

**COMMON RAP**

by Edward Michael O'Brien

Made in the shade

Scared to death

Let the cat outa the bag

It's a rat race

Poor as a church mouse

Defeats the purpose

Nice weather for ducks

Don't think twice

Egg them on

All your eggs in one basket

Now don't that beat all

Tough toe-nails

Dog 'y dog

Wet behind the ears

Led down the primrose path

Better safe than sorry

Button your lip

Lip service

Tastes good like a cigarette should

Topsy-turvy world

Frosting on the cake

Feathering his nest

Chip off the old block

Got your ears lowered

Squirreling around

Never mind

Lost her patience

Out on a limb

Your pullin' my leg

Like there's no tomorrow

Between a rock and a hard place

He's a lame duck

It tries our patience

Patience of a saint

Knock yer block off

Lock 'em up

Rack 'em fish

Filthy rich

Like its goin' outa style

Believe it or not

Got a minute

Don't sell yourself short

All by yourself

You better believe it

Pass the buck

Off the cuff

Smoke and mirrors

Buckle up for safety

A necessary evil

Nashin' at the bit

Queen for a day

Kick the bucket

Dead set against it

Read 'em and weep

Under the gun

Got carried away

Trigger happy

Gun shy

Sorry, can't do a thing for you

Watch your step

Keep a cool tool

Take care

On your own

Feather 'n his nest

Wishin' makes it so

Reap what you sow

Good as gold

Part and parcel

Peas in a pod

The spitting image of

Two of a kind

Splitting hairs

Black as the ace of spades

Heart of gold

Get on the stick

Crusin' for a brusin'

Fit to be tied

Get your act together

Take him to task

I beg to differ

Beggars can't be choosers

In one ear and out the other

Green with envy

Turn over a new leaf

Straight from the horses mouth

Queer as a three dollar bill

Stop; get a bite to eat

Eaten outa house and home

When in Rome

Stiff upper lip

Bite the bullet

Katie bar the door

Mighty white of you

Balls to the wall

More bang for the buck

Spin a yarn

Nice threads (duds)

Keep in touch

Out of touch

Off the beaten path

Toe the mark

Touched a nerve

Touched in the head

Touch all bases

Where's the beef

Good for the goose; good for the gander

Loaded for bear

All his oars ain't in the water

Don't monkey around with that

It ain't worth beans

Buckle up for safety

Cake and eat it too

That's the way the cookie crumbles

Shoe's on the other foot

Put that in your pipe and smoke it

That's all she wrote

Get off my case

Gives me the willies

Fit as a fiddle

Fit to be tied

Like pullin' teeth

On the rag

Make a play for her

We see eye-to-eye

Take your pack off

Three sheets to the wind

Go peddle your papers

Locked in irons

In the nick of time

When push comes to shove

That does the trick

That'll hold 'em

Just a rubber stamp

Shake and bake

It's in the bag

From the get-go

Don't bite the hand that feeds you

Luck 'o the Irish

Stuck up (conceited)

Out of the question

Tons of fun (over weight)

Gunner--ball hog--double dribble—  
outabounds-- free throw--full court  
press--slam dunk--jumper--hookshot  
zone press--three seconds--turnover

Put your foot down

The \$64,000 question

Face it sooner or later

Give 'em a piece of your mind

Wear and tear

Pushin' up daisies

Up your alley

It's just as well

It's about time

Devil's in the details

Heaven help you

Stinks to high heaven

One horse town

Drop in the bucket

Shot himself in the foot

Mind yer p's and q's

Pipe down, already

Scarf on bod

Takes a lick'n (but doesn't stop tick'n)

Got it down pat

Off on the wrong foot

Get your feet wet

Keep yer powder dry

Nose to the grindstone

Up for grabs

Right church - wrong pew

Gone to seed

Did a double take

Now don't that beat all

That's beside the point

It was meant to be

Smellin' like a rose

Off the cuff

Something up his sleeve

Easy as pie

Push the envelope

Off the hook

Piece of cake

Bigger the better

Backwards and forwards

Point of view

Ear to the ground

Get a handle on it

Makes a big difference

Shoot the breeze

Over your head

Head over heels

Toe the mark

Shake a leg

Call it a day

The lap of luxury

Dead as a doornail

What a pity

From the other side of the tracks

Went over like a lead balloon

Just catin' around

He's for the birds

She went nuts (bananas)

