

The Schmooze

Stories with a Yiddish Twist

**PRINCE PHILIP USED THE “F” WORD...
AND IT WASN'T “FARKRIMPT,” “FEKLEMP,” OR “FARSHTINKENER**

*The Yiddish word “farkrimpt” means “distorted” or “sour-faced”
“Feklemp” means “teary eyed”
“Farshtinkener” means “all stunk up”; disgusting, abominable
“Farshiltn” means, “to damn, to curse”

by
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Prince Philip, “Shemen zolstu zich in dein veiten haldz!” (You ought to be ashamed of yourself.) You’re 94 but your fondness for blunt speaking and salty language hasn’t mellowed. You must embarrass Queen Elizabeth and the whole Royal family!

The fact that you used the “F” word to a photographer has made the papers all across “di velt” (the world)! Once again, you’ve shown an uncanny ability to put your foot in your mouth. On another occasion you called the British Embassy in Berlin “a vast waste of space.”

Sure, you’ve served in the Royal Navy during W.W. II, but you’re now a grandfather--a “zaideh” in Yiddish.

You’re certainly NOT a “faynshmeker”/“feinshmeker”--a person of refined taste.

Buckingham Palace declined to comment on the incident.

Shown below are some classic gaffes and off-color quips that Britain's Prince Philip has said:

“shikker” (drunk)

He once made a joke implying Scottish people were drunks.

“bet” (bed)

To President of Nigeria, who was in national dress, 2003: “You look like you're ready for bed!”

“zinger” (singer)

After being told that Madonna was singing the Die Another Day theme in 2002: “Are we going to need ear plugs?”

“toyb” (deaf)

To deaf children by steel band, 2000: “Deaf? If you're near there, no wonder you are deaf.”

“fancy-shmancy cooking” (Yinglish)

Ex. Did you ever see such fancy-shmancy cooking?

“I never see any home cooking--all I get is fancy stuff.” (1987 quote)

“heym” (house/home)

On the Duke of York's house, 1986: “It looks like a tart's bedroom.”

“ergst” (worst)

To Lockerbie residents after plane bombing, 1993: “People say after a fire it's water damage that's the worst. We're still drying out Windsor Castle.”

“royt” (red)

“We go into the red next year....I shall have to give up polo.” (1969)

“druk” (stress)

On stress counselling for servicemen in 1995: “We didn't have counsellors rushing around every time somebody let off a gun. You just got on with it!”

“fraye tsayt” (leisure)

On the 1981 recession: “A few years ago, everybody was saying we must have more leisure, everyone's working too much. Now everybody's got more leisure time they're complaining they're unemployed. People don't seem to make up their minds what they want.”

“mitog” (dinner)

At a party in 2004: “Bugger the table plan, give me my dinner!”

“frishtik” (breakfast)

After a breakfast of bacon (“beykon”), eggs, smoked salmon, kedgeree, croissants and pain au chocolate - from Gallic chef Regis Crepey, 2002: “The French don’ know how to cook breakfast.”

After hearing President Obama had had breakfast with leaders of the UK, China and Russia, 2010: “Can you tell the difference between them?”

“turst” (tourist)

To a tourist in Budapest in 1993: “You can’t have been here long, you haven’t a pot belly.”

TOURISM:

At City Hall in 2002: “If we could just stop the tourism, we could stop the congestion.”

“vertful” (valuable)

On Tom Jones, 1969: “It’s difficult to see how it’s possible to become immensely valuable by singing what are the most hideous songs.”

“pelts” (fur)

“di mode” (fashion)

To a fashion editor in 1933: “You’re not wearing mink knickers, are you?”

“bir” (beer)

When offered wine in Rome in 2000, Prince Philip snapped: “I don’t care what kind it is, just get me a beer.”

“aeroplan” (airplane)

A VIP at a local airport asked HRH: “What was your flight, like, Your Royal Highness?” Philip: “Have you ever flown a plane?”

VIP: “Oh, yes, sir, many times.” “Well,” said Philip, “it was just like that.”

“I must be the only person in Britain glad to see the back of that plane.”

Note: He hated the noise the Concorde made flying over Buckingham Palace, 2002.

“hunt” (dog)

To Susan Edwards and her guide dog in 2002: "They have eating dogs for the anorexic now."

"froy" (woman)

You ARE a woman, aren't you?" Kenya, 1984.

"kokhn" (to cook)

To the Scottish WI in 1961: "British women can't cook."

"vashtsimer" (bathroom)

On smoke alarms to a woman who lost two sons in a fire, 1998:

"They're a damn nuisance - I've got one in my bathroom and every time I run my bath the steam sets it off."

