

## INTERNATIONAL MOTHER TONGUE LANGUAGE DAY QUIZ ANSWERS

### LOST FOR WORDS

1) 'talkoot' means people helping with spring cleaning? It is a **Finnish** word

2) What is your mood today:



- a) 'Eho kefi' 'Έχω κέφι' **Greek** - meaning I'm in a good mood to do something enjoyable
- b) 'Muterseelenallein' **German** – meaning as alone and lonely as one can possibly be, used more negatively than positively but it can mean there is absolutely nobody else around.
- c) fighting your 'Innerer Schweinehund' **German** – fighting the animal (inner swine dog) that lives in your psyche influencing you to choose the lazy, cowardly option eg resist getting up early or going for a jog. (It's not an insult.)
- d) have a 'hiraeth' for something **Welsh** – meaning a deep longing for something, possibly something nostalgic eg have hiraeth for your childhood home.
- e) or 'Fernweh' **German** – a longing for faraway places (the opposite of homesick)



3) 'Kurczę blade' **Polish** translates literally as 'chicken pale' and used in the sense of 'Oh blimey!' Poor chickens! Think of how we use chickens: a headless chicken, be chicken.....

4) What language and the meaning?



'Mă duc ca să am de unde să mă întorc' **Romanian** 'I am going so that I can have somewhere to come back from.'

'prinést modré nebe' **Czech** the lover professing to their loved one that they are so in love they can 'take the blue from the sky' for them.

'Boka cerrada no entran moskas' **Ladino/Spanish** 'Let no flies enter in a closed mouth' ie it's better not to speak than make mistakes, think before speaking.

5) FOOD was, of course, a popular topic!

'En mad' **Danish** 'a food' a quick bite often a slice of bread with cheese, jam whatever

'Natmad' **Danish** 'night food' a late night snack also called 'skrub-af-mad' literally time-to-leave food, a favourite being hotdogs eaten standing.

**BUT how would you describe** the hectic atmosphere at the end of a party when you've had your 'natmad' and are about to leave. How about adopting the **Danish** 'Opbrudsstemning' literally 'break up atmosphere'!

Thank you to everyone who sent contributions. We haven't used all your contributions as we'd love to develop this conversation and would like to use what everyone's shared as part of a bigger project. Please do send more examples and comments.