

It's Double Dutch to Me

Idiom of the month

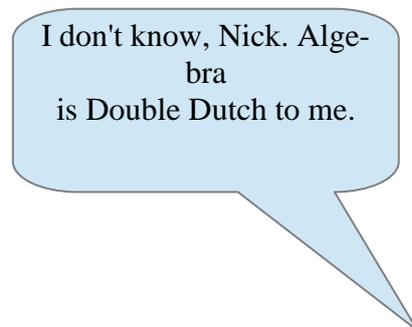
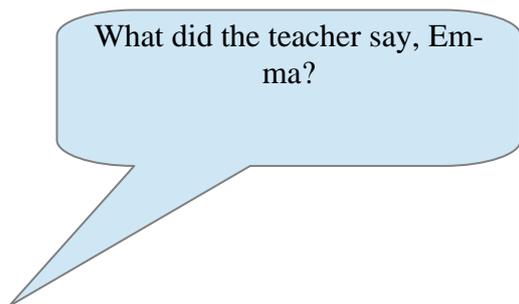
a cura di Sarah Gudgeon

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1. Tick the things YOU find it difficult to do in another language.

- a. Understand accents
- b. Ask questions
- c. Pronounce new words
- d. Understand fast conversations
- e. Read long texts
- f. Write clear sentences

2a. Read



2b. Complete with the idiom of the month.

When something is like _____ to you, it's like a foreign language that you can't understand.

When something you read or hear is Double Dutch to you, it means that you can't understand it. You feel confused because you can't make sense of the words.

3. Underline the 5 phrases you can use to ask for help when something is Double Dutch to you.

- a. Sorry, could you explain this please?
- b. Could you tell me what this means? It's Double Dutch to me.
- c. I'm sorry, I don't understand.
- d. That's stupid.
- e. Could you repeat that, please?
- f. I hate this topic.
- g. Could you say that more slowly, please?

4. Roleplay.

1. Student A: "Plurilingualism and pluriculturalism aim to capture the holistic nature of individual language users/learners linguistic and cultural repertoires." (<https://www.coe.int/en/web/common-european-framework-reference-languages/plurilingualism-and-pluriculturalism>)

Student B: Reply with a phrase from ex.3

Student A: Yes, of course.

2. Student B: "Plurilingualism/pluriculturalism stresses the dynamic use of multiple languages/varieties and cultural knowledge, awareness and/or experience in social situations." (<https://www.coe.int/en/web/common-european-framework-reference-languages/plurilingualism-and-pluriculturalism>)

Student B: Reply with a phrase from ex.3

Student A: Yes, of course.

5. a. Which message sounds like Double Dutch (DD)? Which message is clear (C)? Label.

- a. It is of the utmost importance that all work assigned to participants for completion over the weekend is delivered in a timely manner on the first day of the new week.
- b. Students must hand in their homework on Monday.

5b. Translate the messages into your language and compare the results with a partner.

/ On a sign/ Don't speak Double Dutch!

Teacher's Notes

1. Answers may vary.
- 2b. When something is like Double Dutch to you, it's like a foreign language that you can't understand.
3. Underline a; b; c; e; g
4. Answers may vary.
- 5a. a. DD b. C
- 5b. Answers may vary. This fun activity will help students see that literal translations of already complex sentences can end up sounding like Double Dutch.