

Re: French leave, Greek sex etc.

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In message <uzllxgi4p.fsf@xxxxxxxxxxxx>, Joe Fineman <joe_f@xxxxxxxxxxxx> writes

Nikos Sarantakos <sarant@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> writes:

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

I heard once that, in fact, in France, if you leave a party without saying goodbye to your host & hostess, you are taking English leave. I have also heard that the French call Greek sex "le vice anglais", to which an English M.P. once retorted "The vice of the English is not buggery but humbugger".

A Mexican breakfast is a cigarette & a cup of coffee. Whether there is a gringo breakfast, I don't know.

Perhaps the Dutch can enlighten us on what they call a Dutch treat & Dutch courage.

and a Dutch widow and a Dutch uncle...

And sailing jargon has some "Flemish" expressions that might be relevant.

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Richard Herring

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