《实用口语：地道英式惊叹词你get了吗》

Like the people of any country, the British are given to loudly exclaiming something whenever they are startled; unlike most people, however, the restrictions on the English language that are caused by classic British politeness mean that such phrases are often absolute nonsense. Let ’ s take a look at some.

??“??”?!

BLOODY HELL!

One of the most common and versatile of British exclamation, ‘Bloody hell’ is what welinguistics call a minced oath, as the word ‘bloody’ is probably a shortening of ‘By Our Lady’ (i.e. the Virgin Mary). Originally, then, this probably meant something like ‘by our Lady, all Hell’s about to break loose because of this thing that’s surprised me!’ It’s a little bit easier to say these days.

??????????????????????????“Bloody hell”?????????????“bloody”???“By Our Lady”(??????)????????????????????“???????????!?????????!”????????????????!

BLIMEY!

This one is perhaps a little archaic now. Another minced oath, ‘Blimey!’ – or, less commonly, ‘Cor blimey!’ – is a shortening of the saying ‘God blind me!’ Hopefully you’re starting to see the pattern here: most British exclamations have their roots in religious oaths. This is because swearing by God was taken very seriously, so if you said ‘God blind me’ everyone would know you were truly pissed off and should probably be left alone.

????????????????????????????????????“Cor blimey!”?“Blimey!”?“God blind me!(??????)”????????????????????????????——????????????????????????“??????”????????????????????????????????

DARN/DANG!

These two interchangeable words are polite ways of saying ‘Damn’, though as everybody knows what you mean it’s a wonder anybody bothers. Like ‘Blimey’, saying these in ordinary conversation might make you sound a bit 19th century.

???????????“Damn”????????????????????????????????????“??”?????????????“Blimey”???????????“Darn”??“Dang”?????????????!

I SAY!

Now we’re really going back in time. This is a classic British phrase, probably not said in any serious since 1891, which consists of loudly exclaiming that you’re about to say something, but then actually sort of chickening out and deciding just to let ‘I say!’ do the business.

?????????????!“I say!”??????????????1891??“I say!”??????

STREWTH!

In a similar way to ‘Blimey’, ‘Strewth’ is a shortening of ‘By God’s truth’, and is probably the most outdated word on our list – although it has enjoyed something of a recent revival in Australia. Still, if you’re ever asked to star in a traditional English drawing room drama, you’ll be equipped with exactly the right ways to express a truly British kind of surprise.

?“Blimey”???“Strewth”?“By God’s truth”??“??”!

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