

Exercise #5

Idioms from Different Cultures

(from “A World of Differences: Understanding Cross-Cultural Communication”)

Milk from the foot of the cow. (Chile – extremely fresh milk)
There’ll be wigs on the green. (Ireland – there will be trouble)
The cat is crying. (Russia – I’m sorry that I have no better food to offer you)
I’m on a sticky wicket. (England – I’m in a difficult position, derived from the sport of cricket)
I’ve got to see a man about a dog. (England – I need to urinate)
He did his nut. (Ireland – he went crazy)
Not only butchers carry big knives. (Netherlands – you can’t tell from appearances)
That’s not my cup of tea. (England – it doesn’t appeal to me; I’m not interested)
He’s only winding you. (Ireland – he’s trying to irritate or anger you)
Your car is a bit down in the teeth. (England – your car is getting old, derived from horses)
They left us in the ha’penny place. (Ireland – they beat us, showed us up as inferior)
Everything in the garden’s lovely. (British – sarcastic, making fun of conventional optimism)

U.S. Idioms That Could Confuse Diverse Library Customers

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.