

French leave, Greek sex etc.

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Hi all

I need your help about a group of expressions/phrases with the following characteristics:

- a) the name of a nation is used
- b) there are similar expressions in several languages with the same nation's name
- c) the expression must not be used in its "country of alleged origin",
- d) in that language, there exists a variant using another nation's name

For instance, Greek sex (= anal sex) is used in several countries but in Greece we say "the Ottoman way". More understandably, we don't say "it's Greek to me", rather "it is Chinese".

When someone leaves unexpectedly without paying his bill or debts, or saying goodbye, they say that he took the French leave. The same expression is used in Greek as well and as far as I know in other languages too, but in French they say "filer à l'anglaise".

I am trying to remember other examples but in vain. For instance, "Dutch treat" fails because of b) (unless I am wrong, there is no parallel in another language) and I am not sure whether "French letters" satisfy either b) or d).

Any ideas, please?

TIA
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