



## Our Favorite Expressions

### Serie 7 ©

by John Grierson

#### 1. Monday

##### **“Over The Moon”**

This means to be particularly pleased, elated, or very happy

The origin of this expression is an English 16th century nonsense nursery rhyme called 'Hey Diddle Diddle' and it goes “Hey diddle diddle, the cat and the fiddle, the cow jumped over the moon”. Prince Harry was heard to say, on the birth of his son “I’m over the moon”.

#### 2. Tuesday

##### **“As Mad As A Hatter”**

This means insane, crazy but not always meant as an insult

In the past, hat-makers used mercury to stiffen the brims of hats. Mercury, as we now know, is a poison and could cause mental problems. Hatters were ingesting mercury or inhaling mercury particles without knowing it. Here’s an example “He does the strangest things. He’s as mad as a hatter!”

#### 3. Wednesday

##### **“Hitting The Nail On The Head”**

When someone says something that is right or correct, they hit the nail on the head. It comes from those who work in carpentry and also refers to what blacksmiths do. It means, literally, using the hammer correctly, to drive a nail home straight. So, “She has so many wrong opinions? That hits the nail on the head.”

#### 4. Thursday

##### **“Sending Someone On A Wild-Goose Chase”**

If you undertake a task that can never be fulfilled, you may be on a wild-goose chase.

Wild geese will always fly away before you can get near them, so you’ll never catch them.

For example - I went looking for a restaurant I was told about, but it had closed down. That turned out to be a wild-goose chase.

#### 5. Friday

##### **“In For A Penny, In For A Pound”**

If you commit to a course of action, whatever the consequences, you may as well complete it. So you might say, "I'm not sure I want to climb that mountain, but now that I'm here, in for a penny, in for a pound."