



Adam and Eve



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force of gravity



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Snow White and  
the Seven Dwarfs



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Mother Holle



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In the Grimm fairy tale, a widow had two daughters, one hard-working, beautiful and one ugly and lazy. The busy one had spun a lot and so her fingers were bleeding. When she was about to wash the reel by the fountain, the reel fell into the fountain. The girl jumped after her, passed out, and woke up in a beautiful meadow. There a tree called out: "Oh, shake me, shake me, we apples are all ripe together." She shook the tree, the apples fell until none was up.

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Mother Holle



René Magritte



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still life



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A still life is the representation of dead or motionless objects. Still lifes can be differentiated according to the objects shown. Here you can see a still life by Paul Cezanne with fruit (apples).

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Adam's apple



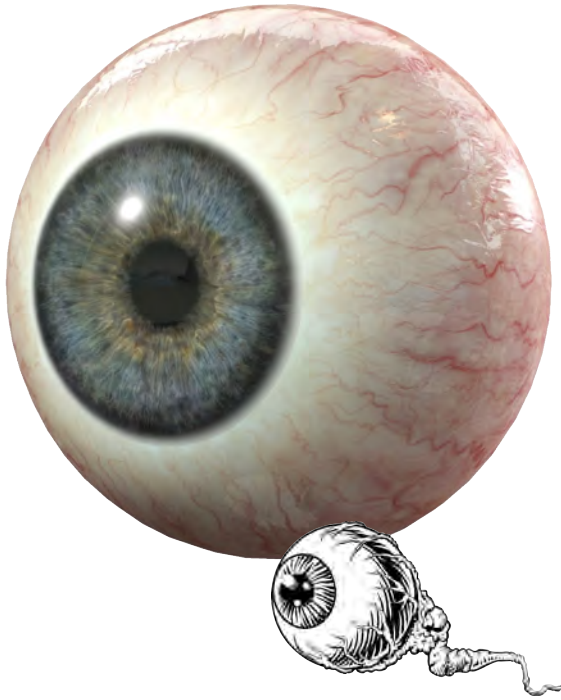
Adam's apple

After puberty, men often have a pronounced Adam's apple (larynx), so the longer vocal cords have enough room and the voice becomes deeper.

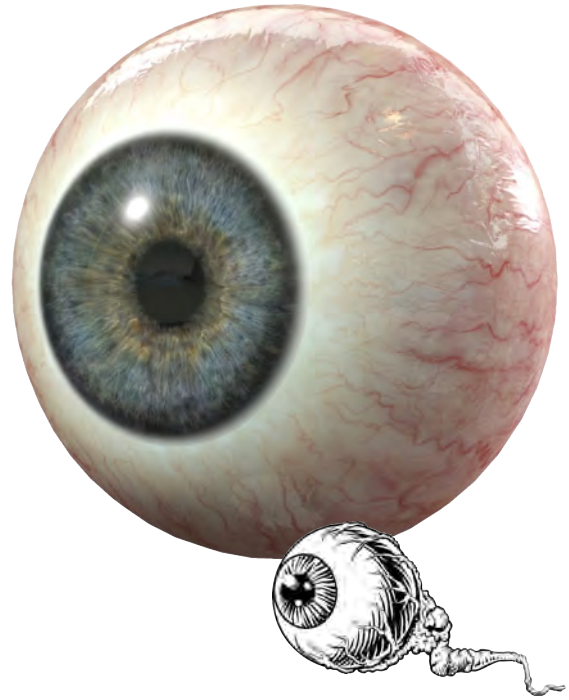
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der Augapfel



