## BBC Learning English The Teacher Transport idioms Wagon



*In this episode The Teacher introduces you to three idioms connected with wagons:* 

- 1. On the wagon
- 2. Jumping on the bandwagon
- 3. Fallen off the wagon

Hello, I'm a very interesting and intelligent and sober man.

And today this wagon and I are getting together to teach you some English idioms.

I bet you've never been taught by a wagon before.

What's that you say? Would I like to go for a beer?

No thank you, no, no, no, thank you very much but I haven't had an alcoholic drink for a long time.

Ah, orange juice: so much healthier and more refreshing than beer. Thank you.

Yes, that's right. I'm on the wagon.

In English, if you decide not to drink alcohol for a period of time, we say you're 'on the wagon'.

## On the wagon.

Ah... carrot juice... so much healthier and more refreshing than beer.

Yes, I used to drink a little bit too much. But now I'm **on the wagon**. And I feel great because I can drink healthy and refreshing things like... Broccoli juice.

So much healthier and more refreshing than beer.

A lot of my friends have tried it and they say they feel great! They think I'm just copying them.

That's right. They say I've jumped on the bandwagon.

In English, if you start to do something after it has become successful or popular we say you're **jumping on the bandwagon**.

## Jumping on the bandwagon.

Ah... onion juice: so much healthier and more delicious than beer.

Oh, my word, that is disgusting!

You! Gimme a beer! Now please!

(Some time and a few beers later)

Well, my friends, great, great. You are great, you lot are my best friends, best. You might be able to tell that I have **fallen off the wagon**.

In English... in English, when someone starts drinking alcohol after a period of not drinking it, we say they've **fallen off the wagon**.

## Fallen off the wagon.

(Some time and many more beers later)

Taxi, taxi! Take me home, take me home... I want to go to bed and lie down, that's enough for me!