

24 Very British Phrases (And What They Really Mean)

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1. "With the greatest respect..."

Translation: You have no idea what you're talking about.

2. "It's monkeys outside."

Translation: Put a jumper (and the kettle) on!

3. "Not to worry."

Translation: I will remember this till the end of time.

4. "You're exotic."

Translation: I wanted to say "you're foreign," but I didn't want you to hate me.

5. "It's not quite what I had in mind."

Translation: What in God's name is this?

6. "This has thrown a spanner in the works."

Translation: We are going to fail, but need we say that now?

7. "You seem to have caught on a nice tan."

Translation: Is SpaceX flying to the sun now?

8. "I'll see what I can do."

Translation: Can you not do it on your own?

9. "Pop round whenever you want."

Translation: Not during Coronation Street. And not when Eastenders is on either. Oh, and I have to catch up on Line of Duty, too. Tell you what, let's meet another time.

10. "All going well, I'll see you later today."

Translation: But for an earthquake (or me spotting a grass snake under my couch), I am not leaving my house.

11. "Do you have a second?"

Translation: I want it NOW.

12. "There's been a bit of a kerfuffle."

Translation: It's like Piers Morgan was talking to you. Or me. Or just anyone in the world.

13. "No damage done."

Translation: It's Armageddon.

14. "Could do."

Translation: Not a cat in hell's chance.

15. "There's a bit of a drizzle in the air."

Translation: It is wetter than an otter's pocket.

16. "This isn't quite my cup of tea."

Translation: More of a deep-fried Mars bar dipped in Marmite, this.

17. "That's cheeky."

Translation: What a bloody liberty!

18. "Pardon me?"

Translation: I didn't like what you just said, so let's try this again.

19. "Can I borrow you please?"

Translation: My problem is about to become your problem.

20. "I should probably start thinking about taking your leave."

Translation: Start the car!

21. "It's up to you."

Translation: Now you aren't going to take my advice, are you?

22. "It could be better, but then it could all be a lot worse."

Translation: Think any England Football presser after a major tournament.

23. "Excuse me, apologies, is this seat available?"

Translation: You have about 8 seconds to move your bag before I cut your face off.

24. "I'm going to bed, then."

Translation: I'm off to my very own private internet boudoir, there is much to get done over there.

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