Whenever I host a giveaway, I strive to **craft a question** that will encourage creative and thoughtful responses: this is both so you’ll feel engaged in the conversation and, more selfishly, so I get to read through your entries and learn and smile and be inspired.

When my latest book [Edible French](http://cnz.to/ediblefrench/) came out last fall and I [gave away copies](http://chocolateandzucchini.com/books-cookbooks/edible-french-release-giveaway/), you were entered by submitting **your favorite food-related expression** in any language you liked.

I know you share my love of languages so I wasn’t surprised to see you come through with dozens of **curious and delicious expressions**. Since then I’ve been meaning to draw a short selection to highlight in a post, and this is it! Many thanks to all who contributed, and feel free to share more in the comments!

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Poland: **Letting someone in the raspberry bushes** (*Wpuścić kogoś w maliny*) means that you knowingly set someone up for difficulties, getting lost and confused, losing their way, etc.

Korea: Someone is described as **chicken skin** (느끼해) when they’re super cheesy. The expression refers to super oily and greasy bland foods that make you feel gross.

Poland: Being served **duck blood soup** (*Czarna polewka*) means being rejected romantically. Duck blood soup was served by the parents of the young woman to the man whose proposal was being turned down.

Holland: **Having an apple to peel with someone** (*Hij heeft een appeltje met hem te schillen*) means having a bone to pick with someone, i.e. bringing a complaint against someone.

Germany: **Having raisins in one’s head** (*Rosinen im Kopf haben*) means having big ideas.

Germany: A **freshly baked mom** (*Frisch gebackene mama*) is used for a woman who’s just had a baby.

Spain: **Being even in the soup** (*Estar hasta en la sopa*) is said of someone who’s overly present, such as a celebrity appearing in every talk show.

Pakistan/India (Punjabi): You are **like a blob of soft butter**, a bowl of fresh cream and a crystal of sweet sugar (*Makkhan de pedeo, malaai de duneo, mishri di dali*) is a flirtatious expression for a pretty village belle.



“One day honey, one day onion”

Norway: **Just blueberries** (*Bare blåbær*) means something small, simple or not important.

Romania: **As important as salt in the food** (*Esti important ca sarea in bucate*).

Greece: **In regard to craving, zucchini pie** (περι ορεξεως κολοκυθοπιτα) means there is no accounting for taste.

China (Cantonese): **A lump of rice** refers to someone who’s lazy or inactive, not reacting to any situation. It tends to be used in the context of, “Don’t just sit there like a lump of rice!”

Hebrew and Arabic: **One day honey, one day onion** (*Yom asal, yom basal*) is a reminder that life is a succession of happy days and sad days.

Germany: **Sugar comes last** (*Zucker kommt zuletzt*) means saving the best for last.

Yiddish: **Like chickpeas to the wall** (*Vi an arbes tsum vant*) means that something doesn’t make any sense, or an argument doesn’t hold water.

*Chickpeas on the wall, half oranges, and stale bread.*

Argentina: Your **half orange** (*media naranja*) is your soul mate.

Russia: **You can’t ruin kasha with too much butter** means you can’t have too much of a good thing.

Italy: **Being like parsley** (*essere come il prezzemolo*) refers to a person or thing that is present everywhere, or a person who constantly interjects him/herself, even when his or her input is not being sought.

India (Hindi): **The monkey doesn’t appreciate the taste of ginger** (*Bandar kya jaane adrak ka swaad*) means that it takes a certain kind of person to appreciate something. It is often said to get back at one’s critics.

New Zealand: Something has **sucked the kumara** means it is broken or not very good. Kumaras are a type of sweet potato.

Australia: **She’ll be apples** means everything will be alright.

Spain: It is **the parrot’s chocolate** (*Es el chocolate del loro*) means “That’s peanuts” when comparing a small amount of money against a must bigger one in a negotiation.

Canary Islands: **When you don’t like something, your plate gets full of it** (*Cuando no te gusta algo, tu plato se llena de ella*) is an illustration of Murphy’s law.

Holland: **I can’t make chocolate from that** (*Daar kan ik geen chocola van maken*) is used when something is illogical, or so incoherent, incomprehensible or strange that the information is useless.



“Freshly baked mom”, a German expression illustrated by [Melina Josserand](http://melinart.co.uk/).

Vietnam: **You chop at the cutting board when you can’t hit the fish** means misdirecting your anger: you can’t lash out at the person you really want to, so instead you take it out on the person (or thing) that can take your blows.

Italy: **Having salami slices over one’s eyes** (*Aver le fette di salame sugli occhi*) means wearing rose-colored glasses.

Ireland: **Hunger is the best sauce** (*Is maith an t-anlann an t-ocras*) means that being hungry makes everything taste a lot better.

Spain: **For a strong hunger, there is no stale bread** (*A buen hambre, no hay pan duro*) means that we’re willing to overlook shortcomings when we’re in real need of something (this seems very similar to the Irish saying just above).

Italy: **Either eat this soup or jump out of the window** (*O ti mangi questa minestra o ti butti dalla finestra*) means “Take it or leave it.”

Holland: **I cannot say “porridge” anymore** (*Ik kan geen pap meer zeggen*) means you’ve eaten so much you cannot even speak anymore.