



Hello!

This is a preview of a book I'm funding on Kickstarter called "A World of Wisdom" It's a book of sayings from around the world. Some are unique to a single country, and others demonstrate ideas that are common all across the globe, they're just expressed in different ways influenced by the culture surrounding them. It's a lot of fun!

For example, "**the pot calling the kettle black**" is a common English expression about not pointing out others flaws if you're not perfect yourself. Kettles are pretty important to the people of England as we can't get enough of that TEA. But around the world, other things capture the public eye more than kettles do, and alternate versions of this same idea have come into usage.

In France, where cheese is the bees knees '**the Roquefort tells the Camembert it stinks!**' and funnily enough in Japan, "**a monkey laughs at another's red butt**". The phrases we use on a daily basis are shaped by our culture (food, weather, local wildlife) and while the sayings in this book might seem different on the surface, the same ideas are being expressed just using different relatable comparisons.

This little preview shows the first few sections of the book, with some nice sayings about dancing, and other fun comparisons, but the full book (216 pages of it) contains so much more. If you'd like to get a full copy, please support the project on [Kickstarter here](#) (starting May 1) and help bring it to life!

For more information visit www.soundimals.com/ks and check twitter for updates from [@chapmangamo](#), and with the hashtag [#AWorldOfWisdom](#)

Thanks for reading
James Chapman

A BAD WORKMAN BLAMES HIS TOOLS

First off, let's see how the world looks at excuses. "A bad workman blames his tools" is a classic phrase in the English language, as it's so tempting for many to try and shift blame away from themselves. Excuses are international though, and wherever you are in the world you can't avoid them. The sentiment is the same, but the way the phrase is worded changes from place to place - while bad workmen might be the ultimate problem in English speaking countries, the rest of the world has some more intriguing ideas comparisons for those who can't take the blame.

The culture of each country is on display in the sayings used from day to day, so let's see who's shifting the blame across the globe.





“A BAD BALLERINA BLAMES THE HEM OF HER SKIRT.”

“Zlej baletnicy przeszkadza rabek u spodnicy.” Poland

While bad workmen are the go-to example in English, different professions capture the imagination around the world when creating these phrases, and in Poland, it turns out ballet beats workmen.



“THOSE WHO CAN'T DANCE SAY THE GROUND IS SLOPING.”

“الما يعرف یرقص یقول الأرض عوجا” Iraq

Dance moves are a common subject for excuses in some other places too. Dancey versions of this saying exist in Russia, India, Turkey, and even Malaysia where the bad dancers say ‘the floor is a seesaw’



“THE BAD WRITER BLAMES THE PEN.”

“El mal escribano le echa la culpa a la pluma.” Spain

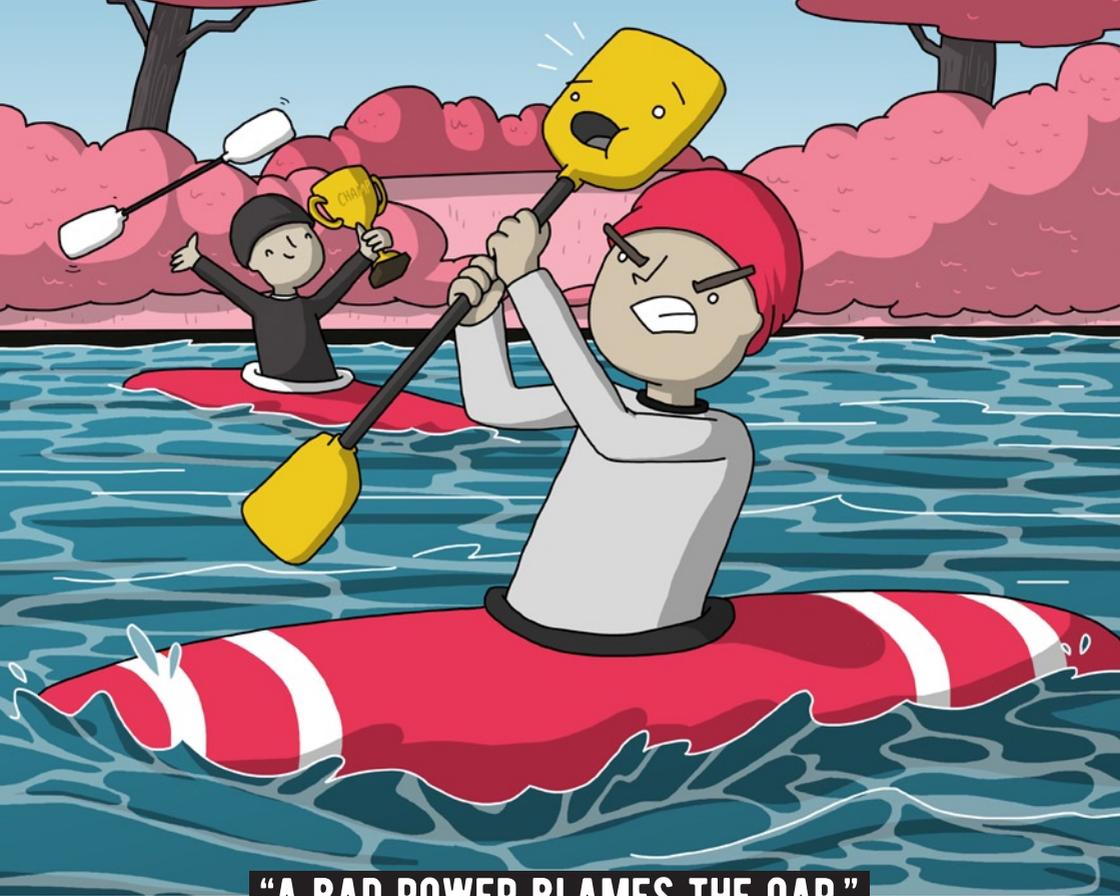
In Spain, it's writers not dancers that cause the most trouble. Also used in Germany and reaching all the way around the world to South Korea, translated as 'a good calligrapher doesn't blame the writing brush'.



