

## Thought for Today

Without wood a fire goes out; without gossip a quarrel dies down. [Book of Proverbs]

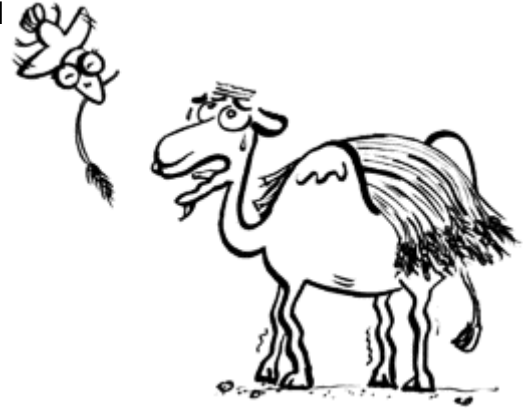
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### The Learn

**Idiom:** "The Straw that Broke the Camel's Back" and "The Last Straw."

**The straw that broke the camel's back** is the last thing you are willing to accept after which you will not put up with any more. Example: "You broke a lot of rules and we tried to ignore it. But stealing money from us was **the straw that broke the camel's back**. We're sending you home to your parents."

You are **at the last straw** when you are just about to lose your patience. **The straw that broke the camel's back** is the **last** thing that that happened that finally made you upset. Example: "He came to work late every day last week. Then on Friday, he didn't show up at all. That was **the straw that broke the camel's back**. He's fired."



There is a limit to how much **straw** (long yellow grass) a **camel** can carry on its **back**. If you keep putting more **straw** on top, it will finally break **the camel's back**. When you are **at the last straw** you are finally angry and will not take any more. Example: "You have been rude to me all day. I've had it. That's **the last straw!**"

### Confusing Words: Borrow and Lend

The difference between **lend** and **borrow** is the following.

**Lend** means to give someone something he/she needs for a temporary time.

**Borrow** means to take something with the intension of returning it.

For example:

*I borrowed his book* -- It's his, and I will use it and then return it

*He borrowed my book* -- It's mine, and he will use it for awhile

*He lent me his book* -- It's his, he gives me permission to use it

*I lent him my book* -- It's mine, and he will use it

Could you **give** me some money, please? = Could you **lend** me some money, please?

She **took** some money from me. = She **borrowed** some money from me.

Look at borrow and lend from the "power" angle. I lend, because I have the ability or power to do so. I borrow because I need.

Example: The banks **LEND** money. They have the ability, authority, and power to lend.  
I **BORROW** money from the bank because I have the need.

For beginners: You can practice at this site: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bvVRFKIRLuE>

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## The Link

<http://www.allowe.com/Humor/video/TheAmazingChristopher,YMCA.wmv>

You know the song but never saw it like this.

## A Different Kind of Link

Augustine Herman (1621-1686) was the first Czech settler in the American colonies. He was a surveyor, skilled draftsman, successful planter and developer of new lands, a shrewd and enterprising merchant, a bold politician and effective diplomat, fluent in several languages. After coming to New Amsterdam (now New York City) he became one of the most influential people in the Dutch Province which led to his appointment to the Council of Nine to advise Governor Peter Stuyvesant. One of his greatest achievements was his celebrated map of Maryland and Virginia commissioned by Lord Baltimore. Mr. Baltimore was so pleased with the map that he rewarded Herman with a large estate, named by Herman "Bohemia Manor."

Idea: Circle each word you didn't know in the above paragraph, look it up, and built your vocabulary.

## The Laugh

Two hikers who wake up from their campsite see a grizzly bear approaching. One camper dives into his backpack and pulls out a pair of running shoes. As he takes off his boots to put on the running shoes, his companion says, "Don't you know you can't outrun a grizzly bear?" The first hiker replied, "I know. I just have to outrun you."



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