

**Cock a hoop meaning**

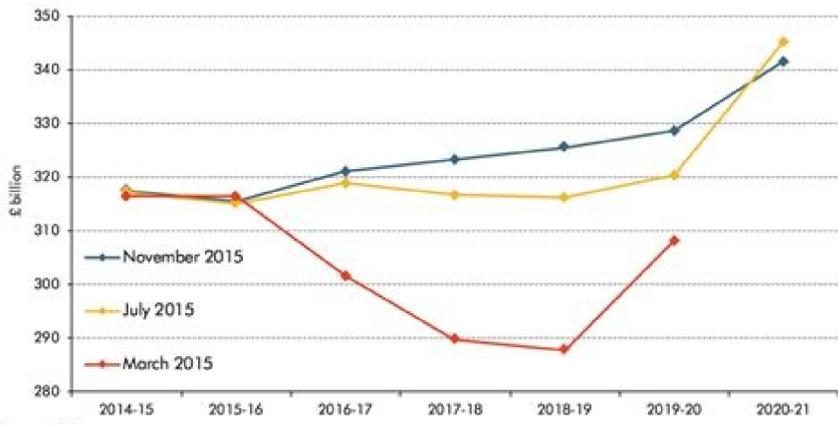
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# “ The exact origin of this phrase is unclear. ”

Chart 4.3: Resource DEL spending in cash terms



Source: OBR

Dear Word Detective: I came across “cock-a-hoop” while reading an article by a British sportsman. I’d appreciate hearing the history behind this combination of words and its use and meaning. – Jayesh. Thanks for a great question. This reminds me of those “Antiques Roadshow” or “Cash from Trash” TV shows where people invite antique appraisers to take a gander at that weird dusty old thing Aunt Milly always claimed was worth pots of money. Sometimes it is, often it isn’t, but the interesting part is always the explanation of the gizmo (“This was found in every colonial household, usually placed in the doorway to frighten away wolverines.”). “Cock-a-hoop” is a very old English phrase, dating back to the early 16th century, with two meanings as an adjective in common usage today: “being in a state of elation or boastful high spirits,” and “being askew or crooked.” But the original meaning of “cock-a-hoop” as a verb was a bit livelier – “to drink without restraint; to celebrate drunkenly.” The modern meanings seem easily explained – obviously, drinking without restraint can lead to both high spirits and finding oneself “askew.” Searching for the origin of, and logic behind, “cock-a-hoop” is where the real fun begins. The Oxford English Dictionary, in an unusually long speculation on the etymology of the phrase, calls it: “A phrase of doubtful origin, the history of which has been further obscured by subsequent attempts ... to analyze it.” In other words, people have been proposing theories about “cock-a-hoop” for so long that the trail may have been hopelessly muddled. Probably the most popular theory is that the “cock” of the phrase is the spigot on a keg of ale or liquor (“cock” being a term for “spigot” since the 15th century, possibly referring to the resemblance of a spigot and tap to the head of a rooster). To “cock-a-hoop,” in this theory, originally meant to remove the spigot and place it atop the keg (“on the hoop”), allowing celebrants to drink directly, and without restraint, from the barrel. One of the problems with this theory is that names of pubs featuring other things “on the hoop” (“Falcon on the Hoop,” “Angel on the Hoop,” etc.) were common in England during that period. Another theory, a bit more plausible to me, suggests that “cock-a-hoop” is simply a transliteration of the French phrase “coq a huppe,” meaning a rooster displaying its crest (“huppe”) in a pose of proud defiance. Thus, “cock-a-hoop” would simply liken a drunken man to a boastful and aggressive rooster. If true, this theory would explain all those other “on the hoop” tavern signs as simply imitations of the original confusion of the French “huppe” with the English “hoop.” Look up cock-a-hoop in Wiktionary, the free dictionary. Cock-a-hoop or variants may refer to: Phrase as in Capulet’s “You will set cock-a-hoop! You’ll be the man!” from Romeo and Juliet Cockahoop, 2003 album by Cerys Matthews “Cock-a-Hoop”, single from Manfred Mann’s Cock-a-Hoop, EP by Manfred Mann 1964 Cockahoop, racehorse from 1836 Grand Liverpool Steeplechase See also Cock and Hoop, Nottingham Grade II listed public house in the Lace Market, Nottingham Topics referred to by the same term This disambiguation page lists articles associated with the title Cock-a-Hoop.If an internal link led you here, you may wish to change the link to point directly to the intended article. Retrieved from “ Also found in: Thesaurus. (kɒkəˈhʊp, -ˈhʊp)adv. & adj. 1. In a state of boastful elation or exultation.