**“WHEN THE RIDER'S
NO GOOD IT'S THE HORSE'S FAULT.”**

“Wenn der Reiter nichts taugt, hat das Pferd Schuld.” Germany

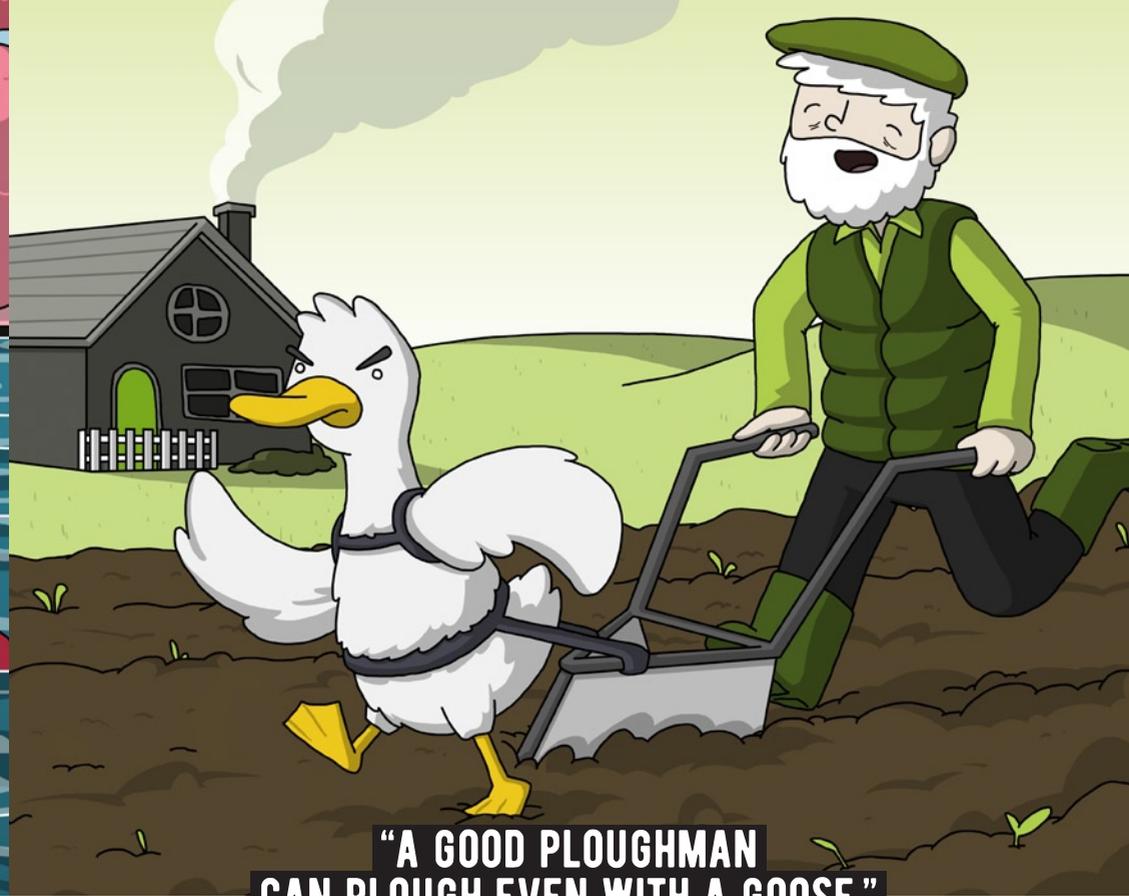
As with the bad writer, this saying also has roots in Spain, where a similar expression shifting the blame to donkeys used to be quite common, 'when the wagon driver is bad, he blames the donkey'.



