



American Expression E2282 Full cry

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Full cry is an idiomatic expression originating from hunting, particularly fox hunting, and it describes the intense and enthusiastic pursuit of a target. When a pack of hounds is in full cry, they are barking and howling loudly, signifying that they are hot on the trail of their quarry. This term has evolved beyond its literal hunting roots to metaphorically describe any vigorous and determined pursuit or activity.

In the context of hunting, full cry is a thrilling moment for hunters. It indicates that the hounds have picked up a strong scent and are energetically chasing the fox or other game. The cacophony of the hounds' cries serves as a signal to the hunters that the chase is on, and it heightens the excitement of the hunt. This moment represents the peak of the hunt, where the anticipation and adrenaline are at their highest.

Metaphorically, being in full cry can apply to various scenarios where individuals or groups are fervently engaged in an activity. For example, in a business setting, a team in full cry might be one that is working intensely on a project, driven by a clear objective and a sense of urgency. The energy and commitment of the team members resemble the relentless pursuit of the hounds in a hunt. This usage underscores the focused and vigorous nature of their efforts.

In sports, an athlete or team in full cry refers to a period of peak performance. When a basketball player is in full cry, they might be scoring repeatedly, demonstrating skill and determination. The phrase captures the momentum and passion of the athlete's performance, much like the hounds' determined chase. Fans and commentators often use this expression to highlight moments of exceptional athletic prowess and energy.

In everyday life, being in full cry can describe anyone who is deeply immersed and passionately engaged in their activities. A musician performing with great intensity, an artist working tirelessly on a masterpiece, or a student studying fervently for exams can all be said to be in full cry. This expression conveys a sense of wholehearted dedication and the drive to achieve a goal or complete a task.

The expression can also have a negative connotation when describing someone who is loudly and persistently vocal about a cause or complaint. For instance, a protest group in full cry might be one that is vociferously demonstrating, making their demands or grievances heard with unyielding fervor. In this context, it emphasizes the loud and relentless nature of their actions, similar to the hounds' cries during a hunt.

In conclusion, full cry is a vivid and versatile expression that captures the essence of intense and enthusiastic pursuit. Whether in literal hunting, business endeavors, sports, creative pursuits, or activism, being in full cry denotes a state of energetic and determined engagement. This phrase, rooted in the tradition of hunting, has found broader application in modern language to describe moments of peak effort and passion across various fields and activities.

Questions for Discussion

1. How does the origin of "full cry" in hunting influence its metaphorical use in describing intense pursuit in other contexts?
2. In what ways can being in full cry be beneficial or detrimental in a professional setting?
3. How does the expression "full cry" enhance our understanding of peak performance in sports and other competitive activities?
4. What are some examples of individuals or groups being in full cry in creative or artistic endeavors?
5. How can the intensity implied by being in full cry impact both the individual experiencing it and those around them?