



Our Favorite Expressions

Serie 4 ©

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1. Monday

“One for the road”

This expression is used when friends are at a bar or pub, and it is nearing home-time. They will most likely be using a road in some form to get home, so the idea is to have one last drink to stay topped up for the trip.

One might turn to the other and suggest before leaving “One for the road, Peter?” Bear in mind it’s probably best not to use this if Peter is driving!

2. Tuesday

“Spending a penny”

This means to go to the loo. It’s origin lies in having to pay a penny to use a public lavatory in London in the 19th century, and that was mostly for women, male urinals being unfairly free of charge! The expression is now used whether having to pay or not.

3. Wednesday

“Blind leading the blind”

This expression is largely self-explanatory. It is its employment that is most important, as it is usually used derogatorily to describe a person who is guiding someone to do something they have never done before, and yet the person guiding doesn’t know how to do it themselves!

4. Thursday

“Out of the frying pan into the fire”

This is an expression used to describe the result of a person who, in doing something to change their unhappy circumstances, does something to make them worse.

A frying pan is only hot due to the fire underneath it, so the fire will be even hotter than the pan!

5. Friday

“Nip it in the bud”

This expression comes from the gardening world. To nip is to cut. To nip a bud is to cut a new growth of a flower if it is coming out too soon for it to survive. This term is often used when one needs to stop something quickly. You might say to a colleague: “This meeting is getting out of control, let’s nip it in the bud”.