

SWEDISH EXPRESSIONS

In Swedish Alphabetically

Ana ugglor i mossen = To smell a rat (something is amiss/wrong)
Att kasta yxan i sjön = Throw in the towel
Att lägga rabarber på = To stake a claim on something
Att skjuta mygg med kanon = Sledgehammer to crack a nut
Barka åt skogen = Something has gone wrong (gone to the dogs)
Bli värm i kläderna = Do something until you know it well (practice makes perfect)
Brittsommar = Indian summer
Bränt barn skyr elden = Once bitten, twice shy (you are more careful second time round)
Bättre sent än aldrig = Better late than never
Cirkeln är sluten = (Go) Full circle (come back to a starting point)
Den dagen den sorgen = We'll cross that bridge when we come to it (worry about a problem later on when necessary)
Den enes död, den andres bröd = One man's poison is another man's bread (One man's loss is another man's gain)
Det får duga = That will do
Det kan man lugnt säga = You can say that again (I agree)
Det spöregnar = It's raining cats and dogs (it's raining very heavily)
Det är en annan femma = That's another story
Det är något skumt med det här = There is something fishy about this (there's something wrong here)
Djungelns lag = Law of the jungle / Dog eat dog / Survival of the fittest
Dygnet runt = all days long, around the clock
Då och då = Now and then
Engångsföreteelse = One-off event
En bild säger mer än tusen ord = A picture is worth a thousand words
En olycka kommer sällan ensam = When it rains, it pours (you get more than one problem at a time)
En storm i ett vattenglas = A storm/tempest in a teacup (much ado about nothing)
Ett gott skratt förlänger livet = Laughter is the best medicine
Fatta galoppen = Get the picture (do you understand?)
Fjärilar i magen = Butterflies in your stomach (I'm feeling nervous)
Få sparken = Get the axe/boot, get sacked (get fired from your job)
Förlora fattningen = Lose one's head
Ge järnet = Step on the gas (get a move on)
Ge upp andan = Give up the ghost (something has broken down)
Glida in på en räkmacka = To achieve something easily, without having to work for it.
Goddag yxskaft = What's that got to do with the price of fish? (that's irrelevant!)
Gå som katten kring het gröt = Beat around the bush (to avoid the issue)
Gå åt skogen = Something has gone wrong (gone down the drain)
Göra en höna av en fjäder = Make a mountain out of a molehill (make a big deal of something that is small)
Ha ett ess i rockärmen = Have an ace up one's sleeve (have something in reserve)
Ha kakan och äta den = You can't have your cake and eat it (you can't do both things)
Himla med ögonen = Roll your eyes
Hungrig som en varg = Hungry as a bear/horse
Häcken full = My hands are full (I've got more than enough to do)
Hästminne = The memory of an elephant (someone that can remember a lot)
Håll tummarna! = Cross your fingers, touchwood, break a leg (hope for good luck)
Hör inte hit = Beside the point (doesn't belong here)
I bara mässingen = In your birthday suit (naked)
Ingen dans på rosor = No bed of roses (it's uncomfortable)

Ingen ko på isen = No worries, no rush
Inte döma hunden efter håren = Don't judge a book by the cover (don't be fooled by appearances)
Inte sälja skinnnet förrän björnen är skjuten = Don't catch your chickens until they're hatched (take one step at a time)
Ingen rök utan eld = No smoke without fire (a sign of a problem)
Inte väcka den björn som sover = Let sleeping dogs lie (don't mess about with things, don't provoke)
I sista stund = In the nick of time (at the last moment)
Ju fler kockar desto sämre soppa = Too many cooks spoil the broth (too many opinions, too many people on the same job..is not good)
Kasta in handduken = Throw in the towel (to give up)
Klart som korvspad = As clear as mud (literally "As clear as broth of sausage")
Kosta skjortan = Something costs an arm and a leg (something is expensive)
Känna sig som hemma = Feel at home
Köpa grisen i säcken = Buy a pig in a poke (to buy something you can't see, you don't what to explain)
Leva som man lär = Practice what you preach (do what you talking about)
Lagt på hyllan = Put on the shelf (to put something off for a while)
Lagt på is = Put on ice (to put something on hold)
Ligga lågt = Lie low (not give something any attention)
Lägg av! = Give me a break! (don't bother me)
Lättare sagt än gjort = Easier said than done
Lätt som en plätt = Piece of cake (it's easy)
Medelsvensson = Your average Swede / average Joe / every tom, dick and harry
Med blotta förskräckelsen = By the skin of your teeth (only just made it)
Med på noterna = On the ball/on song (you're with it, understand)
Mycket väsen för ingenting = Much ado about nothing
Nu har du skitit i det blå skåpet = You are going a little too far
Nära skjuter ingen hare = Close but no cigar/a miss is a good as a mile (being near doesn't count)
När katten är borta dansar råttorna på bordet = While the cat's away, the mouse will play
Ond cirkel = Vicious circle (something that gets progressively worse, caught in a trap)
Pang på rödbetan = Don't beat around the bush (get straight to it)
Peppar peppar, ta i trä = Knock on wood, Touchwood
(När man) talar om trollden = Talk of the devil (talking about someone [negatively] and they appear as you are talking)
Prata bredvid munnen = Spill the beans (to say too much)
På rak arm = Off the top of your head (the first thing that comes into your head)
På småtimmarna = Late at night (in the wee small hours)
På smällen = Bun in the oven (pregnant!)
Rena grekiskan = It's all Greek to me (I don't understand a word!)
Ropa inte hej förrän du är över bäcken = Don't count your chickens until they are hatched
Rubb och stubb = Lock, stock and barrel (everything!)
Rädda ansiktet = Save face, dig yourself out of a hole (redeem yourself after a mistake)
Räddare i nöden = Knight in shining armour (someone that comes along at the right time)
Råka i knipa = Get into hot water (be in trouble)
Sanna mina ord = Mark my words (take note of what I'm saying)
Satsa allt på ett kort = Go for broke (everything on one bet, all your eggs in one basket)
Slå två flugor i en smäll = Kill two birds with one stone (solve two problem in one go)
Snabbt som ögat = Quick as a flash (instantly)
Snuskhummer = Dirty old man (pervert)
Som fisken i vattnet = Like a duck to water (take to something naturally)
Soffpotatis = Couch potato (someone who a bit lazy, just sits on a sofa)
Sova som en stock = Sleep like a log (sleep well)
Spikrak = As straight as an arrow, as the crow flies (dead straight)
Stå på sig = I stick to my guns (I'm going to stick to my point of view)

