

Talk Like a Pirate: Ahoy, Me Hearties! [B2]

Due amici amanti dei travestimenti hanno ideato nel 1995 una delle feste più stravaganti del calendario per celebrare con umorismo lo stile di vita dei pirati e il loro particolare modo di parlare.

Well, [shiver](#) me [timbers](#) and blow me down! It's Talk Like a Pirate Day, savvy?

* The unofficial annual holiday on 19 September is a [whimsical](#) event that celebrates an idealised vision of pirates and piratical life. People [dress up](#) — in private or in public, if they [dare](#)— and speak exclusively in pirate language all day

HAVING A BALL

Originating in the United States in 1995, the idea came from two friends playing racquetball at the YMCA in Oregon. John Baur and Mark Summers [goaded](#) each other by shouting pirate phrases. They had so much fun doing it, they proclaimed 19 September Talk Like a Pirate Day. The date was chosen simply because there were no other holidays and it was John's ex-wife's birthday, so it would be easy to remember. In 2002, they wrote a letter to the Miami Herald and humourist Dave Barry promoted it in his column. The idea [caught on](#) and the holiday went global.

CELEBRITY PIRATES

[Cap'n Slappy](#) and [Ol' Chumbucket](#) are the alter egos of the founders of International Talk Like a Pirate Day. They have appeared on stage and on television and have co-authored several books about pirate culture, including A Li'l Pirate's ABSeas, "a piratical [romp](#) through the alphabet with all that that implies. Sometimes rude, sometimes [downright](#) dangerous and subversive, but always fun and always funny."

DEFYING THE RULES

[Ol' Chumbucket](#) explains: "Pirates, they're an expression of freedom... Pirates were the freest people on earth. They lived by their own rules; they rejected convention." Songs have been written about it — and [prayers](#), too. The holiday has been declared a Holy Day by the Pastafarian movement, also known as the Church of The Flying Spaghetti Monster.

JOIN IN THE FUN

Talk Like a Pirate Day is celebrated on the internet, too. Online games and websites hide pirate-themed [Easter eggs](#) and Facebook once published its site in pirate language. In the real world, not everyone chooses to [dress up](#). Anyone can join in the fun by spending the day watching movies, reading books and playing games with friends. There is no [shortage](#) of pirate-themed material available. At the end of the day, Summers explains it's all about 'Pirattitude': "If you do what you want, because it's what you want, then you're living like a pirate." **ahoy**: hello **aarr**: pirate [catchphrase](#) of [grumbling](#) or disgust **avast**: stop or desist **aye**: yes **blow me down**: expression of shock **booty**: treasure **bounty**: reward for the capture of a criminal **Davy Jones' locker**: fictional resting place of sailors who [drowned](#) at sea; Davy Jones was said to be a pirate who [sank](#)") every ship he [overtook](#) **fairwinds**: goodbye and good luck [grub](#)****:** **food **grog**: alcoholic drink **hang the jib**: frown **hearties**: friends or colleagues **ho**: expression of joy or surprise **heave ho: **chant when doing heavy labour **landlubber**: person [unused](#) to being at sea **lass: **young woman** [lily-livered](#):** cowardly **loot**:stolen goods **me**: my **matey**: friend **savvy?**: understand? **scallywag**: **rascal**, [mischievous](#) person **seadog: **old pirate** [shiver](#)me [timbers](#):**expression of shock or surprise **sink me**: expression of surprise **smartly**: quickly **three sheets to the wind**:very drunk **yo ho ho**!: [cheerful](#) pirateexclamation

Glossary

- **mischievous** = birichino, monello
- **downright** = davvero
- **loot** = bottino
- **Easter eggs** = messaggi occulti (Lett. uova di Pasqua)
- **unused** = non abituato a
- **Cap'n Slappy** = Capitano ceffone
- **overtook** = sorpassare, superare
- **lily-livered** = fegato di giglio
- **prayers** = preghiere
- **grumbling** = lamentela
- **goaded** = stimolare
- **timbers** = legname
- **whimsical** = stravagante
- **dress up** = travestirsi
- **catchphrase** = motto
- **sank** = affondare
- **fair** = favorevole
- **romp** = commedia spassosa
- **locker** = forziere
- **grub** = larva
- **rascal** = birbantello
- **shiver** = tiritar
- **cheerful** = alegre
- **caught on** = diventare di moda
- **Ol' Chumbucket** = Vecchio secchio per esche
- **drowned** = annegare
- **dare** = osare
- **shortage** = scarsità