

personal
english



Idiom #34

**DUTCH
COURAGE**



False courage acquired by drinking **liquor**, as in:

He had a quick drink to give him Dutch courage.

This idiom alludes to the reputed heavy drinking of the Dutch, and was first referred to in *Instructions to a Painter* by **Edmund Waller** (1665):

"The Dutch their wine, and all their brandy lose,
Disarm'd of that from which their courage grows."