

In the Good Old Days.....

Back in the 1500s:

They used to use urine to tan animal skins, so families used to all pee in a pot & then once a day it was taken & sold to the tannery

if you had to do this to survive you were "Piss Poor" But worse than that were the really poor folk who couldn't even afford to buy a pot..... they **"didn't have a pot to piss in"**

In the Good Old Days.....

Most people got married in June because they took their yearly bath in May, and they still smelled pretty good by June... However, since they were starting to smell . . . brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the body odor. Hence the custom today of carrying a bouquet when getting married

In the Good Old Days.....

Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water, then all the other sons and men, then the women and finally the children, and last of all, the babies. By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it. Hence the saying,

"Don't throw the baby out with the Bath water!"

In the Good Old Days.....

As incredible as it sounds, men and women took baths only twice a year (May and October) Women kept their hair covered, while men shaved their heads (because of lice and bugs) and wore wigs. Wealthy men could afford good wigs made from wool. They couldn't wash the wigs, so to clean them they would carve out a loaf of bread, put the

wig in the shell, and bake it for 30 minutes. The heat would make the wig big and fluffy, hence the term 'big wig.' Today we often use the term 'here comes the Big Wig' because someone appears to be or is powerful and wealthy.

In the Good Old Days.....

Houses had thatched roofs-thick straw-piled high, with no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to get warm, so all the cats and other small animals (mice, bugs) lived in the roof.

When it rained it became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and fall off the roof.

Hence the saying "**It's raining cats and dogs.**"

In the Good Old Days.....

There was nothing to stop things from falling into the house. This posed a real problem in the bedroom where bugs and other droppings could mess up your nice clean bed. Hence, a bed with big posts and a sheet hung over the top afforded some protection. That's how canopy beds came into existence.

In the Good old days.....

The floor was dirt. Only the wealthy had something other than dirt. Hence the saying, "**Dirt poor.**"

The wealthy had slate floors that would get slippery in the winter when wet, so they spread thresh (straw) on floor to help keep their footing. As the winter wore on, they added more thresh until, when you opened the door, it would all start slipping outside.

A piece of wood was placed in the entrance-way.
Hence: **a thresh hold.**

In the Good old days.....

In those old days, they cooked in the kitchen with a big kettle that always hung over the fire. Every day they lit the fire and added things to the pot. They ate mostly vegetables and did not get much meat. They would eat the stew for dinner, leaving leftovers in the pot to get cold overnight and then start over the next day. Sometimes stew had food in it, that had been there for quite a while. Hence the rhyme: **Peas porridge hot, peas porridge cold, peas porridge in the pot nine days old.**

In the Good old days.....

Sometimes they could obtain pork, which made them feel quite special. When visitors came over they would hang up their bacon to show off. It was a sign of wealth that a man could, "**bring home the bacon.**" They would cut off a little to share with guests and would all sit around and **chew the fat.**

In the Good old Days.....

Bread was divided according to status. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle, and guests got the top, or the **upper crust.**

In the Good old Days.....

Lead cups were used to drink ale or whisky. The combination would sometimes knock the imbibers out for a couple of days. Someone walking along the road would take them for dead and prepare them for burial. They were laid out on the kitchen table for a

couple of days and the family would gather around and eat and drink and wait and see if they would wake up. **Hence the custom of holding a wake.**

In the late 1700's, many houses consisted of a large room with only one chair. Commonly, a long wide board folded down from the wall, and was used for dining. The 'head of the household' always sat in the chair while everyone else ate sitting on the floor. Occasionally a guest, who was usually a man, would be invited to sit in this chair during a meal. To sit in the chair meant you were important and in charge. They called the one sitting in the chair the chair man.' Today in business, we use the expression or title '**Chairman**' or '**Chairman of the Board**.'

In the Good Old Days.....

Common entertainment included playing cards. However, there was a tax levied when purchasing playing cards but only applicable to the 'Ace of Spades.' To avoid paying the tax, people would purchase 51 cards instead. Yet, since most games require 52 cards, these people were thought to be stupid or dumb because **they weren't playing with a full deck.**

In the Good Old Days.....

In George Washington's days, there were no cameras. One's image was either sculpted or painted. Some paintings of George Washington showed him standing behind a desk with one arm behind his back while others showed both legs and both arms. Prices charged by painters were not based on how many people were to be painted, but by how many limbs were to be painted. Arms and legs are 'limbs,' therefore painting them would cost the buyer more.. Hence the expression, '**Okay, but**

it'll cost you an arm and a leg.' (Artists know hands and arms are more difficult to paint)

In the Good Old Days.....

Early politicians required feedback from the public to determine what the people considered important. Since there were no telephones, TV's or radios, the politicians sent their assistants to local taverns, pubs, and bars. They were told to 'go sip some ale' and listen to people's conversations and political concerns. Many assistants were dispatched at different times. 'You go sip here' and 'You go sip there.' **The two words 'go sip' were eventually combined when referring to the local opinion and, thus we have the term 'gossip.'**