

**Blatt • Das Blatt hat sich gewendet.**

The tide has turned.

► It is hard to date the beginning of an economic recovery. But after the event sooner or later everyone can see that the tide has turned, even if they can't say when it happened.

**Blatt • kein Blatt vor den Mund nehmen**

not to mince one's words, to pull one's punches (coll)

► My colleague doesn't mince her words. She always tells people exactly what she thinks of them.

**7 Blitzesschnelle • in Blitzesschnelle**

like lightning, like wildfire (Verbreitung einer Nachricht usw.)

► The news spread like wildfire that the enemy had invaded.

**Blut • Nur ruhig Blut!**

Don't panic! / Stay cool! (coll) / Don't get your knickers in a twist! (vulg)

**Blut • Blut und Wasser schwitzen**

to be in a cold sweat

► At the thought of the ghost he broke into a cold sweat.

**Bogen • einen großen Bogen um jmd machen**

to give sb a wide berth, to steer clear of sb (coll)

► I'm steering clear of Simon at the moment, because I still owe him a hundred pounds and I can't pay him till next month.

**Bombe • eine Bombe platzen lassen**

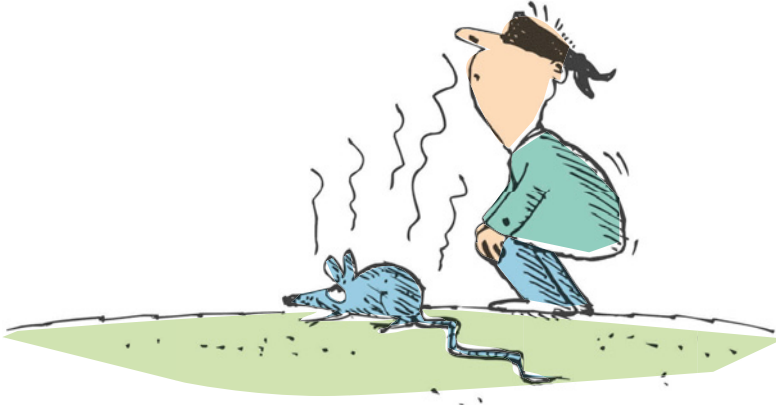
to put the fat in the fire (coll), to make the shit hit the fan (vulg), to pour oil on troubled waters

► When the Annual Report comes out, it'll really make the shit hit the fan.

### Braten • den Braten riechen

to smell a rat (coll), to sense sth fishy (coll)

► As soon as I realized how generous their offer was, I smelt a rat and decided the whole thing must be a trick.



### Brocken • ein harter Brocken sein

to be a tough nut to crack

► This is a tough nut to crack, but I know a specialist who could probably solve the problem.

### Busch • auf den Busch klopfen

to sound things out (coll)

► I did not know how they would receive my suggestion, and so I sounded the committee members out individually before I made my formal proposal.

MIND FF: to beat about the bush: **um etwas herumreden**



## Canossa

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### 8 Canossa • den Gang nach Canossa machen

to do penance

► When the mistake was pointed out, I realized I was going to have to do penance and spend half an hour apologizing.

### Chorknabe • kein Chorknabe sein

to be no angel (coll)

► He looks like a charming young man, but as the girls know, he is no angel.

### Crème • die Crème der Gesellschaft

the crème de la crème (franz)

► Not all the early party members were the crème de la crème.



### Dachschaden • einen Dachschaden haben

to be not all there (coll), to have a screw loose (coll),  
to be bonkers (coll), to be crackers (coll), to be off one's head  
(coll), to be as nutty as a fruitcake, to be round the bend (coll),  
to be off one's rocker (coll)

- ▶ I listened to his idea, but I couldn't understand it at all. I don't think he's all there.
- ▶ Don't let Aunt Martha's complaining bother you, she's as nutty as a fruitcake.

### dahinterstecken • Wer / Was steckt da dahinter?

What's the catch? / What's behind this? / Who's behind this?

- ▶ They're offering a free lunch? What's the catch?

### Daumen • über den Daumen peilen

to hazard a rough guess at, to make a rough estimate of,  
to give a ballpark figure (A. E.) (coll)

- ▶ I can hazard a rough guess at what it might cost.

### Decke • an die Decke gehen

to go through the roof (coll), to blow one's top (coll),  
to do a wobbly (coll), to fly off the handle (coll)

- ▶ When he found out how badly his son had behaved at school, he went through the roof.

### Decke • unter einer Decke stecken

to be hand in glove with sb, to be in cahoots with sb (coll),  
to be in league with sb

- ▶ It was only later on that we realized that the two of them had been in cahoots with each other from the very beginning.

**Dickkopf • einen Dickkopf haben**

to be pigheaded (coll), pigheadedness (coll)

► He prolonged the negotiations for four hours through sheer pigheadedness.

**Dinge • nicht mit rechten Dingen zugehen**

to work sth (for sb) (coll), to pull strings (coll),  
to fiddle sth (for sb) (coll)

► His uncle pulled some strings and got that promotion for him.

**Dingsbums**

what's his / her / its name (coll), thingummy (coll),  
what-do-you-call-it (whatchamacallit) (coll)

► You know, the woman in the candy store, what's her name?  
► I'm up to my elbows in dishwater, bring me that ... oh ...  
whatchamacallit.

**10 Draht • auf Draht sein**

to be mustard (coll)

**wachsam:** to be on one's toes (coll), to be on the ball (coll)

► We shall have to be really on our toes at this meeting – the other side have got plenty of clever ideas and we mustn't let them trick us.

**wissensmäßig:** to know one's stuff / onions (coll),  
to be well up in sth (coll)

▶ I need a lawyer who really knows his stuff in the field of professional negligence.

### **Dreck • Dreck am Stecken haben**

to have blotted one's copy-book (coll)

▶ He is almost the only man in politics who didn't blot his copy-book in the corruption scandals last year.

### **dreizehn • Jetzt schlägt's dreizehn!**

That's the last straw! / Now you've done it! / That cooks my goose!

▶ You've been late every day this week, and now you tell me you're not coming to work tomorrow. That's the last straw! You're fired!

### **Drückeberger**

**faul:** skiver (coll), slacker (dated)

▶ This whole department is full of skivers. Nobody ever does anything.

**feig:** chicken (coll)

▶ When the demonstration threatened to become a riot, he wanted to go home, and his pals accused him of being a chicken.

**jmd, der leicht aufgibt:** quitter (A. E.) (coll)

### **drum • mit allem Drum und Dran**

with all the trimmings, from soup to nuts (coll), the full monty

▶ He was invited to a formal dinner party with all the trimmings.

### **dumm • sich nicht für dumm verkaufen lassen**

not to let oneself be taken for a ride (coll)

▶ I'm certainly not going to buy one of those things! I'm not going to let myself be taken for a ride like that.

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