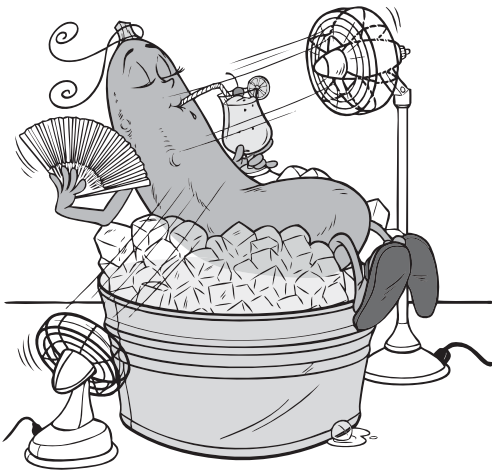


A Piece of Cake and Eating It Too



A piece of cake and food for thought
 I have a sweet tooth, and sweets I sought.
 Eating humble pie and juicy news,
 I never expected to be amused
 By salt in the wound or spilling beans
 Or the whole enchilada. Yikes! My plate is clean!
 I know the scoop, how to butter you up.
 I'm cool as a cucumber, my little buttercup.
 All I want, in a nutshell, is a cup of Joe,
 And then it will be time to go.
 I'll have my cake and eat it too.
 Did I bite off more than I can chew?

1. How many examples of figurative language about food can you find in this poem?
2. Where is your sweet tooth?
3. What is a word for *juicy news*?
4. How might salt in a wound feel?
5. Does spilling the beans make a mess in the kitchen? Explain your answer.

How Did They Start?

1. A **piece of cake** is a cliché originating from the 1870s, when a cake was awarded to the winner of a competition. Over the years, it has morphed into meaning *accomplishing something easy*.
2. The phrase **food for thought** was originally used in a book published in 1825. The author, Robert Southey, wrote about “*A lively tale . . . that was fraught with food for thought.*”
3. Do you have a **sweet tooth**? If so, you’re in company with people from the 1600s who invented the phrase when they wanted something after dinner to satisfy their cravings for sweets.
4. **Eating humble pie** is a little bit like *eating crow*. Eating humble pie came first in time, around the 1300s, when people would put *umble* (animal livers and hearts) in a pie to bake. It was considered a humble meal. Hence, eating humble pie evolved to mean being sorry for a mistake.
5. As **cool as a cucumber** comes from a book of poetry published in 1732. The poet wrote about his unique understanding of women by saying, “*I . . . cool as a cucumber could see the rest of womankind . . .*”
6. **Two peas in a pod** comes from the author, John Lyly, in 1560. He wrote that he as a writer and his friend as a painter were alike in their love of the arts. Hence, they were like two peas in a pod . . . virtually indistinguishable.
7. The **apple of my eye** means to cherish someone above all others. The first reference to this expression comes from *The Bible*, Zechariah 2:8. It explains that the one who worships God is the apple of his eye. The apple of an eye is the pupil which is in the very center of the eye. So, the apple of my eye means that person is at the very center of my life.
8. In the early 1900s, an actor whose performance was very poor got eggs and tomatoes thrown at him to force him offstage. This gave birth to the expression **having egg on your face**.

Which Expression?

Use an expression from the box to finish each sentence.

piece of cake

eat humble pie

apples of my eye

food for thought

cool as a cucumber

have egg on my face

sweet tooth

two peas in a pod

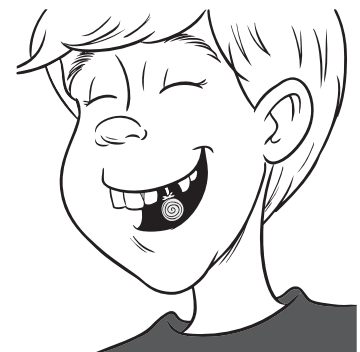
- I didn't win the photography contest like I thought I would, so now I _____

- "My, aren't you _____
with your matching outfits and hair?"
- I tried to stay as _____
during my campaign speech.
- "That'll be a _____,"
I said after assessing how long the grass had grown.
- I had to _____
after my surprising loss to Wayne.
- My two wonderful grandsons are the _____

- Mom grounded me saying, "Here's _____.
No dating or driving my car for two weeks."
- My _____ makes me crave chocolate and cookies.

In Your Own Words

- What does **having egg on your face** mean?
- Mark has a **sweet tooth**. What does he crave?
- In what situation would you say, "That's **food for thought**"?
- Describe a time when you were as **cool as a cucumber**.
- Tell about a time when you thought something would be difficult, but it was a **piece of cake**.



