**How To Speak Viking**

Without the Vikings, English would be missing some awesome words like berserk, ugly, muck, skull, knife, die, and cake!

The noun ***víking*** meant an overseas expedition, and a ***vikingr*** was someone who went on one of these expeditions. The Vikings were essentially pirates from the Denmark and Norway who descended on England ; they raped, robed, murdered, destroyed villages and then sailed back across the North Sea with the loot.

**Names of Days**

The most obvious Viking influence on modern English is the word **Thursday**, which you can probably guess means "Thor’s day"

The Vikings also had Gods named Tyr, Odin and Freya,

“Tuesday”, “Wednesday” and “Friday” are actually named for the English version of Viking gods ,Tiw, Wodan and Friga.

**War & Violence**

If the Vikings are famous for one thing, it’s their obsession with war. They didn’t just bring death and destruction to England in the Middle Ages, they brought really cool words for death and destruction. They were certainly a rough bunch. Just look at a Viking the ***rangr*** (wrong) way, and he might ***þrysta*** (thrust) a ***knifr*** into your ***skulle***.

**berserk/berserker** – *berserkr*, lit. ‘bear-shirt’. A berserkr was a Viking warrior who would enter battle in a crazed frenzy, wearing nothing for armor but an animal skin.

**ransack** – *rannsaka* (to search a house)

**slaughter** – *slatra* (to butcher)