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SEPTEMBER 19TH IS TALK LIKE A PIRATE DAY

BY [LISA MILDON \(HTTP://COFFEEHOUSEWRITERS.COM/AUTHOR/LISA-MILDON/\)](http://COFFEEHOUSEWRITERS.COM/AUTHOR/LISA-MILDON/) / SEPTEMBER 17, 2018 / 8 / 0

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Yarr! September 19th is *International Talk Like a Pirate Day* (<http://talklikeapirate.com/wordpress/>). A day when your inner-scallywag can come out and play in full eyepatch regalia. However, where did this bizarre and fun holiday get its humble beginnings? The story is amusing, to say the least.



The Jolly Roger GIF by Giphy.com

A couple of every day kinda dudes, John Baur and Mark Summers were joining the fitness craze of handball back in 1995. In a vigorous match, they both started yelling pirate slang at each other. They found that not only was it fun but it added another level of enthusiasm to their attempts at getting fit. After the end of this match, they decided they would dub their new holiday, "Talk Like a Pirate Day."



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The amusing decision to set it for September 19th was Mark's. Being an admirable and respectful guy, he didn't want the holiday on any particular honorable day, like WW2 D-Day. They also didn't want it to interfere with other more significant holidays. So, Mark decided to set the date with his ex-wife's birthday. (Supposedly, the only date he could remember very well.)



Jack Sparrow GIF by Giphy.com

You may wonder how it became the internationally known holiday. Mark and John, along with their friend Brian who wouldn't let the holiday be forgotten, emailed the infamous humor columnist and Pulitzer Prize winner Dave Barry about it. They knew this would be something right up his alley. So they dropped Mr. Barry an email explaining their mostly unknown holiday hoping for the best.



Jack Sparrow GIF by Giphy.com

They weren't disappointed. A few days after that fateful email, Dave Barry loved the idea but wondered how much they had publicized it. They only had told a few friends, so it was virtually unknown. That is until Mr. Barry wrote about it in his column for the *Miami Herald* (<https://www.miamiherald.com/living/liv-columns-blogs/dave-barry/article1928052.html>) on September 8, 2002. Thus began the official first holiday celebration.



Pirate GIF by Giphy.com

To celebrate this silly holiday is so simple. Just talk like a pirate. Use phrases like "Ahoy Matey!" "Shiver me timbers." "Yarr!" "Argh!" The list goes on and on. Some have even taken it up a notch and dress up like pirates as well.



gif-finder.com

Pirate Kitty GIF by Giphy.com

A holiday like *Talk Like a Pirate Day* is ripe for gamers, nerds, and geeks (<http://coffeehousewriters.com/embrace-your-geekness-day/>). Many games have some sort of pirate salute of some sort. The most notable is probably Blizzard Entertainment's *World of Warcraft*. Back in 2009, they implemented "Pirate's Day," which included a quest, a few prizes, and being turned into a pirate for a day. Even Facebook had at one point a pirate "language" setting.



Tim Curry as Jezebel Jack GIF by Giphy.com

This September 19th, why don't we all forget the stresses of the world and let our inner child play and be a pirate. It's fun and hopefully will make your day a swashbuckling good time.



Pirate salute GIF by Giphy.com



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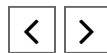
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