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seinen Augapfel



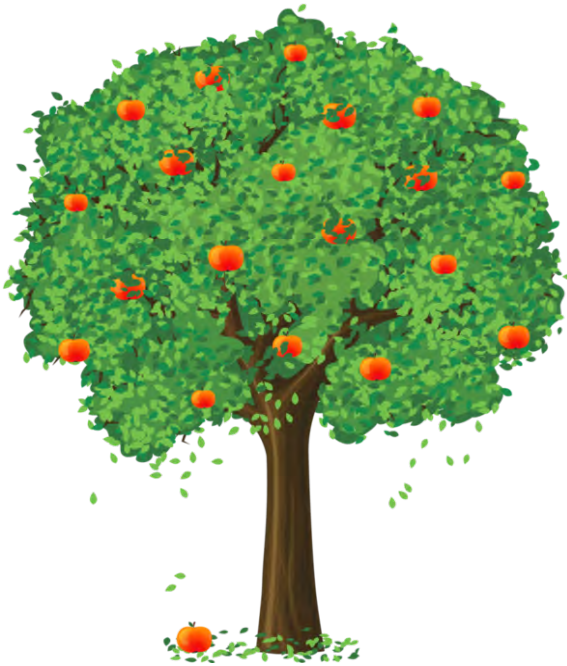
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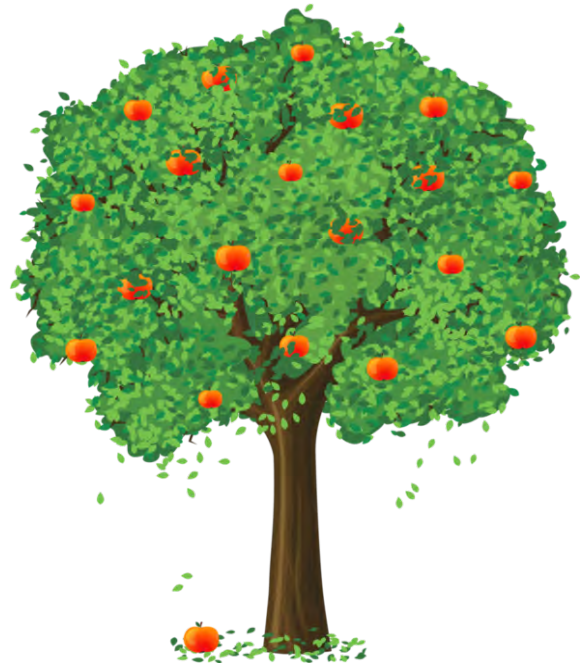
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The saying "the apple doesn't fall far from the tree" means that descendants behave similarly, have similar characteristics or are interested in the same things as their parents. However, one can also mean it in a more general way and say that all things that are descended from something are similar to the thing from which they are descended.

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in den sauren  
Apfel beisen



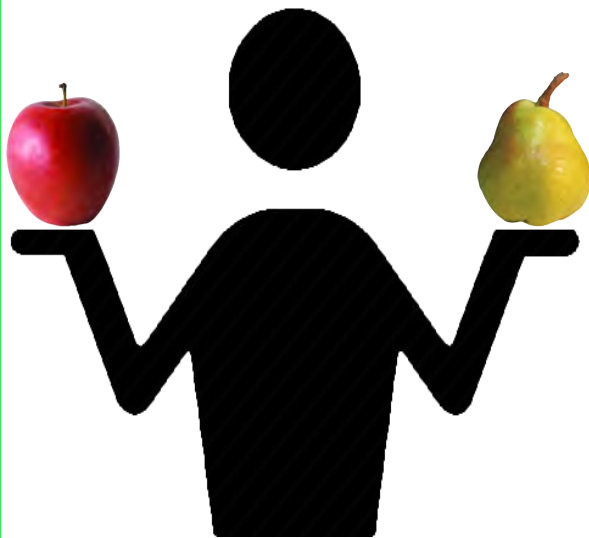
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The expression "in den sauren Apfel beissen" means that you have to do something unpleasant, take on a thankless task or suffer a disadvantage, but you have no choice. The English term for this is: "to bite the bullet".

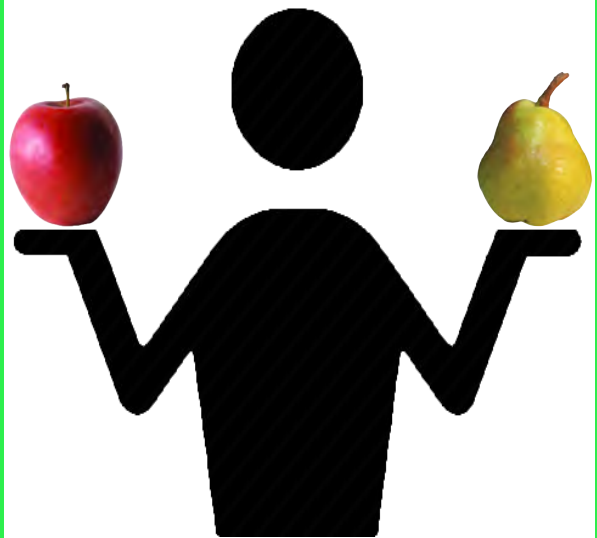
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Äpfel und Birnen  
vergleichen



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The expression "Äpfel und Birnen vergleichen" means that you should not compare things that are not really comparable. So you can only compare things that are the same and therefore really comparable. Apples and pears are not the same. The English expression for this is: "to compare apples and/oranges".

