

Smart Stuff

with Twig Walkingstick



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EXTENSION
OHIO AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH
AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER

For the week of
June 17, 2007

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Notes: "Bronx cheer" comes from New York City, Yankee Stadium, and is a sarcastic way to show dislike. "Sarcasm" means saying the opposite of what one really thinks. Blowing a raspberry/ Bronx cheer is actually probably best reserved for silly, not serious, occasions. ("Oh yeah? Pbbbbbt!") Learn more about the phrase at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blowing_a_raspberry. Read about Cockney rhyming slang at http://www.cockneyrhymingslang.co.uk/cockney_rhyming_slang. Last but not least, learn how to grow, not blow, raspberries in Ohio State University Extension's *Brambles: Production, Management and Marketing*, <http://ohioline.osu.edu/b782/>.

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Q. Dear Twig: What does it mean to give someone a raspberry?

A. Close your mouth. Stick out your tongue through your lips. Puff out your cheeks. Then blow out a sharp burst of air.

Pbbbbbt! That's it! *That's* what it means to give someone a raspberry!

In this case, to "give someone a raspberry," or to "blow a raspberry," has nothing to do with fruit.

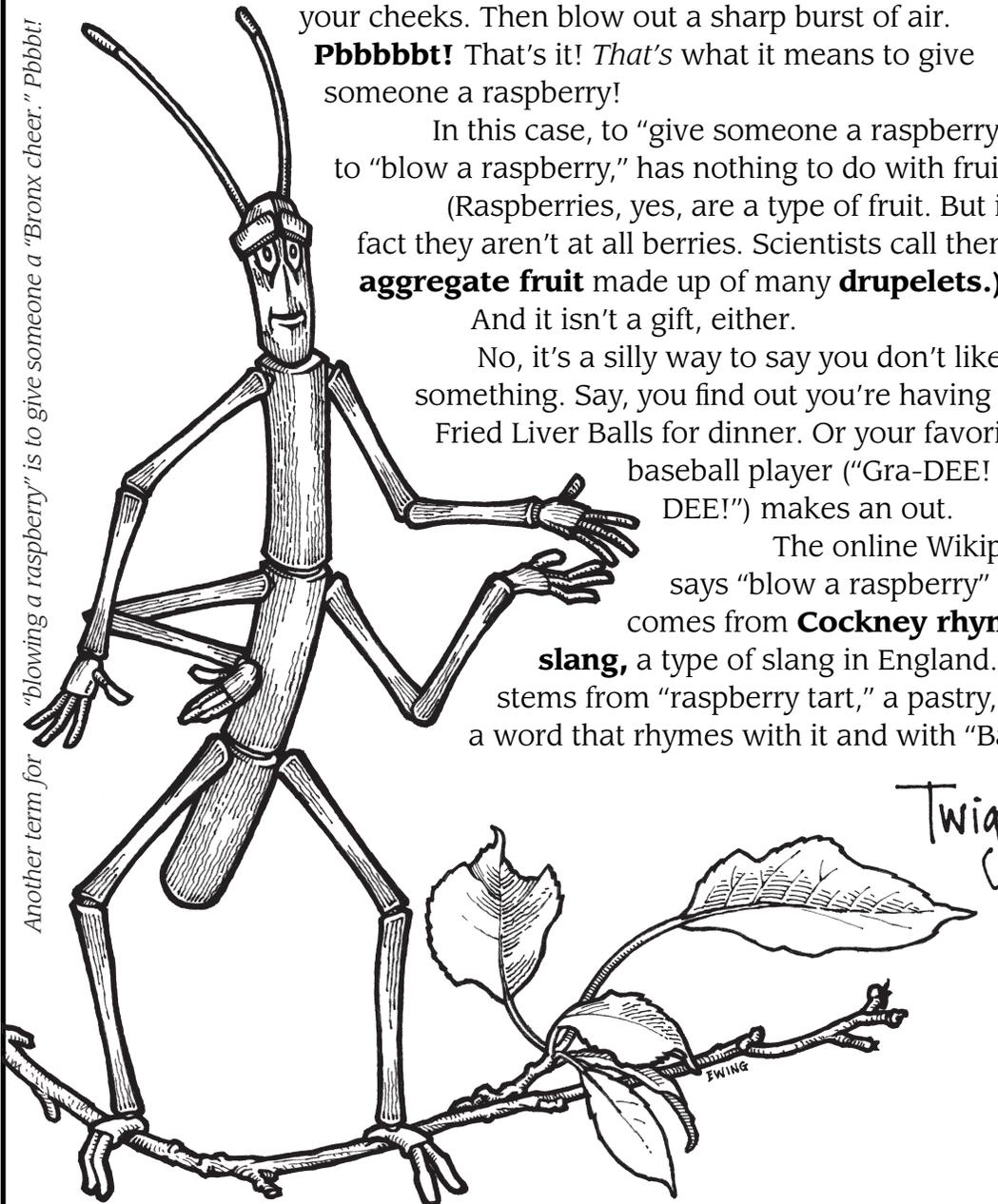
(Raspberries, yes, are a type of fruit. But in fact they aren't at all berries. Scientists call them an **aggregate fruit** made up of many **drupelets**.)

And it isn't a gift, either.

No, it's a silly way to say you don't like something. Say, you find out you're having Thai Fried Liver Balls for dinner. Or your favorite baseball player ("Gra-DEE! Gra-DEE!") makes an out.

The online Wikipedia says "blow a raspberry" comes from **Cockney rhyming slang**, a type of slang in England. It stems from "raspberry tart," a pastry, and a word that rhymes with it and with "Bart."

Another term for "blowing a raspberry" is to give someone a "Bronx cheer." Pbbbbt!



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