



## THE BIRD OF DAWNING

by William Shakespeare  
(Hamlet - Act 1, Scene 1)

Some say that ever 'gainst the season comes,  
Wherein our Saviour's birth is celebrated,  
The bird of dawning singeth all night long;  
And then, they say, no spirit dare stir abroad;  
The nights are wholesome; then no planets strike,  
No fairy takes, or witch hath power to charm,  
So hallow'd and so gracious is that time.

*wishing you and your family a very  
Merry Christmas  
and a Happy New Year 2009*



Annotation: Christmas (the season) is when we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ (the saviour) and that time is so holy and spiritual that even witches (Hexen) lose their power.

## BUSINESS ENGLISH – DISCUSSION IDIOMS

DO YOU KNOW WHAT THE FOLLOWING SENTENCES MEAN?

MATCH THE IDIOMS (REDEWENDUNGEN) WITH THE SENTENCES ON THE RIGHT (SEE SOLUTIONS AT THE END)

I get your point.

He is always talking far too much.

Sorry, it's all Greek to me.

I understand what you are saying and why.

He's always talking the hind legs off a donkey.

Let me say that in other words.

I think you got the wrong end of the stick here.

I don't understand anything.

Let me rephrase that.

I think you misunderstood me.



## **I KEEP MY SNOWMAN IN THE FREEZER**

by Ian McMillan

I keep my snowman in the freezer  
Just behind the pies  
He likes it there, he told me so  
I can see it in his eyes.

I made him on a cold, cold morning  
When the snow was fresh and deep  
Now he sits in the freezer  
Near the fish that we got cheap.

I keep my snowman in the freezer  
And look at him each day.  
If I'd left him in the garden  
He'd simply have melted away.

But now he's like my Grandma  
Living somewhere safe and nice;  
He's in a frosty, snowy palace  
On a throne of coldest ice.

I keep my snowman in the freezer  
Near a lump of frozen beef  
And I've got a treat for him in August:  
I'm taking him to Tenerife!

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**WHAT'S A CON MAN?**

extract from owad.de

Con man is short for the American expression "confidence man," a term that dates back to the mid 19th century. It describes someone who makes others give away money or other possessions as an expression of CONFIDENCE (confidence comes from the Latin confidere, meaning faith or trust).

The world has seen its share of con men such as Victor Lustig, a Czech-born man who moved to Paris and "sold" the Eiffel Tower to a scrap metal dealer. Lustig convinced the dealer that the city of Paris could no longer afford to maintain the famous tower and had contracted him to find a buyer for the metal. After the dealer discovered he had been "conned," he decided not to tell the authorities because he was so embarrassed.

con man = der Trickbetrüger, der Hochstapler, der Bauernfänger  
con = die Schwindelei

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**SOLUTIONS**

I get your point.

I understand what you are saying and why. The "point" is the main idea, the opinion, the reason, the most important part of what you are saying.

He's always talking the hind legs off a donkey.

He is always talking far too much. If you use always + -ing, it means you think it is bad habit.

Sorry, it's all Greek to me.

I don't understand anything. In German we say Spanish or Chinese, so watch out.

I think you got the wrong end of the stick here.

I think you misunderstood me.

Let me rephrase that.

Let me say that in other words. (A phrase is a sentence or a sequence of words with a special meaning)

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Dieser Newsletter ist eine Idee von Nicole Tomberg, um kurz und knapp in unregelmäßigen Abständen Infos und Übungen in der englischen Sprache zu bieten. Ihre Emailadresse habe ich von früheren Kontakten gespeichert.

Ich möchte Sie keinesfalls belästigen. Falls Sie also diesen Newsletter nicht zugesandt bekommen möchten, sagen Sie mir doch bitte kurz Bescheid und ich werde Ihre Adresse aus dem Verteiler löschen.

If you find any mistakes, you may keep them. It only shows how good your English is.

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