"kunst" (art)

On Ethiopian art, 1965: "It looks like the kind of thing my daughter would bring back from school art lessons."

"probe" (test)

To Scottish driving instructor, 1995: "How do you keep the natives off the booze long enough to pass the test?"

"komar" (mosquito)

To matron of Caribbean hospital, 1966: "You have mosquitoes. I have the Press."

"kapelya" (band - musical)

To a children's band in Australia in 2002: "You were playing your instruments? Or do you have tape recorders under your seats?"

"Oytomobile" (automobile)

To Elton John on his gold Aston Martin in 2001: "Oh, it's you that owns that ghastly car, is it?"

"inzhenir" (engineer)

At an engineering school closed so HE could officially open it, 2005:

"It doesn't look like much work goes on at this university."

"umvisndik" (ignorant)

At Duke of Edinburgh Awards scheme, 2006: "Young people are the same as they always were. Just as ignorant."

"raykh" (rich)

On how difficult it is in Britain to get rich: “What about Tom Jones? He’s made a million and he’s a bloody awful singer.”

Perhaps Prince Philip never heard this Yiddish expression:
“Ven es gait gleich, vert men reich.”
(When things go right, you become rich.)

“khorev makhn” (to ruin)
At a Scottish fish farm: “Oh! You’re the people ruining the rivers.”

“briv” (letter)
To schoolboy who invited the Queen to Romford, Essex, 2003:
“Ah, you’re the one who wrote the letter. So you can write then?”

“skhoyre” (goods)
When presented with a hamper of goods by US ambassador, 1999:
“Where’s the Southern Comfort?”

“shpayen” (to spit)
Turning down food, 2000. “No, I’d probably end up spitting it out over everybody.”

“Fun vanan shtamstu?” (Where are you from?)
or “Fun vanen shtamt ir?”
To editor of down-market tabloid: “Where are you from?”
“The S*n, sir.
Philip: “Oh, no...one can’t tell from the outside.”

“farrikhtn” (to fix)
Asking Cate Blanchett to fix his DVD player because she worked “in the film industry,” 2008: “There’s a cord sticking out of the back. Might you tell me where it goes?”

“bord” (beard)
To a fashion designer, 2009: “Well, you didn’t design your beard too well, did you?”

“hey” (hay)
On Princess Anne, 1970: “If it doesn’t fart or eat hay, she isn’t interested.”

“khinukh” (education)
On being made Chancellor of Edinburgh University in 1953:

“Only a Scotsman can really survive a Scottish education.”

“zoyne” (prostitute)

“I don’t think a prostitute is more moral than a wife, but they are doing the same thing.” 1988

“mezumen” (cash)

To a penniless student in 198: “Why don’t you go and live in a hostel to save cash?”

“oygn” (eyes)

To a British student in China, 1986: “If you stay here much longer, you’ll go home with slitty eyes.”

“derkenen” (to recognize)

To a car park attendant who didn’t recognize him in 1997, he snapped, “You bloody silly fool!”

“esn” (to eat)

At a WF meeting in 1986: “If it has four legs and it’s not chair, if it’s got two wings and it flies but is not an aeroplane and if it swims and it’s not a submarine, the Cantonese will eat it.”

“fabrik” (factory)

Peering at a fuse box in a Scottish factory, Prince Philip said: “It looks as though it was put in by an Indian.” He later backtracked: “I meant to say cowboys.”

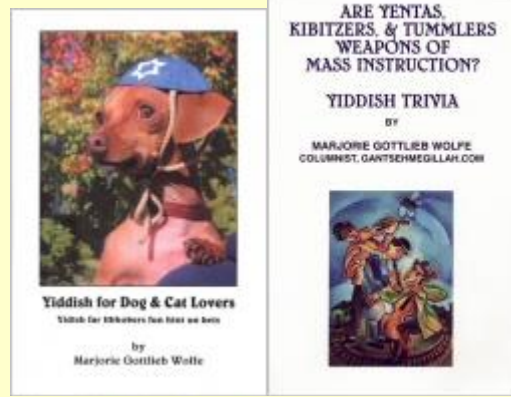
MARJORIE WOLFE’S FAVORITE PRINCE PHILIP QUOTE:

To the General Dental Council in 1960: “Dontopedalogy is the science of opening your mouth and putting your foot into it which I’ve practiced for many years.”

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**Marjorie Gottlieb Wolfe is the author of
two books:**



**"Yiddish for Dog & Cat Lovers" and
"Are Yentas, Kibitzers, & Tumblers Weapons of Mass Instruction?
Yiddish
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