

Definitions

Welsh on a bet: To cheat by failing to pay a gambling debt (*you aren't going to welsh on me, are you?*); to go back on one's word (*he welshed on his promise*).

Dutch treat (going Dutch): A meal or entertainment for which each person pays his or her own expenses.

Indian giver: A person who gives a gift and then takes it back.

Jew down a price: To bargain sharply with, beat down in price.

Get your Irish up: to become angry or outraged (don't get your Irish up over a little matter like that).

American: Of or pertaining to the United States or its inhabitants. **Ugly:** Disagreeable; unpleasant; objectionable.

Young Turk: An insurgent in a political party, especially one that supports liberal or progressive policies. (Note: one definition of Turk is a cruel, brutal and domineering man.)

Excuse my French: Links the French language with negative language

Gypped: To defraud or rob by some sharp practice; swindle; cheat. From relationship to Gypsy.

Chinese fire drill: A state of chaotic, often clamorous disorder

Get off Scot free: No consequences or payment. Related to use of Scotch as frugal and thrifty, sometimes in an offensive way.

Barbarian: A person living outside; a person not living in a Christian country or within a Christian civilization.

Mexican standoff: A situation from which nothing at all can be expected

It's all Greek to me: Something that is unintelligible

Beware of Greek's bearing gifts: Do not trust enemies who bring you presents; they could very well be playing a trick

Source: Most definitions are from the Random House Unabridged Dictionary (2nd Edition), 1993, New York, Random House. Others from Oxford English Dictionary or American Heritage Dictionary of Cultural Literacy (3rd edition).

