

《让外国人摸不着头脑的12个美国短语（下）》

有时候尽管你认识一个短语的每一个词，但你未必知道这个短语的真正含义。下面这些美国短语的实际意思都和字面意思相差甚远，让外国人一头雾水。



Photo by Jonas Thijs on Unsplash

Behind the eight ball ?????

When Americans say they're "behind the eight ball," it means they're in a difficult position.

?????????behind the eight ball??????????????

Dating to the 1930s, this Americanism refers to the game of pool. A player positioned behind the eight ball cannot hit it.

????????20??30????????????????????????8????????????(??8?????????)

The cat's out of the bag ????

If "the cat's out of the bag," it means you've revealed a secret.

??the cat's out of the bag(????????)???????????

This idiom first appeared with its current meaning in a London book review from 1760. Upset about a spoiler alert, the reviewer wrote, "We could have wished that the author had not let the cat out of the bag."

????????????????1760????????????????????????????"????????????"

Table an item ????

When Americans "table an item," they set it aside for consideration later.

????table an item????????????????????

In British and Commonwealth English, this phrase has the opposite meaning. If you table something (i.e. a proposal) in countries such as the UK and Ireland, you're considering a decision rather than postponing it.

????????????????????????????table????????????????????

In the US, however, when a topic is "tabled," that typically means that it's postponed, or it will sit there on the metaphorical table until it can be discussed at a later date. To make things even more confusing, the phrase "on the table" in America could mean that something is up for discussion.

????????????tabled????????????????????????on the table????????????"?????"?



Photo by Buenas Dicas on Unsplash

Jump on the bandwagon ???

When you "jump on the bandwagon," you're joining a popular activity or supporting a popular cause.

??jump on the bandwagon????????????????????

In the 19th century, American showman and circus owner PT Barnum coined the term "bandwagon," which referred simply to the wagon that carried the circus band.

19????????????????P.T.????bandwagon????????????????

Noting that parades were an effective way to attract attention, politicians took a page from the circus workers' book and began incorporating bandwagons into their campaign strategies.

????????????????????????????????????

take a page from: ?????

But it was Teddy Roosevelt who helped cement the figurative phrase in the American lexicon, when, in 1899, he referenced political bandwagons in a letter he wrote.

????????????????????????????????1899????????????????????

Nosebleed section ?????

If you're sitting in the "nosebleed section," you're seated in the highest (and cheapest) seats of an arena or performance space.

????nosebleed section(?????)????????????????????

This phrase refers to the fact that high altitudes can cause nosebleeds. In the UK, the highest seats at a theater are known as "the gods."

??"???"

Throw someone under the bus ??

If someone "throws you under the bus," they're betraying you for their own advancement.

????throws you under the bus(????????)????????????????????

This idiom might have evolved from a few British expressions from the 1970s, such as "fall under a bus" or "go under a bus."

????????20??70????????????fall under a bus?go under a bus(?????)?

????????