Whatever turns you on

Serves 'em right

Trust 'em as far as you can throw 'em

Plane as the nose on your face

Treated with kid gloves

Come hell or high water

Bigger they are, the harder they fall

All washed up

Up shit creek without a paddle

Paid through the nose

Get off your duff (couch potato)

Take the bull by the horns

Watch your step

Close, but no cigar

Pleased as punch

Talks a blue streak

Flew off the handle

Got his hands full

Between a rock and a hard place

Oh, what's the use

That takes care of them

It's greek to me

Sticks to your ribs

Slip shod

Kicked the bucket

Why settle for less

You owe it to yourself

Hurry and save

There's never been a better time

By the same token

As far as it goes

A lead-pipe cinch

Down to the wire

Got an axe to grind

Use it or lose it

Do the thing; get the power

Can't hold a candle to it

Better than nothin'

Better than the average bear

Just killing time

At the drop of a hat

I'll eat my hat

They really came to play

It's my bag

It's in the bag

Word to the wise

That'll teach 'em

Teach 'em a thing or two

He can dish it out

Put up your dukes

Duke it out

She's just adorable

Pretty as a picture

Resting on her laurels

Now wait just a minute

Break a leg

Fish or cut bait

Something fishy about this whole thing

Takes all kinds

Book on you is

She really puts out

Burn, baby, burn

Off on a tangent

The dye is cast

Cross the Rubicon

Back and forth

Back stabber

You got that right

Put your money where your mouth is

Get to the bottom of it

It panned out

Don't back down

On it's last legs

Take the plunge

Once upon a time

Throw your weight around

Beaten to a pulp

Whipped into shape

Dead as a doornail

Spill the beans

Let 'em have it

Burn the candle at both ends

Cake and eat it too

At the drop of a hat

I'll eat my hat

They really came to play

Swept under the rug

Came to blows

Missed the point

Get to the point

I see your point

Haulin' ass

Bored stiff

Stiff upper lip

Thumbs up

Line of scrimmage

Are you kidding me

Who you tryin' to kid

Brown noser

Teacher's pet

Strike it rich

It's in the bag

Word to the wise

Takes all kinds

Stop the presses

We had a real ball

On the ball

Off on a tangent

Stay in touch

Touch not the anointed

Play it close to the vest

All screwed up

Screwed; blued and tattooed

Shows a lot of hair

Figured it out

Spin a *brodie* (hang a richter)

Take the bull by the horns

Just the other day

Piece of the action

I don't mind

Smellin' like a rose

Might as well

Keep your distance

Under the thumb

Don't take a weatherman to know  
which way the wind blows

Don't think twice (it's alright)

Chalk it up to (inexperience)

As the crow flies

A fer piece

Shame on you

A lot at stake

Greatest good for the greatest number

Not at the moment

Got something up her sleeve

Heart's on his sleeve

Hat's in the ring

One hung low

Shame on you

Here to stay

Immediately, if not sooner

Sing (cry) the blues

Pick and choose

Not all there

Nobody home

That's all she wrote

Me, myself and I

Takes one to know one

It's not on the level

Truer words were never spoken

Get a grip

Get a hold of yourself

Get a handle on it

Take it back

You're putting me on

Down to the nats behind

How come

Why not

On the other hand

Knock down; drag 'em out

It's not my cup of tea

Made quite an impression

Tit for tat

Bone up on (study)

Off the wall

Serves him right

Bear with me

Fair and square

A play on words

Better late than never

Gotta get yer mind right, son

So to speak

In this day and age

Let bygones be bygones

It takes all kinds

She's a real dish

Eaten out of house and home

Eat, drink and be merry

Someday you'll eat those words

More or less

Play it by ear

How zat grab ya

Cut to the chase

Needle in a haystack

An unsung hero

Can't afford not to

Hurry up and wait

For a coon's age

At death's door

Born to loose

On the brink (brinkmanship)

Useless as tits on a bull

Livin' on borrowed time

He went to great lengths

It meant a lot to me

Here's lookin' at you, kid

In one ear and out the other

I'm afraid so (not)

