

English Sayings You'll Only Hear in the UK

People don't just want to learn English to succeed in professional environments, we've gathered some English phrases that you will probably only ever hear during a conversation between two Brits!

Full article: <http://www.stgeorges.co.uk/blog/english-sayings-you-will-only-hear-in-the-uk>

1. **All mouth and no trousers** — All talk, no action, i.e. Braggadocio.
“Don't listen to him. He's all mouth and no trousers.”
2. **Argy-bargy** — An argument or heated confrontation.
“I'm not interested in getting into an argy-bargy over it.”
3. **Bang to rights** — Equivalent of 'dead to rights.' Caught in the act. Caught red-handed.
“Police caught Jim Bang to rights outside the bookie's.”
4. **Bent as a nine-bob note** — Metaphor for dishonesty or corruption that references the nine-schilling (bob) note, which does not exist and must therefore be counterfeit.
“That street vendor selling watches is bent as a nine-bob note.”
5. **Blinding** — An adjective for excellence.
“The Prime Minister gave a blinding inauguration speech.”
6. **Chuffed** — To be very pleased about something.
“Reginald was chuffed about the football match.”
7. **Corker** — Someone or something that/who is outstanding. A standout.
“Great job, Jim. You're a real corker.”
8. **Do one's nut** — To become enraged. Presumably a reference to doing an impression of a madman (nut). “I gave him the news, and a he did his nut.)
“When I gave Reginald the news, he did his nut, and went home.”
9. **Damp Squib** — Something that fails on all counts. Reference to small explosive charges that fail when wet.
“It looks like the new midfielder is a damp squib.”
10. **Earwig** — To eavesdrop.
“Don't earwig on my personal phone calls.”
11. **Gutted** — A state of extreme despair.
“John was gutted that his girlfriend dumped him.”
12. **Go to Spare** — To become angry, frustrated, distressed, or enraged.
“If his mood is off, he might go to spare.”

13. **Hard Cheese** — An expression of bad luck.
“Hard cheese if he does. We’re entitled to our break.”
14. **Idiot box** — A television set.
“I think I’ll spend the night in front of the idiot box.”
15. **Marbles** — Wit, intelligence, or good sense.
“Have you lost your marbles?”
16. **Miffed** — Upset or offended.
“He got all miffed about the football match.”
17. **Numpy** — An incompetent or unwise person.
“You and your numpy friend should apologize.”
18. **Odds and Sods** — Equivalent to ‘odds and ends.’ Miscellaneous.
“You lot got first picks and left with nothing but odds and sods.”
19. **Old Bill, The Old Bill** — A metaphor for a policeman, or the police in general.
“Old Bill broke up the street fight.”
20. **Penny-dreadful** — A cheap sensationalist magazine. Tabloid.
“I read about alien abductions in the penny-dreadful.”
21. **Skive** — Feigning illness to get out of going to work or school.
“He tried to skive off school but his mom was wise to the game.”
22. **Skint** — Without money, broke, bankrupt.
“Sorry I can’t join you this time. I’m skint.”
23. **Take the mickey** — To tease or mock.
“Don’t get so upset when someone takes the mickey.”
24. **Warts and all** — Equivalent to ‘as is.’ Taken to include all negative characteristics.
“Alright, I’ll keep you, warts and all.”

Now is your turn. Do you know the meanings of any of these other examples?

- I’m gutted.
- It’s all gone pear-shaped.
- He’s lost the plot.
- That’s pants.
- Don’t be such a wind-up merchant.
- That’s the bee’s knees.
- That’s mint.
- Ta.
- Everything is hunky-dory.
- I’m knackered.