[From the phrase to set cock on hoop, to drink festively.]American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fifth Edition. Copyright © 2016 by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. Published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. All rights reserved. adj (usually postpositive) [C16; perhaps from the phrase to set the cock a hoop to live prodigally, literally: to put a cock on a hoop, a full measure of grain]Collins English Dictionary - Complete and Unabridged, 12th Edition 2014 © HarperCollins Publishers 1991, 1994, 1998, 2000, 2003, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2014 (kɒk əˈhʊp, -ˈhʊp, ˈkɒk əˈhʊp, -ˈhʊp) adj. [1520-30; orig. uncertain] Random House Kernerman Webster’s College Dictionary, © 2010 K Dictionaries Ltd. Copyright 2005, 1997, 1991 by Random House, Inc. All rights reserved. Adj. 1.cock-a-hoop - exhibiting self-importance; “big talk”proud - feeling self-respect or pleasure in something by which you measure your self-worth; or being a reason for pride; “proud parents”; “proud of his accomplishments”; “a proud moment”; “proud to serve his country”; “a proud name”; “proud princes”Based on WordNet 3.0, Farlex clipart collection. © 2003-2012 Princeton University, Farlex Inc. [ˈkɒkəˈhʊp] ADJ — contentísimoCollins Spanish Dictionary - Complete and Unabridged 8th Edition 2005 © William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd. 1971, 1998 © HarperCollins Publishers 1992, 1993, 1996, 1997, 2000, 2003, 2005 [ˈkɒkəˈhʊp] adj — esultante, eufórico/aCollins Italian Dictionary 1st Edition © HarperCollins Publishers 1995 Want to thank TFD for its existence? Tell a friend about us, add a link to this page, or visit the webmaster’s page for free fun content. Link to this page. COCK A HOOP MEANING IN HINDI - EXACT MATCHES COCK A HOOP = [कोक अहूप] [pr. {bahut santuSHT} ] [Adjective] Pronunciation: (kɒkˈuːhp̩, -ˈhʊp, kɒkˈuːhp̩, -ˈhʊp), [key] in a state of unrestrained joy or exultation; boastfully elated: He was cock-a-hoop over his victory, askew; out of kilter: He knocked his hat cock-a-hoop. Random House Unabridged Dictionary, Copyright © 1997, by Random House, Inc., on Infoplease. See also: Where did ‘cock-a-hoop’ come from? Merriam-Webster’s Eleventh Collegiate Dictionary (2003) has this entry for cock-a-hoop: cock-a-hoop adj (1663) {from the phrase to set cock a hoop to be festive} 1 : triumphantly boastful : EXULTING 2 : AWRY Early English Books Online, however, reveals five instances of the expression from earlier than 1663. Three of these are accessible without logging in to the site as an academic. From Richard Brome, The New Academy, or, The New Exchange (1640), published in Five New Plays, viz. The English Moor, or The Mock-Marriage. The Love-Sick Court, or The Ambitious Politique: Covent Garden Weeded. The New Academy, or the New Exchange. The Queen and Concubine (1659): Cameleon. My Cock, my Cock again, my Nanny cock, / Cock-all my Cock-a-hoop, I am overjoy’d, / See, see thy father too. Here, the word seems to be being used as a noun. From Kaina kai Palaia Things New and Old, or, A Store-House of Similies, Sentences, Allegories, Apophthegms, Adages, Apologues, Divine, Morall, Politicall, &c. : with Their Several Applications (1658): It is St. Pauls saying of himselfe. That he was alive without the Law. I. he had great quietnesse and ease of mind, all things went well with him, he was Cock a hoope, sound and safe, he thought himselfe in a sure and safe way; but alas, this was his ignorance, his blindness: just like a Man in a Dungeon, that thinks himselfe safe, when there are Serpents and poysonous Creatures round about him, onely he doth not see them. Or as a Man in a Lethargy, feels no pain though he