Gives me the willies

By the skin of your teeth

Bran spanking new

Got her act together

Got all his gear in one bag

Boxcars and snake-eyes

See the fur fly

Flew off the handle

He went to great lengths

Bought it for a song

The cat's meow

Go peddle your papers

The girl can't help it

Peed his pants

You bet your life

I beg to differ

Wouldn't put it past him

Took off like a scared rabbit

All in the same boat

He bet on the wrong horse

Pin point accuracy

A foregone conclusion

For cry'n out loud

Kicked the bucket

So quiet, you could hear a pin drop

Wet behind the ears

Coughed it up

You're putting me on

Led down the primrose path

Step on it

Peddle to the metal

Keep an eye on her

Plane as the nose on your face

Sock it to me

Scared stiff

He's out to lunch

Dead as a doornail

Don't have a cow

Carpenter's dream (flat as a board)

Leaves a bad taste in your mouth

Knee high to a grasshopper

Hiding in the bulrushes

Up front

In a jiffy

One armed bandits

To say the least

All cooped up

A dime a dozen

Quit yer belly achin'

Takes one to know one

You better believe it

Blew his top (stack)

Over the hill

They gave him the chair (hot seat)

The whole kit and caboodle

Such as it is

Horn in on

Horn of plenty

Beaten to a pulp

So fast, make your head swim

Get on the stick

Tried and true

Doesn't have a leg to stand on

Serves 'em right

Shied away from it

Straight laced

Straight shooter (arrow)

Turn around is fair play

In a nutshell

Like finding a needle in a haystack

White as a ghost

Black as the ace of spades

Yellow belly (sap sucker)

Red as a beet

Green with envy

Can't take it with you when you go

Little by little (inch by inch)

Farm it out

Driven up the wall

Let's face it

Face the music

Bite the bullet

Get your act together

Sour grapes

Made him eat crow

The straight and narrow

A straight shooter

Died in the wool

High and dry

Gee wiz (wilikers)

Robbing the cradle

Spill the beans

Old as the hills

Don't stand on ceremony

No strings attached

Get it out in the open

Keeled over

Finally dawned on him

Got the lay of the land

Made out like a bandit

Make out (put out)

Sure as hell

Made in the shade

The jig is up

Get the picture

Silence is golden

Hat's in the ring

Count me in

I'm afraid not

Lots of umph

Don't bogart that joint

Get it all in one bag

Get it together

All of a sudden

Pains taking

Watch your step

No wonder

Bits and pieces

Let out some shaft

Wild horses couldn't drag me away

Sitting pretty

Give 'em an inch, they'll take a mile

Talking turkey

Scared stiff

On her own

Shot himself in the foot

Don't get me wrong

Spell bound

On the go

Busy as a beaver

Take the bull by the horns

You're pulling my leg

Laugh and grow fat

Never mind

Never crossed her mind

Don't give it a second thought

Bite me (eat me)

Just whistling dixey

Red as a beet

Put through the ringer

Lotta irons in the fire

Hair of the dog that bit you

Needle that broke the camel's back

Got wind of it

Round peg in a square hole

Needle in a haystack

Button your lip

Like pullin' teeth

Shut your trap (shut up)

First day of the rest of your life

Rubbed his nose in it

Steal the show

A show stopper

Upstaged

On the carpet

Just for drill

Just killing time

Really cleaned house

Thinking outside the box

Holy catfish

Beating around the bush

Seattle down, and fly right

Misery loves company

I'll be right back

Haven't laid eyes on her

Got carried away

Plain as the nose on her face

Ear to the ground

Stiff upper lip

That's hip

Head over heels

Make an ass of yourself

Gave him a leg up

Foot the bill

Foot loose and fancy free

Toe the line

Tough toe nails

Hunker down

Knock 'em dead

The rabbit habit

Lickety split

Devil may care

Polish 'em off

Pipe down

Button your lip

All show, no go

I'm all ears

Coast is clear

Just showin' off

Lay on, MacDuff

Faced charges

Storm packed quite a wallop

So what

Best things in live are free

Rise to the occasion

Rise and shine

Bleeding heart liberal

Just crying wolf

Gotta hand it to ya

She's arrived

Taken down a peg or two

Ships out to sea

Held at bay

Be on your toes

Tickled pink

Knock down; drag 'em out

Keeled over

Keep on an even keel

Show'n tell

Put behind bars

Doesn't sink in

Sink or swim

The where with all

Stiff as a board

T'was ever thus

It would behoove you

Be that as it may

An arm and a leg

A pound of flesh

Put on the dog

Cut a rug

Flop the nuts

Put up or shut up

Cry me a river

Put out to pasture

Right up your alley

I'm in charge here

The bottom line

Get the picture

Scared stiff

Pushing up daises

On the hind tit

That takes care of him

Have a good one

Boy, I'll say

Don't that beat all

Unheard of

Poker face

On the rag

Don't rag on me

Highly evolved

Surely you jest

Opened a can of worms

Just pooped out

Playing hookie

Heaven forbid

I beg your pardon

Teacher's pet (brown noser)

