

13.7.20 Extra 8

For last week, I can find no better examples than those given by Ortrun (once more!) so I have included them here for you all to see. (See next page)

Particularly commendable is the quote from Churchill “a riddle, wrapped in a mystery, in an enigma” Thank you Ortrun!

Three more for this week:

- (same) neck of the woods
- hand over fist
- circle the wagons

From Ortrun:

Homework / additional task 7 / website aelterwerden 2020-07-06

- **Bring up to speed**

Meaning:

To give someone all the latest informations about something

Deutsche Übersetzung:

Jemanden auf den neuesten Stand bringen

Phrase:

During lockdown the scientists regularly bring the politicians up to speed about the newest development of the virus.

- **Play cards close to the chest**

Meaning:

The phrase has its origin in playing cards, poker for example: playing poker-faced, holding one's cards close to the chest, so that no one can see what's on your hand.

The meaning of the phrase is now more broadly: be very cautious in dealing with someone, don't let others know what you are thinking and planning.

German equivalent:

There is a very similar phrase: „Sich nicht in die Karten sehen lassen“.

Phrase:

What does Putin want? He's playing his cards close to the chest, like Stalin of whom Churchill made his famous remark „a riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma“.

- **To sing from the same hymn sheet**

Meaning:

The choirs of the churches and cathedrals used to have huge hymn sheets on a stand, so that all the singers could sing from the same hymn sheet.

The meaning is now: to give no different opinions, especially when speaking in public, say the same thing as others about something.

German equivalent:

There is quite a similar phrase: „In dasselbe Horn blasen“ – the phrase refers to the ancient bugles without valves: they could be played in only one key.

Phrase:

Ursula von der Leyen tries to make the European Commission sing from the same hymn sheet, but clearly, there are strong tensions between the now 27 countries of the EU.