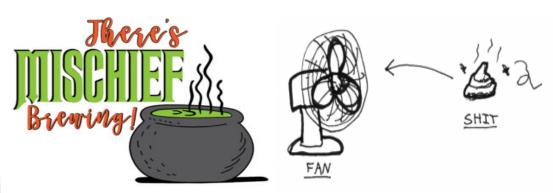




Idiom #30

Talking About Trouble
There's Mischief Brewing, When
the Shit Hits the Fan and
Shitstorm





The sensation that trouble is developing or is about to strike is conveyed in English by the idiom *There's mischief brewing*, which refers to the bubbling and gurgling sounds (perceived as ominous) of the fermentation process.

When the expected trouble materializes, then we refer to it as **Shit having hit the fan**, which alludes to the unmistakable effect of shit being thrown into an electric fan. This idiom is obviously vernacular, so a more polite alternatives may replace 'shit' with 'eggs', 'pie', 'soup', or – more generally – 'stuff': When the shit (/stuff) hits the fan, you better be far far away.

Finally, when trouble triggers a chain reaction or bothersome effects, then we talk about a **shitstorm** – whose meaning is pretty self-explanatory...