So You Think You Can't Dance?

"Don't give me the **cold shoulder**,"

I dared to repeat,

"Because I can't dance, and

I have **two left feet**!

Just give **two thumbs up**

Because I'm **all ears**

To learn how to dance

And conquer my fears."

"Okay," said my teacher.

"Now start facing south

Put your feet close together

But not **in your mouth**!

Off the top of my head,

I can't decide what's wrong

Keep your chin up and listen

To the beat of this song."

"Not sure I can do it,"

As giggles I pealed.

"Never mind," said my teacher,

"My lips are sealed."



Answer these questions about the poem.

1. Is the dancer a good one? How do you know?
2. In the beginning, is the teacher encouraging? How do you know?
3. Does the dancer want to improve? How do you know?
4. What advice does the teacher give?
5. What happens to the dancer at the end of the poem?

Making Associations

cold shoulder	all ears	keep your chin up
two left feet	put your foot in your mouth	my lips are sealed
two thumbs up	off the top of my head	

Which expression goes with:

1. approval? _____
2. will not tell? _____
3. listening? _____
4. my first reaction? _____
5. embarrass oneself? _____
6. snub? _____
7. clumsy? _____
8. be positive? _____

Yes or No?

Circle Yes or No to answer these questions. Then explain your answers.

- | | | |
|--|-----|----|
| 1. If someone gives you two thumbs up , is that favorable? | Yes | No |
| 2. If someone says, " My lips are sealed ," does that mean he'll tell others? | Yes | No |
| 3. If someone says she has two left feet , does that mean she's graceful? | Yes | No |
| 4. If you speak off the top of your head , have you thought about what you're going to say? | Yes | No |
| 5. When you keep your chin up , are you glum? | Yes | No |
| 6. If someone is all ears , does that mean his ears are big? | Yes | No |
| 7. If you give me the cold shoulder , does that mean you don't like me? | Yes | No |
| 8. When someone puts his foot in his mouth , has he embarrassed himself by something he said? | Yes | No |

What's the Answer?

1. When would a person give you a "one thumb up"?
2. In what situation would you be **all ears**?
3. When would you apologize for having **two left feet**?
4. When would you tell someone to **keep her chin up**?
5. When might you say something **off the top of your head**?
6. When would you tell someone that **your lips are sealed**?
7. When would you give someone the **cold shoulder**?
8. How would you feel if you **put your foot in your mouth**?

Finish the Thought

1. **Off the top of my head** _____

2. I gave the movie **two thumbs up** because it was _____

3. She gave me the **cold shoulder** by _____

4. I said I was **all ears** when he told me about _____

5. She said **her lips were sealed** after _____

As the Saying Goes, Part 1



Never, ever **pass the buck**.
If it's your fault, don't duck.

"**Money's no object**," I said,
"Although my allowance is in the red."

Put your money where your mouth is, please.
Stop talking and take action at least.

They're **a dime a dozen**, soon to perish.
They're nothing unique for me to cherish.

From **rags to riches**, he came –
From no one to someone of fame.

"It comes **at a price**," I warned frostily.
A demand can be quite costly.

She's as **bright as a new penny**,
Happier and more loving than many.

He said, "**Get more bang for your buck**.
Make it worth a lot more than luck."

As the Saying Goes, Part 2

Each expression in the box goes with one of the couplets in “As the Saying Goes” on page 71. Read each couplet again. Then write the letter of each expression next to the couplet it matches.

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| A. no cost is too high | E. do what you say you’ll do |
| B. it has value | F. take responsibility for your actions |
| C. a cheerful person | G. to get what you want includes disadvantages |
| D. common | H. from poverty to wealth |

- _____ 1. Never, ever **pass the buck**.
If it’s your fault, don’t duck.
- _____ 2. “**Money’s no object**,” I said,
“Although my allowance is in the red.”
- _____ 3. **Put your money where your mouth is**, please.
Stop talking and take action at least.
- _____ 4. They’re **a dime a dozen**, soon to perish.
They’re nothing unique for me to cherish.
- _____ 5. From **rags to riches** he came –
From no one to someone of fame.
- _____ 6. “It comes **at a price**,” I warned frostily.
A demand can be quite costly.
- _____ 7. She’s as **bright as a new penny**,
Happier and more loving than many.
- _____ 8. He said, “Get **more bang for your buck**.
Make it worth a lot more than luck.”