

# Folk & Traditional Song Lyrics

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## Mad Dogs and Englishmen

Mad Dogs and Englishmen  
(Noel Coward)

In tropical climes there are certain times of day  
When all the citizens retire,  
to tear their clothes off and perspire.  
It's one of those rules that the biggest fools obey,  
Because the sun is much too sultry and one must avoid  
its ultry-violet ray --

Papalaka-papalaka-papalaka-boo. (Repeat)  
Digariga-digariga-digariga-doo. (Repeat)  
The natives grieve when the white men leave their huts,  
Because they're obviously, absolutely nuts --

Mad dogs and Englishmen go out in the midday sun.  
The Japanese don't care to, the Chinese wouldn't dare to,  
Hindus and Argentines sleep firmly from twelve to one,  
But Englishmen detest a siesta,  
In the Philippines there are lovely screens,  
to protect you from the glare,  
In the Malay states there are hats like plates,  
which the Britishers won't wear,  
At twelve noon the natives swoon, and  
no further work is done -  
But Mad Dogs and Englishmen go out in the midday sun.

It's such a surprise for the Eastern eyes to see,  
That though the British are effete,  
they're quite impervious to heat,  
When the white man rides, every native hides in glee,  
Because the simple creatures hope he will  
impale his solar topee on a tree.  
Bolyboly-bolyboly-bolyboly-baa. (Repeat)  
Habaninny-habaninny-habaninny-haa. (Repeat)  
It seems such a shame that when the English claim the earth  
That they give rise to such hilarity and mirth -

Mad Dogs and Englishmen go out in the midday sun.  
The toughest Burmese bandit can never understand it.  
In Rangoon the heat of noon is just what the natives shun.  
They put their scotch or rye down, and lie down.  
In the jungle town where the sun beats down,  
to the rage of man or beast,  
The English garb of the English sahib merely gets a bit more creased.

In Bangkok, at twelve o'clock, they foam at the mouth and run,  
But mad dogs and Englishmen go out in the midday sun.

Mad Dogs and Englishmen, go out in the midday sun.

The smallest Malay rabbit deplores this stupid habit.

In Hong Kong, they strike a gong, and fire off a noonday gun.

To reprimand each inmate, who's in late.

In the mangrove swamps where the python romps

there is peace from twelve till two.

Even caribous lie down and snooze, for there's nothing else to do.

In Bengal, to move at all, is seldom if ever done,

But mad dogs and Englishmen go out in the midday sun.