Tala i nattmössan = Talk through one's hat (to talk rubbish)
 Tappa tråden = Lose the thread (to not understand)
 Ta för givet = Take for granted
 Ta seden dit man kommer = When in Rome, do as the Romans do (fit in with the local custom)
 Toppen av ett isberg = Tip of the iceberg (you only see part of the problem)
 Tredje gången gillt = Third time lucky
 Trippa på tå = Walk on eggshells (go carefully, be careful)
 Tummen mitt i handen = Fingers and thumbs (clumsy, can't get a grip of something)
 Tur i oturen = Blessing in disguise (something good that comes of something bad)
 Tårta på tårta = Over the top (it's too much)
 Tänka på refrängen = Time to go home or go to bed
 Uppe i det blå = Head is in the clouds (dreaming)
 Vakna på fel sida = Get out of bed on the wrong side (get the day off to bad start)
 Vara nära ögat = Be a close shave/call (a near miss)
 Vara ute på hal is = Skate on thin ice (you running a risk/in difficulty)
 Varsågod = Be my guest, there you go, please

In English Alphabetically

A picture is worth a thousand words = En bild säger mer än tusen ord
 A storm/tempest in a teacup (much ado about nothing) = En storm i ett vattenglas
 All day long, around the clock = Dygnet runt
 As clear as mud (literally "As clear as broth of sausage") = Klart som korvspad
 As straight as an arrow, as the crow flies (dead straight) = Spikrak
 Be a close shave/call (a near miss) = Vara nära ögat
 Be my guest, there you go, please = Varsågod
 Beat around the bush (to avoid the issue) = Gå som katten kring het gröt
 Beside the point (doesn't belong here) = Hör inte hit
 Better late than never = Bättre sent än aldrig
 Blessing in disguise (something good that comes of something bad) = Tur i oturen
 Bun in the oven (pregnant!) = På smällen
 Butterflies in your stomach (I'm feeling nervous) = Fjärilar i magen
 Buy a pig in a poke (to buy something you can't see, you don't what to explain) = Köpa grisen i säcken
 By the skin of your teeth (only just made it) = Med blotta förskräckelsen
 Close but no cigar/a miss is a good as a mile (being near doesn't count) = Nära skjuter ingen hare
 Couch potato (someone who a bit lazy, just sits on a sofa) = Soffpotatis
 Cross your fingers, touchwood, break a leg (hope for good luck) = Håll tummarna!
 Dirty old man (pervert) = Snuskhummer
 Do something until you know it well (practice makes perfect) = Bli varm i kläderna
 Don't beat around the bush = Pang på rödbetan
 Don't count your chickens until they're hatched (take one step at a time) = Inte sälja skinnet förrän björnen är skjuten. OR Ropa inte hej förrän du är över bäcken
 Don't judge a book by the cover (don't be fooled by appearances) = Inte döma hunden efter håren
 Easier said than done = Lättare sagt än gjort
 Feel at home = Känna sig som hemma
 Fingers and thumbs (clumsy, can't get a grip of something) = Tummen mitt i handen
 Get a move on = Ta det långa benet före
 Get into hot water (be in trouble) = Råka i knipa
 Get out of bed on the wrong side (get the day off to bad start) = Vakna på fel sida
 Get the axe/boot, get sacked (get fired from your job) = Få sparken
 Get the picture (do you understand?) = Fatta galoppen
 Give me a break! (don't bother me) = Lägg av!
 Give up the ghost = Ge upp andan