Skeletons in the closet

Keep your shirt on

Keep your trap shut

Bust a gut

Popped a stay

Dropped his load

Take your pack off

Drain a lizard (trout)

Talking smack

Stiff as a board

Scared stiff

Thick skinned

Dead as a doornail

Two faced

Hurry up and wait

Rumor has it

When I'm good and ready

Nothing to be ashamed of

Shame on you

Doesn't pull any punches

Taken to the cleaners

Clean machine

Turn down a glass

Learn the ropes

All of a sudden

Let the cat out of the bag

Cat got your tongue

Bucket of worms

Pandora's box

I'm all ears

Eye candy

Word salad

Poker face

Dead pan

Climbing the walls

Living on a shoestring

Hanging by a thread

In the long-run

Short timer

Leave no stone unturned

Then I'll eat my hat

That's news to me

Hang on for dear life

Something for nothing

High brow

Like its going out of style

Not any time soon

Keep it under your hat

The sooner the better

Sooner or later

Tough as nails

Go with the flow

Speak of the devil

Devil's in the details

What goes around comes around

Robbing the cradle

Shoot the breeze

Eat your heart out

Tour de force (farce)

Benefit of the doubt

Time marches on

Plow 'em under

Counting chickens before they hatch

Shell out for it

Shuck and jive

Coffee, tea or milk (me)

Paper or plastic; here or  
to go; tapered or blocked

He got waxed

Shit on a shingle (spags & balls)

In a pig's eye

You get what you pay for

She's our pride and joy

Knock on wood

You brought it up

Sold a bill of goods

Slammer, big house, up the river, hooscow

Copped out

He welched out on us

On tap for this afternoon

Thar she blows

Off the wall

Read ‘em and weep

Read ‘em the riot act

Cramps my style

Not in a month of Sundays

Good for you

Up s (---) creek

Give it your best shot

See you when you're better dressed

Blood, sweat and tears

Keep it under your hat

She's seen the light

His point of view

Surely you jest

Go with the flow

Boss chewed his ass

He's on the carpet

In the nick of time

It's a piece of cake

It's a no brainer

Coming right up

Right off the bat

Bats in the belfry

The old bat

Closing in on it

Boning up on it

No big deal

No big thing

Put your foot down

It's a cryin' shame

The wear-with-all

Foot the bill (afford it)

A household word

Just spinning yer wheels

I'll have you know

Shoot beaver

Gallivanting around

Enough is enough

She's something else

Tied the knot

Got hitched

What's up

High rollers

What we're up against

Come clean

Strapped for cash

Out of the blue

More than meets the eye

Clear as mud

Knocked up

Died in the wool

At a certain point

Get to the point

He was let go

Deal fell through

Shot in the arm

I would imagine

Got his come-uppance

Pinpoint accuracy

Guess again

To coin a term

Sit tight

You're on

Up to snuff

A clean machine

Roll with the punches

Once in awhile

Once in a blue moon

The list goes on and on

Dead and gone

Bury the hatchet

Smoke and mirrors

Shuck and jive

Locked in irons

Dead as a doornail

I see what you mean

Commode hugging drunk

Rubber necking

All bark and no bite

All show and no go

Calm, cool and collected

Plain as day

Fit to be tied

You can't take it with you

Three sheets to the wind

Shit for brains

The jig is up

See what I mean

Fickled finger of fate

Johnny come lately

Better late than never

It's no wonder

Make up your mind

Died in the wool

In the hurt locker

Old dogs can't learn new tricks

Turns over in his grave

That's our name; don't wear it out

Misery loves company

Skip it

Just kidded

No end in sight

Like there's no tomorrow

As you can see

Speaking in tongues

Tongue tied

Lip sync

Sneak up on 'em

He's out on his ear

In two shakes of a lamb's tail

With all dispatch (post haste)

Made a name for himself

Keep it down (quiet)

