

8 British Expressions



Episode #6

1. **pear-shaped** (*adjective*)

(when something goes wrong or doesn't go as planned)

Examples:

"The weather went **pear-shaped** and it rained all day."

"I tried to bake a cake for the first time, but the whole thing went **pear-shaped** when I used salt instead of sugar."

"The holiday to Spain went **pear-shaped** after we lost our luggage and had to spend the first two days shopping for clothes."



2. **knackered** (*adjective*) (very tired or exhausted)

Examples:

"After running the marathon, I was absolutely **knackered** and couldn't even stand up!"

"Yesterday, we moved all my furniture to the new flat. By the end of the day, we were **knackered**."

"I've been working on this report for hours without a break, and now I'm **knackered**."

"After the long hike through the hills, even the dog was **knackered**."

3. **pinch, punch, first of the month** **(*expression*)**

(a playful tradition on the first day of a new month where one person says this phrase while playfully pinching and punching another person, usually on the arm)

Examples:

"As I walked into the office on the first of March, my friend shouted, '**Pinch, punch, first of the month!**' and gave me a light pinch on the shoulder."

"On the morning of the 1st February, I received a text from my brother that simply read, '**Pinch, punch, first of the month,**' and it brought a smile to my face."

4. **swot** (*noun*)

(a person who studies very hard, often used in a way that is not very kind)

Examples:

"Sarah is the top of our class; she's a real **swot** but we all admire her dedication."

"My brother thinks I'm a **swot** because I'd rather study than go out on Friday nights."

"At university, she was known as the biggest **swot**; you could always find her in the library."

"If you keep being a **swot**, you'll pass all your exams, but don't forget to have some fun too!"

5. **quid** (*noun*)

(a slang term for the British pound sterling [£])

Examples:

"I can't believe this sandwich costs ten **quid**; it's just cheese!"

"Do you have a couple of **quid** on you? I need it for the bus fare home."

"I managed to get these trainers for just 30 **quid** in the sale!"

"I'll give you fifty **quid** if you can fix my bike by tomorrow."

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6. **take the biscuit** (*verb, expression*) (to be the most unbelievable or foolish in a series of actions or events)

Examples:

"He's done some stupid things before, but wearing shorts to a job interview really **takes the biscuit!**"

"They were late every day this week, but falling asleep during the meeting **takes the biscuit.**"

"There's been a lot of rain this summer, but the storm last night just **took the biscuit.**"

7. **shirty** (*adjective*) (annoyed or bad-tempered)

Examples:

"He got all **shirty** with me when I accidentally spilled his tea."

"I'm sorry for being **shirty** today; I didn't get much sleep last night."

"Don't get **shirty** with the waiter, it's not his fault the kitchen is slow."

"She can be quite **shirty** before her morning coffee."

"When I suggested he was wrong, he got really **shirty** and left."

8. **skew-whiff** (*adjective*)

(something that is not straight or properly aligned)

Examples:

"I hung the picture on the wall, but it's a bit **skew-whiff**; I'll have to adjust it later."



"You've tied your tie all **skew-whiff**, here let me fix it for you."

"I couldn't focus at the meeting because the projector screen was **skew-whiff**, and it was really distracting."