

The Alternative Breton Dictionary

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b

Boulc'hurun ! *Good Lord !* NOTE Other translations : "Jesus !", etc. Lit: "Thunder bowl !", the equivalent of the French "Tonnerre de Brest !" or the German "Donnerwetter !".

bramm (noun, masc.) † *flatulence (noisy)* NOTE Breton proverb : "Bramm hep trouz na c'hwezh, a zo labour difrouezh" : "A flatulence which is neither noisy nor stinky is a useless job".

brammañ † *to make a flatulence (noisily), to fart* NOTE Example : "Te eo 'n deus brammet, loen flaerius ?" : "Is that you that farted, you stinky beast ?". No comment.

brammer (noun) † *sb. who spends his time hanging around, doing nothing special.* NOTE Example : "Sell 'ta ouzh ar brammer kozh, o vont da lippañ ur banne" : "Look at that old fart, he's going to the pub"

brammig (noun) ☺ *kid* NOTE Frequently used talking to very young children (3 to 6 years old). "Pe oad out, brammig ?" : "How old are you, sonny ?"

c

c'hoari koukou (verbal phrase) *fornicate, make love* NOTE Barely a slang phrase, rather weak and old-fashioned. More gentle, though, than the verb "fouzhañ".

d

droug-blev (noun) *hangover* NOTE Also see "mezv", "reorad", "foñsad". Example : "Ma 'vefes ket bet mezv-dall derc'h, 'vefes ket o klemm gant an droug blev hiziv" "If you had'nt been pissed like a newt yesterday, you

would'n be complaining about your hangover today"

f

foñsad (noun, masc.) *inebriation, piss* NOTE See "reorad".

fouzhañ *to copulate, to make love* NOTE non-transitive verb. "Fouzhañ gant unan bennak", to copulate with sb., to make love to sb.

g

gast (noun, f; plural 'gisti') † *bitch* NOTE As in English, it both means a female dog and a prostitute, although the first sense has now faded away. "E Lannbaeron, n'eus ken met gisti ha laeron !" (notice the rime in "-aeron"): "In Landebaeron, there's nobody but whores and thieves !". Also used as an interjection : "Gast !" which can be translated as "Gee !" or "Blimey !" or "Bloody heck !", etc. Derivatives : "Gast ar c'hast": "Gosh, golly !", "Gast a gurun": "Bloody hell !" (lit. "thunder bitch!") Of course, it is also used as an insult : "Gast kozh !": "You old bitch !"; "Mab ar c'hast !": "You son of a bitch!".

k

kaoc'h *faeces* NOTE also used when cursing : "kaoc'h !" = "shit !"; "kaoc'h ki du !" = "a black dog's shit"

karc'hat *to shit* NOTE verb; cf. "kerzh da garc'hat"

kerzh da garc'hat † *get lost / leave me alone* NOTE As a strong insult, it could be translated as "Fuck off !", "Kiss my arse" or "Go fuck a duck !"

I

louf (noun, masc.) † *flatulence (smelly)* NOTE
 Example : "Hemañ 'n deus graet ul louf
 flaerius !" : "This guy made a stinky flatulence
 !"

M

Ma reor d'al laboused ! † *litt. : My arse to the
 birds !* NOTE An expressive curse, the
 equivalent of "Kaoc'h ki du !" ~ "Shit !"
 Bigouden dialect.

mezv (adj.) *drunk* NOTE Also spelled : Meo,
 meze, mezo. Several comparisons can be
 made to reinforce the strength of this
 adjective, depending on the degree of
 ethylism. Examples : "Mezv 'vel ur person",
litt.: pissed as a vicar (completely drunk);
 "mezv 'vel ur porc'hell" : drunk as a pig, etc.

mezv-dall (& others : adj.) *completely drunk*
 NOTE Based on the adjective "mezv", some
 other compounds can be made. Here are
 some of them with their literal translation :
 "Mezv-dall", drunken to blindness, "Mezv-
 marv", drunken to death, "Mezv-mik" or
 "mezv-poch"=completely drunk.

P

Peoc'h da ma benn, pe ma reor 'ray un tenn ! †
*litt. : Be silent to my head or my arse will
 shoot !* NOTE An expressive curse that means
 : "Shut up !"

Preg d'am reor, ma benn 'zo klañv ! † *litt. : Talk
 to my arse, my head is sick !* NOTE refers to
 the french "Parle à mon cul, ma tête est
 malade"="Cause toujours, tu m'intéresses".
 Usually means : "I don't care what you say"

R

reor arse NOTE masc. noun of common use.
 Also referred to in several phrases.

reorad (noun, masc.) *inebriation, piss* NOTE
 Based on the noun "reor" (arse), this noun
 literally means "a full bottom of booze". "An
 deiz-all 'm eus paket ur reorad e fest-noz
 Plouvagor", "I got drunken at the breton
 céilidh the other day in Ploumagoar". Also
 used with some nouns to reinforce the
 meaning : "ur reorad spe'ed, ur reorad ludu,
 ur reorad teilh"

S

Serr da veg, ha lak da reor da breg ! *Shut up !*

NOTE Lit. "Shut your mouth and let your arse
 talk !". An interesting phrase because of the
 rime ("veg" & "preg"). Lots of phrases in
 Breton include rimes, see : "Peoc'h d'am
 fenn, pe ma reor 'ray un tenn !" for the "-enn"
 rime.

sevel da unan bennak (phrase) † *to have an
 erection (for sb.)* NOTE Mainly used as follows
 : "Sevel a ra din, sevel a ra dezhañ", etc.
 Example : "Sevel a rae dezhañ pa wele he
 bronnoù lemm" : "He would have a hard-on
 whenever he saw her breasts"

stot (noun, masc.) *urine* NOTE Of common use
 when describing a beverage : "Gast, n'eo ket
 ur banne kafe, met stot marc'h eo !" "Gee,
 that's not coffee, that's horse urine !" i.e. that
 coffee is not strong enough.

stotañ (verb) *to urinate* NOTE Other spelling :
 staotañ. Example : "Bewech ma 'vezon mezv
 e stotan en ma bragou" "Whenever I get
 drunk, I piss my trousers "

t

Tripledie ! Gosh ! NOTE Lit: "Triple God !".

Mainly used in Leon.