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Äpfel und Birnen  
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forbidden apples  
are sweet



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buying something for  
an apple and an egg



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The value of an apple is low, the value of an egg even less. Thus this saying means: buying something for little money. This is however only half of the underlying meaning. The saying applies to purchases that were expected to cost much more than you actually payed. That's when you bought the item for an apple and an egg.

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der Erdapfel



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die Apfelsine



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The name "Apfelsine" for orange, which is mainly known in Northern German, is derived from the Dutch "appelsien" or "sinaasappel" and means "apple from China". The Latin name of the orange, "citrus sinensis", refers to its original home in China.

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de sinaasappel



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In the Netherlands, the orange is called "de sinaasappel", which means "the Chinese apple". The sweet fruit was brought to Europe from southern China by the Portuguese around 1500. The bitter variety, which comes from India, has been known since the Middle Age.

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pomodoro



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pineapple



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the judgement  
of the Paris



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After Eris, goddess of discord, throws a golden apple with the inscription "The most beautiful" among the celebrating gods of the Greek gods, a dispute ensues between Aphrodite, Athena and Hera as to who should get this apple. The innocent young Paris is to judge. In order to win the young god over, each of the goddesses offers him a price. Aphrodite can decide the judgement in his favour when she offers him the most beautiful woman in the world as a bribe. But Helena is already married to Menelaus, King of Sparta. The event is the cause of the Trojan War.

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the judgement  
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the garden with  
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The Hesperides are nymphs in Greek mythology. They looked after a tree with golden apples in a beautiful garden. The tree is guarded by the dragon Ladon.

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Idunn



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In Nordic mythology, the goddess Idunn (also called Idun, Iduna or Idunna) guarded the sacred apples that she carried in a special basket. Gods and goddesses who ate from these apples were promised immortality. They would never become old. Idunn was the goddess of lovers. It is rumoured that no goddess had had as many lovers as Idunn. She was breathtakingly beautiful. Idunn was married to Bragi, the son of Odin. Bragi was the god of poetry.

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der Reichsapfel



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William Tell by  
Friedrich Schiller



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William Tell goes to Altdorf with his son Walter. There he should pay his respects to a hat on a pole. However, he does not do so. The bailiff Gessler is enraged and orders him to shoot an apple off Walter's head as punishment. He succeeds, but Gessler asks what Tell would have done if he had shot the boy, and Tell says that he would have shot the bailiff. Gessler then arrests Tell.

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der Granatapfel



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"Der Granatapfel" originates from Iran, northern India and Afghanistan. The name comes from the word "malum granatum" = "apple with seeds". The pressed juice is very tasty and can also be used to make pomegranate wine. The pomegranate does not belong to the rose family.

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Granny Smith



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Max Bircher-Benner, a Swiss doctor, developed "the Birchermüesli" at the beginning of the 20th century. It consisted mainly of oat flakes and apples. He propagated a raw food diet. In his sanatorium, as the patients called it, "the Bircher-müesli" was served, or "d`Spys" for short.

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European wild apple



European wild apple

The European wild apple is also called crab apple. Its original home is mainly Europe and the Near East. It can be consumed cooked or dried. It is made into mush, jam or jelly. In the Swabian Alb, the juice of the crab apple is added to the juice of normal apples to give it a special flavour.

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Malus sieversii



Almaty



Almaty

Almaty in Kazakhstan was called Alma Ata until 1993. In Kazakh, "alma" means apple. Alma ata means "father of apples". Near Almaty there is a nature park with "malus sieversii". As civilisation takes up more and more space, the park is seriously in danger.

