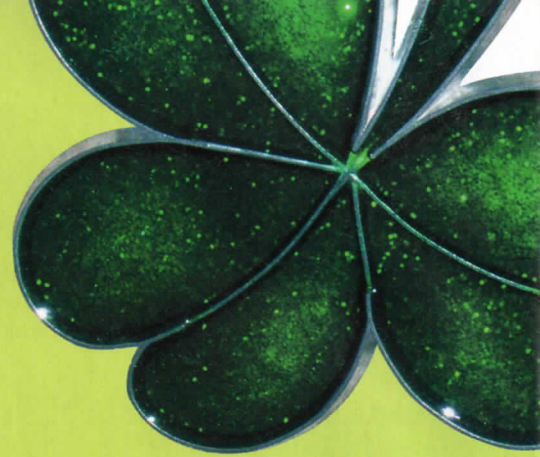


HAVE THE LUCK OF THE IRISH!



IRISH EXPRESSIONS IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE



Kissing the Blarney Stone is not easy. You must sit with your back to the stone and somebody must hold you firmly. Then, holding iron rails, you lean back and down until you can reach the stone with your mouth.

DON'T LISTEN TO ANY OF HIS BLARNEY!

Blarney is a village in the South of Ireland, a few kilometres from Cork. Legend says that a stone **set into** the wall of the Blarney Castle has a magical power – anybody who kisses it will gain great **eloquence**, the skill of **flattering** and **persuading** people. How exactly the legend originated remains unknown, but there's a story about how the word "blarney" entered the English language.

During her reign, Queen Elizabeth I (1558 – 1603) wanted the Irish lords to formally **surrender** their castles to her **as a proof of their loyalty**. When the lord of Blarney Castle heard that, he said he would surrender – but immediately **started coming up with excuses** why he cannot do it right now. When the Queen learnt about his **endless** excuses, she **exclaimed** that he was telling lies and that it is "a lot of blarney!" That's how she gave birth to a new saying.

THE IRISH HAVE NOT ONLY GIVEN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE THE WORD "WHISKEY" (WHICH ORIGINATED FROM THE GAELIC EXPRESSION "UISCE BEATHA", MEANING "WATER OF LIFE"), BUT OTHER COLOURFUL WORDS AND EXPRESSIONS AS WELL. READ ON TO LEARN ABOUT SOME OF THEM!

Even today, "blarney" means a charming and flattering way of talking, often untrue and intended to **gain sympathy**.

COME TO IRELAND FOR GREAT CRAIC!

If you want to have fun in Ireland, tell people you're looking for some "good craic". "Craic" means fun and enjoyment, it often refers to music, drinking and talking with friends. The word comes from Irish Gaelic and it's pronounced in the same way as the English word "crack" and sometimes it's even written in the same way. But there's a problem. In slang, the English word "crack" also refers to a drug, a kind of cocaine. This may **puzzle** or even shock some people and that's probably why the original Irish spelling, "craic", is more

frequent now. Anyway, feel safe to use the word in Ireland – it means just good time, good company, and perhaps some good music. Enjoy yourself and have a good craic!

STOP SCREAMING LIKE A BANSHEE!

In Irish folklore, "banshee" is a female spirit who cries or **wails** outside the house to **indicate** that someone from the house is going to die. Nothing pleasant – so no wonder that the saying is now used to describe someone screaming loudly or **shrilly**, usually when frightened or annoyed.

HAVE THE LUCK OF THE IRISH!

Be glad to hear this phrase – it means that somebody wishes

COMICS



pestilence – mor; drought – sucho; earthquake – zemětřesení; to delay – zpozdít

From the articles



Banshees, female spirits from Irish folklore, are often described as women dressed in white or grey, with long hair. Nowadays, they are sometimes used as evil creatures in popular video games.

you very good luck. But why are the Irish considered to be so lucky? A possible explanation is that the Irish **must be blessed** with some **incredible** good luck if they managed to survive all the **misfortunes** they suffered in their history. Some say that it's also connected with shamrock, the traditional Irish symbol of good luck.

However, **to confuse things a bit**, other people say that the phrase was originally used in an ironic way, meaning very bad luck, such bad luck as the Irish experienced with the British rule and the **famine**. Nonetheless, nowadays it's used only with a positive meaning – so may the luck of the Irish be with you!

Zuzana Pernicová (CR)

→ Vocabulary

to originate [ə'ridʒineɪt] - vzniknout
set into - zasazený do
eloquence ['elɒkwəns] - výmluvnost
to flatter ['flætə] - lichotit
to persuade [pə'sweɪd] - přesvědčovat
to surrender [sə'rendə] - odevzdat
as a proof of their loyalty [pru:f 'lɔ:əlɪti] - na důkaz své loajality
started coming up with excuses - začal si vymýšlet výmluvy
endless ['endlɪs] - nekonečný
to exclaim [ɪk'skleɪm] - zvolat
to gain sympathy [geɪn 'sɪmpəθi] - vzbudit soucit

to puzzle ['pʌz(ə)] - mást, plést
to wail [weɪl] - kvílet
to indicate ['ɪndɪkeɪt] - naznačit
shrilly [ʃrɪli] - pronikavě
must be blessed ['blesɪd] - musí být obdařeni
incredible [ɪn'kredɪb(ə)] - neuvěřitelný
misfortune [mɪs'fɔ:tʃu:n] - neštěstí, rána osudu
to confuse things a bit [kən'fju:z] - aby to nebylo zas tak jednoduché
famine ['fæmɪn] - hladomor



From pp. 4-5 US Marshals

Many people are confused about all the different types of **law enforcement agencies** shown in movies or mentioned in news items. In the film review of *Bobby*, we mention that US Marshals were sent to Oxford, Mississippi, to protect a black student. Why didn't the Oxford City Police, Mississippi State Highway Patrol, or some other police agency do the job?

In this situation, city and even state law enforcement officers would not be strong enough to do a good job. **Emotions were running extremely high** at that time in Mississippi; we could compare it to the violent scene after the recent football game in Sicily when local police tried to stop fans and one police officer was killed.

That's why the stronger, federal-level US Marshals were chosen. They're the country's oldest law enforcement agency, founded in 1789. They protect people in the federal justice system (**juries**, judges, witnesses) and that's why US Attorney General Bobby Kennedy had the authority to choose the Marshals for this job.

US Marshals also **arrest fugitives**, operate the Witness Security Program (protecting witnesses to crimes who might be killed later), transport federal prisoners, and **seize** criminals' illegal property.

Mary Matz (USA)

→ Vocabulary

law enforcement agencies [lɔ: fɔ:sm(ə)nɪ] - policejní složky
emotions were running... high - emoce byly... rozvířeny
jury ['dʒʊəri] - porota
to arrest [ə'rest] - zatknout
fugitive ['fju:dʒɪtɪv] - uprchlík
to seize [si:z] - zabavit

COMICS



sigh - povzdech; if you're bored - pokud se nudíš