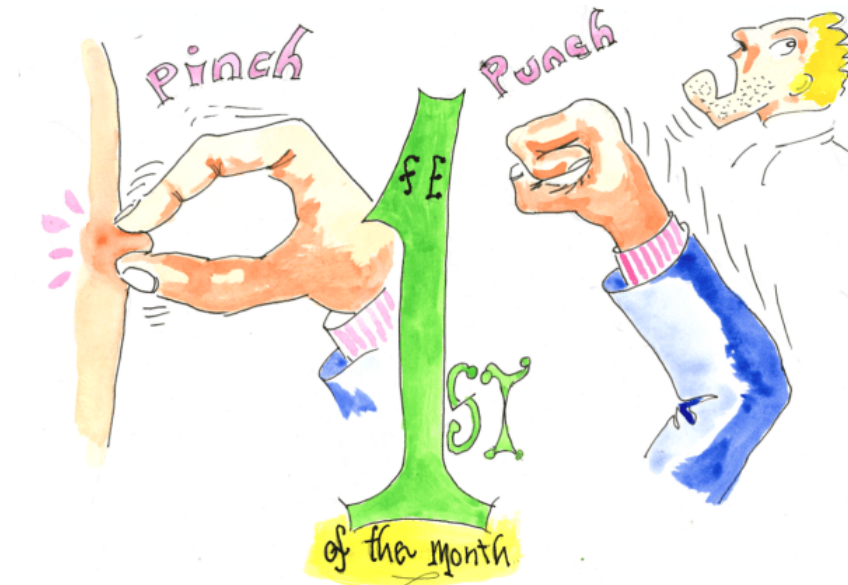


WHY DO WE SAY “WHITE RABBITS” ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE MONTH?

In Great Britain there is a funny **T**_____ for the first day of each month.

- First they say “*Pinch punch, it's the first of the month!*”
- Then they give somebody a small pinch and a light punch on the arm.
- They can do this on first day of every month.

If they follow this by saying “*white rabbits*” or “*white rabbits, no returns*” it means the receiver of the pinch punch can't return the saying and pinch or punch us back!



No matter how **O**_____ you are, it's pretty hard to resist getting through the first day of the month **W**_____ squealing “*Pinch, punch first day of the month!*” in someone's face.

And the worst part? You can't even do anything back when they say “*white rabbits, no returns*” in a bizarre British tradition which makes **A**_____ act like they've eaten way too much Haribo.

But where does this odd saying come from and why do we shout “white rabbits” aloud? Here's all you need to know about a British tale as old as

time.

Why do we say “pinch, punch”?

The phrase 'pinch, punch' **C**_____ the start of a new month. No, it's not because it gives us an excuse to be violent in the name of good fun **O**_____ a month, but there are numerous theories as to the pinching and punching.

The first theory involves George Washington, who whilst US President apparently met local Native American tribes on the first day of each month and supplied them with fruit punch with an added pinch of salt. Tasty. The second theory, obviously, involves witchcraft. **S**_____ was thought to make witches weak, and the punch was administered to banish the witch forever. So saying 'pinch, punch' became a way of welcoming the new month and warding off evil spirits.

Where do the white rabbits come from?

Saying 'white rabbits' on the first day of the month is a symbol of good luck.

White rabbits are meant to represent good luck, so this became another way of welcoming the new **M**_____.

The mention of white rabbits stretches as far back as 1909, where it's found in a British periodical book called 'Notes and Queries.'





The entry reads: 'My two daughters are in the habit of saying 'Rabbits!' on the first day of each month. The word must be spoken aloud, and be the first word said in the month. It brings luck for that month. Other **C**_____, I find, use the same formula.'

It's also reported that the term was used by RAF bomber aircrews in WWII, who would say 'white rabbits' when they woke up to protect them from harm.

According to playground rules, your pinch and punch has to be followed _____ with the words, "White rabbits, no return". By saying so, it means you can't be pinched back.

VRAGEN:

Vul de woorden in. De eerste letter van het Engelse woord is al gegeven.

1. Wat gebeurt er volgens de traditie op de eerste dag van de maand?
2. Waarom zeg je "white rabbits, no returns"?
3. Met welke twee woorden wordt aangegeven dat de traditie wel een beetje vreemd is?
4. Geef aan of de bewering **JUIST** of **ONJUIST** is.

a. George Washington ontmoette de president bij lokale bewoners	JUIST / ONJUIST
b. Zout maakt heksen zwak, zo geloofde men.	JUIST / ONJUIST
c. Een wit konijn is een symbool voor geluk.	JUIST / ONJUIST
d. De traditie kom je alleen tegen op schoolpleinen.	JUIST / ONJUIST
5. Aan welke twee voorwaarden moet het uitspreken van "white rabbits", volgens een boek uit 1909, voldoen?
6. Waarom werd de term "white rabbits" in de Tweede Wereldoorlog gebruikt?

OPDRACHT

Welke Britse uitdrukking past bij welke omschrijving?

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| 1. "a few sandwiches short of a picnic" | a. overlijden |
| 2. "it's the bee's knees" | b. een roddel |
| 3. "Chinese whispers" | c. bellen |
| 4. "Give me a tinkle on the blower" | d. overdrijven |
| 5. "Over-egg the pudding" | e. niet zo slim zijn |
| 6. "Skive" | f. helemaal geweldig |
| 7. "Pop your clogs" | g. spijbelen |