How about them apples

I dare say

A wise acre

A wise guy

Wise up, eh

A bit too chummy

Don't bug me

Bug out

I'll say

For instance

Awe, come on

Let's face it

A witch hunt

A political football

A real boondoggle

As the crow flies

Stand in the gap

Don't count your chickens 'til they hatch

I just can't stand it

Down and out

The only way to fly

Keep your eye on the ball

Head down; follow through

Another song and dance

Face the music

It's music to my ears

We could make beautiful music together

Lots of chemistry

He drew a blank

Laugh and grow fat

Rough on rats

Every man for himself

All for one; one for all

I'm all in

On pins and needles

More than meets the eye

The paddy wagon

Knock your sox off

Sock it too me

Eat your heart out

He's too finiky

Keep a cool tool

See ya later, alligator; after awhile crocodile;  
real soon, baboon

Don't let your meat loaf

Made in the shade

Sky's the limit

Down to the nat's behind

Straight from the horses mouth

You've been had

Hot to trot

Viva la difference

Piled higher and deeper (PhD)

Burn the midnight oil

Flunk outa school

Snap out of it

Get it together

Got to get your mind right

Straighten up and fly right

Get it all in one bag

He's a real card

It's no wonder

Not by a long shot

A shot in the dark

Needle in a hay stack

Don't bogart that joint

Went over like a lead balloon

Fell flat on its face

Cross my heart and hope to die

It's just a fluke

My hands are tied

Time after time

The fly in the ointment

Some how or other

Changed their tune

Beating a dead horse

Don't jump to conclusions

Go jump in the lake

Don't let on

Neat as a pin

Clothes make the man

Boxed his ears

Got his ears lowered

Keep your fingers crossed

A real clothes horse

Cloak and dagger

Don't mention it

On the other hand

You'll never make it stick

Like a Swiss watch

Slow boat to China

Watch your step

New lease on life

On cloud nine

Stand your ground

Blown to smithereens

Egged him on

In a family way

A captive audience

Barf, puke, throw-up, toss-cookies, upchuck

Don't stick your neck out

Shot himself in the foot

Reinvent the wheel

Nuts about it

Booted that one

Went nuts (berserk)

What's a matter

Baby face

Shot his wad

It buffaloes us

Take a gander at that

Liar, liar pants on fire

Beat it; scat; bug; skidaddle; take off

Off the wall

Really tie one on

Down to earth

Take 'em away

Put them away

Like taking candy from a baby

If it ain't broke don't fix it

A glutton for punishment

On tip-toe

You're stuck up

Ain't just whistlin' dixey

In this neck of the woods

Bear with me

It was ironed out

Stabbed in the back

As fate would have it

Don't call us; we'll call you

Now a days

Upwardly mobile

Tried and true

No ifs, ands or buts

Politically correct

Pushing the envelope

Simple as pie

Known like the  
back of my hand

In the long run

Shot himself in the foot

The moment of truth

Misery loves company

Never got over it

Your time has come

All strung out

Off the wall

Pretty far fetched

Off the cuff

Breakneck speed

Don't dilly dally around

All your eggs in one basket

Brown noser

Laid down the law

Ain't didly squat

Very conscientious

Rock and roll

It's old hat

On death's door

For high stakes

Easy pickins

A flight of fancy

A leap of faith

Pie in the sky

Something or other

Gold bricker

Gold digger

Sand bagger

Butter fingers

String bean (thin)

Grapes of wrath

Apple of his eye

One for the road

It's boiler plate

Suit yourself

Takes some doin'

Dead in the water

Early on

Caught outside

Too little; too late

On purpose

Half asleep (wide awake; wide eyed)

Takes the cake

Under the gun

COMMON RAP contains many classic, colloquial and slang phrases (*rap*) dumped on me from childhood. I recall *rap* in a flash (often from the subconscious), and quickly write it down before it slides back into long-term memory or beyond.

Recently, I jumped out of the shower at our health club; ran dripping and slipping to my locker; spun the combination lock twice (all thumbs), and rummaged through sports bag like security at the Greyhound bus station just to conserve “Fish or cut bait”.

We sincerely hope you get-off on COMMON RAP... comfort y'all for the rest of your days.

Truly and humorously yours ( I think ),

Edward Michael O'Brien

P.S. ( We love email : [emob@saviorg.com](mailto:emob@saviorg.com) )

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