“A BAD ROWER BLAMES THE OAR.”

“Árinni kennir illur ræðari.” **Iceland**

Iceland is such a sea-faring island nation with a history full of boats and rowing, so it's no wonder bad rowers and their oars have naturally become part of this proverb still used to this day.



**“A GOOD PLOUGHMAN
CAN PLOUGH EVEN WITH A GOOSE.”**

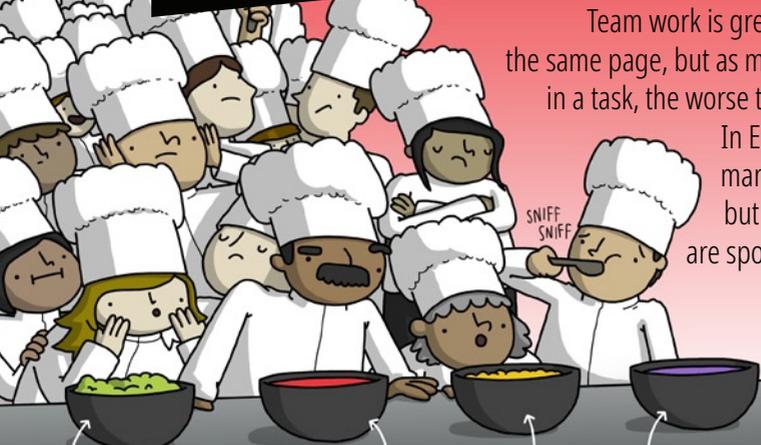
“Geras artojas ir su žąsinu paaria.” **Lithuania**

Some countries look at the idea of excuses from a more positive angle, and while a bad workman blames their equipment, the good ones can get the job done with a mere goose in their tool box.

TOO MANY COOKS

Team work is great, when everyone is on the same page, but as more people get involved in a task, the worse the final result might be.

In English, it's said that "too many cooks spoil the broth" but elsewhere, other things are spoiled, even in the kitchen where "too many cooks spoil the..."



"Mash"
(Germany)

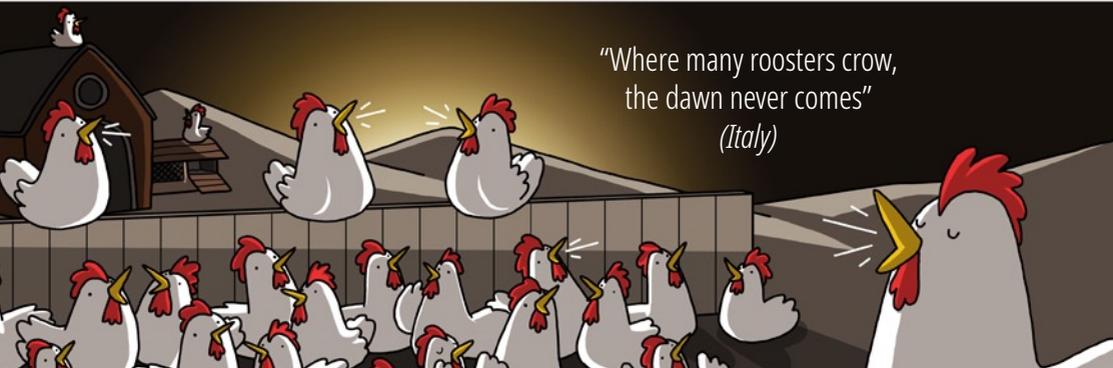
"Soup"
(Finland)

"Porridge"
(The Netherlands)

"Broth**"
(Venezuela)

*by turning it purple!