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Almaty



the metamorphosis



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Frank Kafka wrote the story about Georg Samsa in 1921, who in the course of the story turns more and more into a vermin. One day, his father throws a piece of apple at the beetle, which gets stuck in him and begins to rot.

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the Romans



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The cultivation of apples as we know it today was introduced to Central Europe by the Romans. According to sources, they began with targeted cultivation and brought the art of grafting and cloning to the edges of their empire. Apples have been consciously cultivated in Central Europe since the 6th century. From the 16th century onwards, it also became an economic commodity.

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the Romans



Johann Wolfgang  
von Goethe



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The apple and the apple tree are also mentioned in Goethe's Faust. In it, the gardener sings: "Come, from the very ripest fruits with taste and desire to dine! You can write poetry about roses, but you have to bite into apples." And Faust says to his beloved Gretchen on Walpurgis Night: "Once I had a beautiful dream. I saw an apple tree. Two beautiful apples shone on it. They tempted me and I climbed up." To which Gretchen replies: "You desire the little apples very much, and already from paradise, I feel moved by joy that my garden also bears such."

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the apple of my eye



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The expression "the apple of my eye" in English refers to something or someone you appreciate above all else. Originally, this term referred to the "opening in the centre of the human eye", in other words the pupil or occasionally the whole eyeball. This is probably because eyesight is an essential sensory organ of the individual.

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ook wel zuur



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Since the apple is an important part of life in our part of the world, it often appears not only in German, but also in proverbs and idioms in other languages. The Dutch proverb "mooie appels zijn ook wel zuurs" (beautiful apples can also be sour) means that appearances are often deceptive, something looks beautiful but is not really.

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Christmas tree



Christmas tree

In the past, red apples with straw stars and nuts often hung on the Christmas tree. If you polished the apples with a dishcloth and added a drop of oil, they shone intensely. This created a beautiful festive atmosphere. The apple is closely associated with Christmas. Especially in times of sustainability, it has become popular again to decorate a tree with apples.

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Christmas tree



Korbinian Aigner



Korbinian Aigner

Aigner had been a pastor, but was also interested in the current affairs of the day. In 1923, he went to an NSDAP event. Since that time he fought against the National Socialists. In a sermon, he said about the assassination of Georg Elsner in 1939: "I don't know if what the assassin had in mind is a sin. Then perhaps a million people would have been saved". He was then arrested. In 1941 he was imprisoned in the Dachau concentration camp. There he planted apple trees and even grew new ones: KZ-1, KZ-2, KZ-3 and KZ-4. KZ-3 still exists today and is called the "Korbiniansapfel".

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Korbinian Aigner



mit Butz und Stingel



mit Butz und Stingel

This is an Austrian idiom and means that you eat the food completely and without leftovers. Eat something with Butz (= core) and Stingel (= stem). In German, there is also a similar expression "etwas mit mit Haut und Haaren vertilgen". (In English it is known as: "eat something with skin and hair").

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Ein fauler Apfel steckt  
hundert gesunde an.



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This saying means that one person can put a whole group in a state of disorder or bad mood. From a biological point of view, the saying is also true, because apples stimulate other fruits in their neighbourhood to ripen more quickly through ethene.

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Yiddish proverb



Yiddish proverb

"The neighbour's apples are the best". This is a Yiddish proverb. In German there is the saying: "Die Kirschen des Nachbars Garten sind süsser", which means pretty much the same thing. In English it is known as: "The grass is always greener on the other side of the fence".

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Yiddish proverb



George Bernard Shaw



George Bernard Shaw

This is a quote from George Bernard Shaw: "If you have an apple, I have an apple, and we exchange apples, we each have an apple. But if you have an idea, I have an idea, and we swap ideas, we each have two ideas."

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George Bernard Shaw



Je suis tombé  
dans les pommes.



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The French expression  
"tomber dans les  
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Reinhard Döhl

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Reinhard Döhl

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 His apple poem is proba-  
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 Please read it in its en-  
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Idiom from  
Normandy



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"Que la nature est pré-  
voyante! Elle fait pousser  
les pommes en Normandie  
sachant que les indigènes  
de cette province ne  
boivent que du cidre."  
Liberally translated, it  
means something like: "How  
clever nature is! She lets  
apples grow in Normandy  
because she knows that the  
people of Normandy only  
drink cider".

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