometer run”, and in response you might say “Well, pigs might fly!”, as, your lazy friend going for a run is as likely as a pig flapping its wings and taking off!

2. Tuesday

“Elephant in the Room”

You would use this expression when there is a very obvious problem or difficult issue to deal with, but it is ignored for the convenience or comfort of the people involved.

Here’s an example: “There was an elephant in the room at my mum’s house because she doesn’t like my new girlfriend.”

3. Wednesday

“A wolf in sheep’s clothing”

This is when someone hides their malicious intent behind the mask of kindness. One of the most famous examples is in the King James version of the Bible, which gives this warning in Matthew 7:15:

“Beware of the false prophets, which come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly are raving wolves.”

So if somebody came across as a genuine and honest person but then went and committed a heinous crime, you could say they were a wolf in sheep’s clothing.

4. Thursday

“The hair of the dog that bit me”

...is a small measure of an alcoholic drink, intended to cure a hangover.

Often just abbreviated to “hair of the dog”, the expression dates back to medieval times when people believed that if one was bitten by a rabid dog, the best cure would be to apply the same dog’s hair to the infected wound.

So the next time you wake up after having had one too many, just say you need a hair of the dog.

5. Friday

“Raining cats and dogs”

This expression that means it’s raining heavily outside. Nobody knows the source of this 17th century expression, but the most probable source is the fact that dead animals were sometimes washed up in the streets after heavy rain.

So, next time you experience torrential rain, you can say: “It’s raining cats and dogs out there.”