



# Old Time Expressions

**Times Remembered**

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I always loved to hear my grandmother talk, especially when she told stories of happenings. Some of her Hillbilly Expressions were

hilarious. But many people in Kentucky and Tennessee still use them. Some of the expressions used:  
 A fixin'to..... planning to  
 A whoop and a holler..... A considerable distance  
 Ary..... None  
 Bad Off..... very ill  
 Beat around the bush..... avoid a subject  
 Bite off more than he can chew... take on too much  
 Brung..... brought  
 Carry on..... to act foolish  
 Catawampas..... out of square  
 Coon's age..... a long time  
 Corn fed..... husky, strong  
 Count your chicken before they hatch.. be too eager  
 Doin's..... affair  
 Doodle-de- squat..... worth nothing  
 Druther..... prefer  
 Et..... eat  
 Fair to middlin'..... between god and bad  
 Fetch..... to bring  
 Fit..... fought  
 Flatter than a flitter..... like a pancake  
 Frazzled..... very tired  
 Getting' hitched..... getting married  
 Gomed..... mess, ruined  
 Gully Washer..... hard rain  
 Gumption..... assertiveness  
 Had a calf with a bob wire tail.. showed displeasure  
 Haint..... a ghost  
 Hoofing it..... walking  
 Laid up..... unable to work  
 Laid by..... crops plowed for the last time  
 Left holding the bag..... worthless

Little bitty.....small  
 Rat now.....right now  
 Risin'..... a boil or carbuncle  
 Rot gut.....bad whiskey  
 Sang.....ginseng  
 Scrooch up.....take less room  
 Shagnasty..... an ill bred person  
 Since hector was a pup..... a long time ago  
 Slop jar.....chamber pot  
 Sparking..... courting  
 Snipe hunting..... duped  
 Spring chicken..... young  
 Traipse..... walk needlessly  
 Vittles..... food  
 Y'all..... all of you

**Expression of Surprise :**

Great day in the morning!  
 I do declare!  
 Land Sakes alive!  
 Well, if that ain't the beat'nist

**Expressions - Health matters:**

I feel like I been kicked in the head by a mule  
 I feel like I been sent far and I couldn't go

**Expressions, similes and metaphors:**

A blind hog will pick up an acorn once in a while  
 Can't cut the mustard  
 Clean as a hound's tooth  
 Crazy as a bess bug  
 Dead as a door nail  
 Go off your rocker..... go crazy  
 Happy as a pig in a mud hole  
 Have a hitch in my get along- (have a problem)  
 He looks like he was weaned on a pickle  
 Has a burr under his/her saddle.... upset, irritated  
 She's waiting for her bees to swarm... pregnant  
 Scarce as hen's teeth  
 Slick as snot on a door knob  
 His folks are like tators; the best ones are underground

The list goes on and on. I don't know where all these sayings come from. I guess they were passed down from generation to generation.  
 I hope you enjoy and have a laugh or two.

## Note to pastors: Don't stand on patient's air hose



### America's Heartland

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I'm sure you've heard about the deacon who was admitted to the hospital. His pastor, of course, went to visit, and was moved with compassion when he saw all the medical equipment attached to the deacon.

The preacher stepped close to the bedside to offer whatever comforting words he could.

The deacon began to gasp for air, and frantically motioned for a pencil and notepad that were on the nightstand. The deacon began writing, then, suddenly, he died. In the commotion, the preacher stuck the deacon's note into his pocket without looking at it, and forgot all about it.

At the funeral, the preacher was delivering a glowing sermon about how kind, gracious and encouraging the deacon was, when, all of a sudden, he remembered the note.

"As a matter of fact, I have his last words in my coat pocket here," the preacher said. He pulled out the piece of paper, and began reading: "Please move. You're standing on my oxygen hose."

There are just so many things that could be said for that old joke. But, clearly, it would have been a good idea for that preacher to have read that note ahead of time. How many times have we been told we'd better look before we leap?

That old adage has kept a lot of divers alive.

Perhaps you're aware of the professional divers in Acapulco who routinely leap from the 100-foot-high La Quebrada cliff

into water that's normally only about 13 feet deep. Tourists "ooh" and "ah" as the divers soar through the air toward the water below. The key to their safety is that they look before they leap, timing their dives to coincide with the incoming waves, plunging in only when the waves are at their peak, providing adequate depth to safely splash down.

When I was a kid, our high dive was to scale up a sycamore and jump from a limb no more than 10 feet above Brush Creek. The rule was always to look before we leaped, because there was always the danger of landing on another kid splashing around in that murky water.

A man named Lot in the Old Testament jumped into a terrible mess one time because he didn't consider the consequences. He faced a decision about where he and his family would live, and did he ever make a poor choice.

"So, Lot chose the entire Jordan Valley for himself. He lived in the cities of the valley and set up his tent near Sodom. Now the men of Sodom were evil, sinning greatly against the LORD" (Genesis 13:11, 13).

Lot may as well have jumped from a cliff into a pool of crocodiles as to have chosen such a place for himself. His decision would cost him dearly. The cities of Sodom and Gomorrah ended up being destroyed. And you might recall that Lot lost his wife there as he fled with her and their two daughters.

Lot's life is a lesson to us that we need to weigh the consequences of every decision we make. The places we choose to live and the people we choose to live near can have eternal consequences.

The truth is, it'd be safer to have the preacher standing on our oxygen tube than to choose to live in places where we, and especially our children, might be influenced to the bad.

Roger Alford offers words of encouragement to residents of America's heartland. Reach him at roger-alford1@gmail.com.



"I guess you could say he's in but he's out — He's just back from a three-\_\_\_\_\_ lunch."

## SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

Drift \_\_\_\_\_

**DRAWNE** \_\_\_\_\_

Curio \_\_\_\_\_

**FILTER** \_\_\_\_\_

Cuddle \_\_\_\_\_

**FONDLE** \_\_\_\_\_

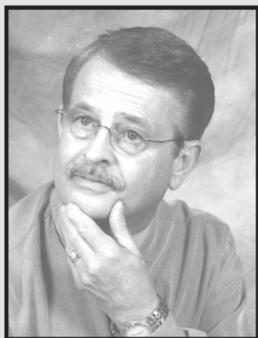
Sneer \_\_\_\_\_

**PRIMES** \_\_\_\_\_

**TODAY'S WORD**

\_\_\_\_\_

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