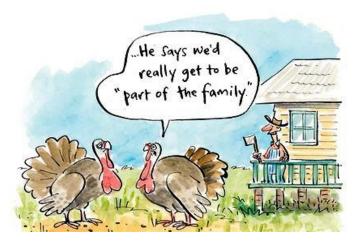
personal english



Idiom #20

Turkeys Voting For Christmas





This metaphor refers to an apparently suicidal choice, especially when it comes to a political vote. In the United Kingdom, turkeys have been commonly eaten as part of the English Christmas dinner (unlike in the United States, where they are mostly associated with Thanksgiving) at least since the 1570s. A commentator in the Independent Magazine traced the origin of the phrase to British Liberal Party politician David Penhaligon, who is said to have stated that "Us voting for the Pact is like a turkey voting for Christmas" in reference to the 1977 Lib-Lab Pact which he opposed.