



BUTTER UP

means to flatter someone, to seek a favour by excessive praise (*A.E. to brown nose*).

e.g. You had better go and butter up the boss if you want an extra day's holiday - tell him how great his new project is!



BUTTER WOULDN'T MELT IN HER MOUTH

is said of a person who looks innocent but probably is not.

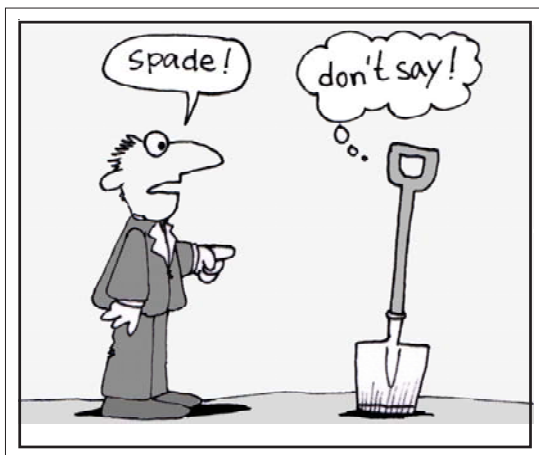
e.g. Claire always looks as if butter wouldn't melt in her mouth, but in reality she is really tricky and you can't trust her.



BUY FOR A SONG

means to get something cheaply; without much effort.

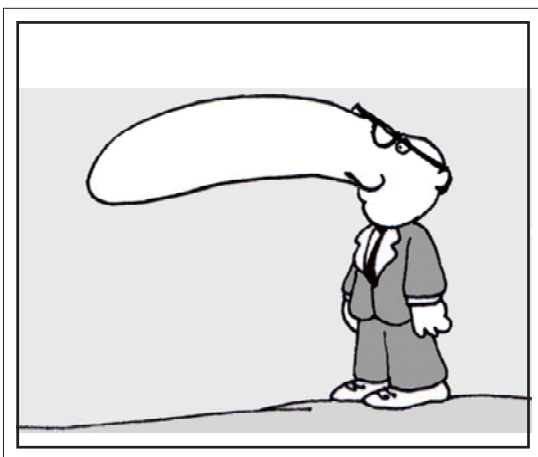
e.g. You can buy last year's model for a song, particularly after the Cebit.



CALL A SPADE A SPADE

means to speak plainly, to say it like it is.

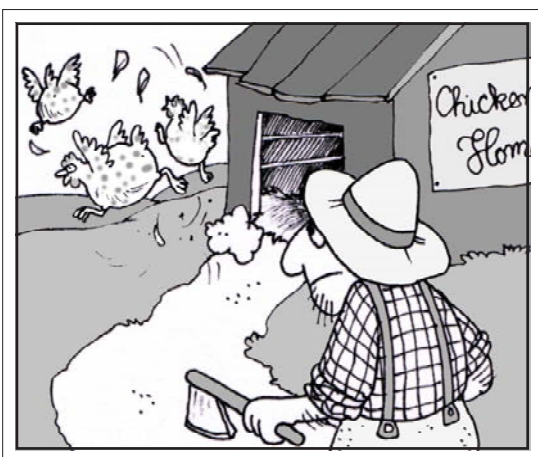
e.g. Germans tend to be explicit and direct. They say what they mean and don't mind calling a spade a spade.



CAN'T SEE BEYOND THE END OF HIS NOSE

means that someone is intellectually near-sighted, unable to think of anything but the immediate problem - has tunnel vision.

e.g. Our boss is never open for new ideas because he can't see beyond the end of his nose.



CHICKEN OUT

means to lose one's nerve. 'Chicken' as a noun, with 'chicken-hearted' as an adjective is used for people who are cowardly.

e.g. Many investors have chickened out of the New Market.