be at the selfe same time near unto the gates of Death. And from John Daucey, The History of His Sacred Majesty Charles the II, Third Monarch of Great Britain, Crowned King of Scotland, at Scoone the First of January 1650 Begun from the Death of His Royall Father of Happy Memory, and Continued to the Present Year, 1660 (1660). This strange and wonderful Victory (as the Juncto at Westminster gave it out to be, though they had six to one in the field) made that sectarian party cock-a-hoop; and to make it the greater, publick days of Thanks-giving are appointed to make God the patronizer of their villainies, murders, tyrannies and treasons; and now they boast in all their discourses how clearly it might appear that God owned their cause, and disowned their adversaries. Here, the term is clearly being used as an adjective. The 1663 instance that the Eleventh Collegiate seems to have in mind is from Samuel Butler, Hudibras (1663): For though Dame Fortune seem to smile / And leer upon him for a while; / She’l after shew him, in the nick / Of all his Glories, a Dog-trick. / This any man may sing or say, / I’th’ Ditty call’d, What if a day. / For Hudibras, who thought h’had won / The field as suer as a Gun, / And having routed the whole Troop, / With Victory was Cock-a-hoop: The instance of the phrase “set cock a hoop,” which Merriam-Webster indicates is the origin of the term cock-a-hoop, may well be the one in Romeo and Juliet (1597): Tibald. It fits, when such a villain is a guest, / I’ll not endure him. Capulet. He shall be endured. / What Goodman boy—I say he shall. Go to— / Am I the master here, or you? go to— / You’ll not endure him! God shall mend my soul. / You’ll make a mutiny among my guests: / You will set cock-a-hoop? you’ll be the man? There is, however, an earlier related phrase in English, as pointed out by an astute contributor to Notes and Queries (October 18, 1873). From A Newe Mery and Wittie Comedie or Enterlude, Newly Imprinted, Treating vpon the Historie of iacob and Esau Taken out of the xxvij. Chap. of the First Booke of Moses Entituled Genesis (1568): Good lucke is not euermore against Esau. / He coursed and coursed again with his dogges here: / But they could at no time take either hare or dere. / At last he killed this with his bowe as God wold. / And to say that it is fatte venison be bolde. / But dressed it must be at once in all the haste, / That olde father Isaac may haue his repast. / Then without delay Esau shall blessed be, / Then faith cock on houpe, al is ours, then who but he? / But I must in that it may be drest in time likely, / And I trow ye shall see it made ready quickly. Here, “cock on houpe” indicates a moment of triumph, but without any “setting” of the cock as in Romeo and Juliet. Why “hoop”? Nathan Bailey, Dictionarium Britannicum: Or a More Compleat Universal Etymological English Dictionary has this entry for cock-a-hoop: COCK A HOOP [coque-a-hupe, fFrench], i. e. a cock with a copecrest or comb standing upon high terms all upon the spur. It follows that the “hoop” is simply an anglicization of the French word hupe, or rather huppe, which Harrap’s New Collegiate French and English Dictionary (1978) defines as follows: huppe, s.f. Tuft, crest (of a bird). A coque-a-huppe is thus a cock with its crest erect, presumably typical behavior of a rooster that is signaling its dominance. It is interesting that this asserted source of cock-a-hoop doesn’t seem to require the expression “set cock a hoop” to bring it into English. It is also consistent with the instance of cock-a-hoop in Richard Brome’s New Academy (from 1640/1659), where the term appears as a noun, not an adjective. Bailey’s definition of cock-a-hoop seems reasonably consistent