

# Re: "par coeur" origin

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*Source:* <http://sci.tech--archive.net/Archive/sci.lang/2006-04/msg00841.html>

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- *From:* "TOF" <[fran\\_beta@xxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:fran_beta@xxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* 19 Apr 2006 01:50:44 -0700
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Paul J Kriha wrote:

TOF <[fran\\_beta@xxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:fran_beta@xxxxxxxxxxx)> wrote in message  
[news:1145397038.611456.275980@xx](mailto:news:1145397038.611456.275980@xx)

retrosorter wrote:

TOF wrote:

Peter T. Daniels wrote:

retrosorter wrote:

Once we're  
on the "by  
heart"  
subject,  
why is it  
that some  
people say  
"off by  
heart?" Is it  
merely  
idiomatic  
with no  
logical  
explanation?

"Now that" we're on the  
subject

It's not "off by heart," it's  
"read it off" or "know it  
off."

Re: "par coeur" origin

Say what?

"I know my lines \*by heart\*; or \*off by heart\*"

TOF

The joining of the word "'off" with "by" does seem a tad unusual and I can't think offhand of another example in English where this occurs.

Does it in essence represent a joining if the idiomatic verb "'know off" with "by heart"?

I doubt it. Where I come from (Australia) I've not heard someone split "off" from "by" (although the "off" is occasionally omitted.)

Oh really?

"By now, you must be able to recite it off, you bloody drongo, by heart."

That's cheating. A parenthetical aside can go most anywhere, though I stand by my claim. Why not put the "you bloody drongo" at the end or after "By now,"?

Another expression meaning the same thing is "down pat" used with "to have".

The same thing as what? By heart??

pjk

Yes.

TOF

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