"Where many roosters crow,
the dawn never comes"
(Italy)



"Too many teachers
will bring too many
ghosts**"
(Vietnam)



*symbolic of stress

HNNNNGG!

"Too many rowers,
the ship goes
up the mountain"
(South Korea, Japan)



"Too many grandmothers
spoil the child"
(Macedonia)





"Too many hands on a plate cause a lot of mess"
(Argentina)



"With seven nurses looking after one child, it loses an eye"
(Russia)



"Three monks have no water to drink"
(China)



"Dogs with many masters will starve"
(Brazil)



"Too many candles burn the church"
(Portugal)



"A boat with two captains would sink"
(Egypt)



DANCING

Do you love to bust-a-move? Get jiggy with it? Party down? So does the rest of the world! Some things are just part of the life all over the planet whether you live in Canada or Cambodia, and dancing is absolutely one of them. The moves might change here and there but everyone loves to get down.

This passion for dancing has generated some great expressions, becoming part of everyday life in some places.

We've already seen that bad dancers like to blame wobbly floors and bad skirts for their terrible moves, but now we're moving on to more motivational expressions about being independent and true to yourself! If these words start to inspire you, don't be afraid to have a little boogie while you read.



**"DANCE BY YOURSELF
AND YOU CAN JUMP AS MUCH AS YOU WANT."**

"Μοναχός σου χόρευε, κι όσο θέλεις πήδα." **Greece**

The joys of freedom! Doing things as a group is complicated, as anyone who's tried to organise a meal out can tell you. But if you're going solo, you can do whatever you like! Nothing can stand in your way.



"WINE MAKES THE OLD FOLK DANCE."

"Il vino fa ballare i vecchi." **Italy**

Italy produces more wine than anywhere else so it makes sense that it's found its way into an Italian phrase or two along the way. Wine certainly gets the dance muscles moving once you've had enough.



"IT'S HARD TO DANCE IN BORROWED CLOTHES."

"Person wey borrow cloth go party no dey dance too much." **Nigeria**

When you're borrowing anything from a friend, it's important to be extra careful. They've trusted you with these clothes, so you probably shouldn't use your most adventurous dance moves in them.



"TRYING TO DANCE LIKE SOMEONE ELSE CAN HURT YOUR NECK."

"Akka ebaluutti sirbaan morma nama jallisaa." **Ethiopia**

Trying to fit in with the crowd isn't always the best idea, and maybe you've got to be yourself. If you find yourself with a hip new break-dancing crew, trying their dance moves might lead to a pain in the neck.



**“THE SPARROW, UNTIL 100,
WILL NOT FORGET ITS DANCE.”**

“雀百まで踊り忘れず。” Japan

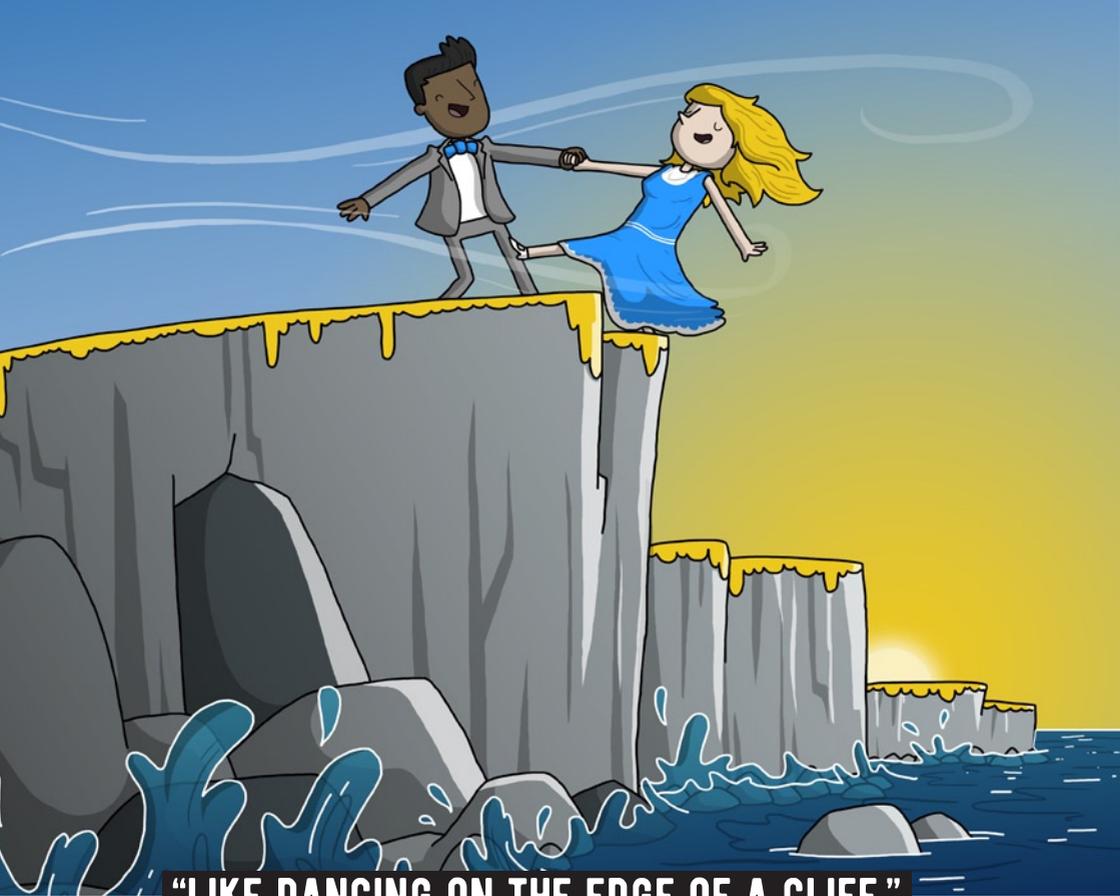
Not many sparrows make it to 100 years old, sadly. In fact, most only live about 3 years, but thankfully their extra fresh dance moves are so ingrained in their life that they'll never forget them.