with the sense of the term implied in the entry for “Upon the high ropes” in A New Canting Dictionary (1725): ROPE. Upon the High-ropes, Cock-a-hoop. ... In this slang usage, however, the term appears to be an adjective. A contrary theory of origin John Jamieson, Supplement to the Etymological Dictionary of the Scottish Language, volume 1 (1825) offers this entry (and alternative explanation) for cock-a-hoop: COCK-A-HOOP, The E[nglish] phrase is used to denote a bumper, Fife. One who is half seas over, is also said to be cock-a-hoop, ibid.; which is nearly akin to the E[nglish] sense, “triumphant, exulting.” Spenser uses cock on hoop, which seems to determine the origin; q. the cock seated on the top of his roost. But Bailey in 1730 was aware of the phrase “cock on hoop,” too, and gave it a separate entry: COCK ON HOOP {i.e. the cock or spigott, being laid upon the hoop, and the barrel of ale stunn’d, i.e. drank out without intermission} at the height of mirth and jollity. James Murray, A New English Dictionary on Historical Principles (1893) cites multiple instances of “to set the cock on the hoop” in the sense of “turn the tap and let the liquor flow” from the sixteenth century—specifically, from 1529 (They . . . set them downe and dryncke well for our sauious sake, sette cocke a hoope, and fill in all the cuppes at once, and then lette Chrystes passonpay for all the scotte.”), 1538 (“Cheare now maye I make & set cocke on the houpe. Fyll in all the pottes, and byd me welcome hostesse.”), 1540 (“Let us sette the cocke on the hoope and make good chere within doores.”), and 1560 (“He maketh banok and setth cocke on the hoope. He is so laueis, the stock beginneth to droop.”). Still in summing up the origin of the expression, Murray says this: A phrase of doubtful origin, the history of which has been further obscured by subsequent attempts, explicit or implicit to analyse it. And by 1640, there seems to have been no necessary connection between literal drinking and the expression “set cock-a-hoop,” as we see in this instance in Ben Jonson, A Tale of a Tub (1634/1640): Tobie Turfe [High Constable of Kentish Towne]. Iohn Clay age’n! nay, then—set Cock a hoope : / I ha’ lost no Daughter, nor no money, Justice. / Iohn Clay shall pay. Ile looke to you now Iohn. Vaith ut it must, as good at night , as morning. ? I am ene as well as a Pipers bag with joy, / Or a great Gun upon carnation day! High Constable Turfe is expressing exultation here, not literally instructing those assembled to open the tap of a barrel of ale and let the contents flow out without remission. Conclusions The etymology of the expression cock-a-hoop is, as Murray says, complicated by different lines of usage from a fairly early date. The drinking sense of “cock a [or on] hoop” was in use from at least as early as 1529, as Murray documents. But cock-a-hoop (without the word set introducing it) as an expression of joy is old, too—going back at least to 1568 (in the form of “cock on houpe”) in the anonymous play about Jacob and Esau. The sense of cock-a-hoop as cockily triumphant may well have emerged out of the merely exulting sense of the term, but it doesn’t come clearly distinct as a third meaning until the middle 1600s. Attempts to link cock-a-hoop to “coque a huppe” in French may be wishful thinking on the part of Nathan Bailey and other, but the match in sense is appealing enough to have (perhaps) influenced subsequent usage in a way that seemed to reinforce its legitimacy. Ultimately, this is another situation where “origin unknown” is the most defensible conclusion. But there is no shortage of possible origins in this case—quite the contrary, in fact.

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