Go for broke (everything on one bet, all your eggs in one basket) = Satsa allt på ett kort
Go full circle (come back to a starting point) = Cirkeln är sluten
Have an ace up one's sleeve (have something in reserve) = Ha ett ess i rockärmen
Head is in the clouds (dreaming) = Uppe i det blå
Hungry as a bear/horse = Hungrig som en varg
I stick to my guns (I'm going to stick to my point of view) = Stå på sig
In the nick of time (at the last moment) = I sista stund
In your birthday suit (naked) = I bara mässingen
Indian summer = Brittssommar
It's raining cats and dogs (it's raining very heavily) = Det spöregnar
It's all Greek to me (I don't understand a word!) = Rena grekiskan
Kill two birds with one stone (solve two problem in one go) = Slå två flugor i en smäll
Knight in shining armour (someone that comes along at the right time) = Räddare i nöden
Knock on wood, Touchwood = Peppar peppar, ta i trä
Laughter is the best medicine = Ett gott skratt förlänger livet
Late at night (in the wee small hours) = På småtimmarna
Law of the jungle / Dog eat dog / Survival of the fittest = Djungelns lag
Let sleeping dogs lie (don't mess about with things, don't provoke) = Inte väcka den björn som sover
Lie low (not give something any attention) = Ligga lågt
Like a duck to water (take to something naturally) = Som fisken i vattnet
Lock, stock and barrel (everything!) = Rubb och stubb
Lose one's head = Förlora fattningen
Lose the thread (to not understand) = Tappa tråden
Make a mountain out of a molehill (make a big deal of something that is small) = Göra en höna av en fjäder
Mark my words (take note of what I'm saying) = Sanna mina ord
Much ado about nothing = Mycket väsen för ingenting
My hands are full (I've got more than enough to do) = Häcken full
No bed of roses (it's uncomfortable) = Ingen dans på rosor
No smoke without fire (a sign of a problem) = Ingen rök utan eld
No worries, no rush = Ingen ko på isen
Now and then = Då och då
Off the top of your head (the first thing that comes into your head) = På rak arm
On the ball/on song (you're with it, understand) = Med på noterna
Once bitten, twice shy (you are more careful second time round) = Bränt barn skyr elden
One man's poison is another man's bread (One man's loss is another man's gain) = Den enes död, den andres bröd
One-off event = Engångsföreteelse
Over the top (it's too much) = Tårta på tårta
Practice what you preach (do what you talking about) = Leva som man lär
Put on ice (to put something on hold) = Lagt på is
Put on the shelf (to put something off for a while) = Lagt på hyllan
Quick as a flash (instantly) = Snabbt som ögat
Roll your eyes = Himla med ögonen
Save face, dig yourself out of a hole (redeem yourself after a mistake) = Rädda ansiktet
Skate on thin ice (you running a risk/in difficulty) = Vara ute på hal is
Sledgehammer to crack a nut = Att skjuta mygg med kanon
Sleep like a log (sleep well) = Sova som en stock
Something costs an arm and a leg (something is expensive) = Kosta skjortan
Something has gone wrong (gone to the dogs) = Barka åt skogen
Something has gone wrong (gone down the drain) = Gå åt skogen
Spill the beans (to say too much) = Prata bredvid munnen
Step on the gas (get a move on) = Ge järnet

Ta det långa benet före = Get a move on, hurry.
Take for granted = Ta för givet
Talk of the devil (talking about someone [negatively] and they appear as you are talking) = När man talar om trollen
Talk through one's hat (to talk rubbish) = Tala i nattmössan
That will do = Det får duga
That's another story = Det är en annan femma
The memory of an elephant (someone that can remember a lot) = Hästminne
There is something fishy about this (there's something wrong here) = Det är något skumt med det här
Third time lucky = Tredje gången gillt
Throw in the towel (to give up) = Kasta in handduken OR Att kasta yxan i sjön
Time to go home or go to bed = Tänka på refrängen
Tip of the iceberg (you only see part of the problem) = Toppen av ett isberg
To achieve something easily, without having to work for it = Glida in på en räkmacka

To smell a rat (something is amiss/wrong) = Ana ugglor i mossen
To stake a claim on something = Att lägga rabarber på
Too many cooks spoil the broth (too many opinions, too many people on the same job is not good) = Ju fler kockar desto sämre soppa
Vicious circle (something that gets progressively worse, caught in a trap) = Ond cirkel
Walk on eggshells (go carefully, be careful) = Trippa på tå
We'll cross that bridge when we come to it (worry about a problem later on when necessary) = Den dagen den sorgen
What's that got to do with the price of fish? (that's irrelevant!) = Goddag yxskaft
When in Rome, do as the Romans do (fit in with the local custom) = Ta seden dit man kommer
When it rains, it pours (you get more than one problem at a time) = En olycka kommer sällan ensam
While the cat's away, the mouse will play = När katten är borta dansar råttorna på bordet
You are going a little too far = Nu har du skitit i det blå skåpet
You can say that again (I agree) = Det kan man lugnt säga
You can't have your cake and eat it (you can't do both things) = Ha kakan och äta den
Your average Swede / average Joe / every tom, dick and harry = Medelsvensson