“A HUNGRY BEAR DOES NOT DANCE.”

“Νηστικό αρκούδι δεν χορεύει.” Greece

Just as a hungry bear needs something to nibble on before it can dance, this is used for situations where you need to get paid in order to work. The same phrase crops up in Bulgaria and Turkey too.



“LIKE DANCING ON THE EDGE OF A CLIFF.”

“Dawnsio ar y dibyn.” **Wales**

An equivalent phrase in English would be ‘playing with fire’, when doing something dangerous without considering the consequences. A bit more vibrant this time though, and no chance of getting burnt.



“WITH MONEY, THE DOG DANCES.”

“Con el dinero, baila el perro.” **Mexico**

Money can make the unexpected happen. If you save up enough and invest in the best dog-trainers around you’ll have a doggie dance squad in no time. Anything is possible when you’ve got the cash.

IT'S RAINING CATS & DOGS

This is one of those phrases that's so old, no-one can say for sure where it even came from, but in times of heavy rain it's natural to feel that maybe more than just water falling is from the sky. Here's how the world describes those wet wet days, they say "it's raining..."



"cats and dogs"
(English)



"chair legs"
(Greece)



"lizards
and snakes"
(Brazil)



"barrels
and casks"
(Andorra)



"husbands"
(Colombia)



"ropes" (France)



"wheel barrows"
(Czech Republic)



"knives and forks"
(Wales)

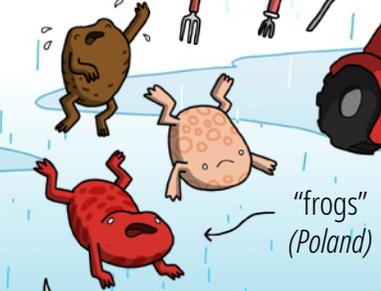


"fire and
brimstone"
(Iceland)

"witches"
(Norway)



"tractors"
(Slovakia)



"frogs"
(Poland)



"puppies" (Germany)



"shoemaker's
apprentices"
(Denmark)



**LIKE WHAT YOU SEE?
GET THE FULL COPY!**

The full book is so much bigger at 216 pages long, featuring around 330 illustrated sayings from over 60 countries. It's a great read for young and old and shows off the diversity of the world in a fun new way, highlighting the differences between cultures around the world, but more importantly, the deep similarities

Physical copies of the book start at £15, and Kickstarter supporters get access to all kinds of unique rewards from original art, personalised books and extras like tote bags, enamel pins and stickers.

The Kickstarter campaign is open for your support through the month of May 2018. No money leaves your account until the end of the funding period, and only then if we raise enough to get it made.

Visit www.soundimals.com/ks to find the campaign page during May, (or search for "A World Of Wisdom" on Kickstarter.com)

I hope you enjoy the sample, and that I can count on your support to get the full version out into the world!

James Chapman



THANKS FOR READING!

