

The more modern styled clothespin was invented in 1853, by David Smith of Vermont's Springfield, United States and featured two separate pieces of wood and a spring, and was later improved upon in 1887 by Solon E. Moore.

Clothespins are often used in children's craft, and occasionally used in artwork, and have also inspired artists to sculpt enormous pegs.

Modern clothespins are typically made from plastic with a steel spring, although sometimes they are made from wood.

Around the house, clothespins are often used for holding a variety of items together, like a clamp, and are also prominently used on film sets.

Clothespins come in a variety of shapes, sizes and colours, but generally feature a spring, in between two wedge shaped pieces of plastic.

#### Bibliography:

*Clothespin*, 2014, Wikipedia, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clothespin>

Greenbaum H & Wilson C, *Who made that Clothespin?*, 2012, The New York Times, [http://www.nytimes.com/2012/05/13/magazine/who-made-that-clothespin.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2012/05/13/magazine/who-made-that-clothespin.html?_r=0)

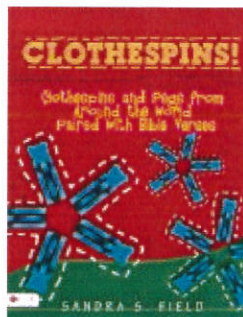


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# Clothespin

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

A **clothespin** (US English), **clothes peg** (UK English) or **peg** (AU English) is a fastener used to hang up clothes for drying, usually on a clothes line. Clothespins often come in many different designs.

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## Design



Plastic clothespin

Not to be confused with the one-piece wooden clothes-peg for hanging up coats that was invented by the Shaker community in the 1700s. During the 1700s laundry was hung on bushes, limbs or lines to dry but no clothespins can be found in any painting or prints of the era. The clothespin for hanging up wet laundry only



A one-piece wooden clothespin

appears in the early 19th century patented by Jérémie Victor

Opdebec. This design does not use springs, but is fashioned in one piece, with the two prongs part of the peg chassis with only a small distance between them—this form of peg creates the gripping action due to the two prongs being wedged apart and thus squeezing together in that the prongs want to return to their initial, resting state. This form of peg is often fashioned from plastic, or originally, wood. In England, clothes-peg making used to be a craft associated with gypsies, who made clothes-pegs from small, split lengths of willow or ash wood.<sup>[1]</sup>

Today, many clothes-pegs (also clothespins) are manufactured very cheaply by creating two interlocking plastic or wooden prongs, in between which is often wedged a small spring. This design was invented by David M. Smith of Springfield, Vermont, in 1853.<sup>[2][3][4]</sup> By a lever action, when the two prongs are pinched at the top of the peg, the prongs open up, and when released, the spring draws the two prongs shut, creating



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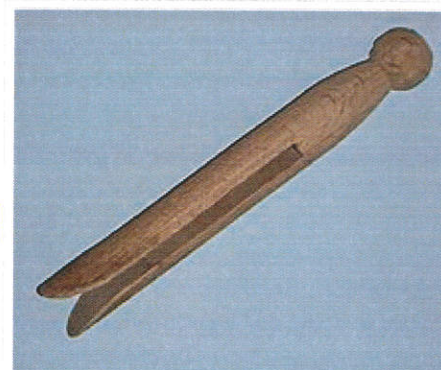
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## Design



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the action necessary for gripping.

The design by Smith was improved by Solon E. Moore in 1887. He added what he called a "coiled fulcrum" made from a single wire, this was the spring that held the wooden pieces together, acted as a spring forcing them to shut, and as a fulcrum on which the two halves could rock, eliminating the need for a separate component, and reducing manufacturing costs.<sup>[2]</sup> This became the first successful spring-actuated clothespin, being manufactured and sold in huge quantities all across the United States. The state of Vermont, and its capitol of Montpelier, in particular, quickly became what The New York Times has called "The Silicon Valley of Clothespin Manufacturing", the United States Clothespin Company opening in 1887 to manufacture Moore's improved design. Vermonter Stephen Moore, a Medal of Honor recipient in the Civil War served as company president, and the company enjoyed a significant level of success, in spite of the competitors that rapidly sprang up in Waterbury and other places. Most significant was in 1909, when Allan Moore, one of the U.S.C. Co. employees, devised a way in which clothespins could be manufactured more cheaply, by eliminating one of the coils in the "spring fulcrum". He left the company, and with a loan from a local entrepreneur opened a competing factory, literally across the street from the U.S.C. Co. building. The new National Clothespin Company rapidly overtook the U.S.C. Co., consuming 500,000 board-feet of lumber at the height of production. After WWI, cheap imports from Europe began to flood the market, in spite of repeated calls for protective tariffs by Vermont, and the state industry went into decline; in 1920, it cost 58 cents to manufacture one gross of clothespins in Vermont, while imported Swedish clothespins were sold for 48 cents a gross. The situation worsened after WWII, and the introduction of the electric clothes dryer diminished demand for clothes pins, further damaging the industry; the U.S.C. Co. was forced to close its doors before the end of the 1940's. However, the National Clothespin Company, who had previously moved from its original location across the street, and had been sold to a new owner, managed to stay in business by virtue of a contract with the F.W. Woolworths department store chain. In this fashion, they managed to hang on through the following decades, in spite of a disastrous fire in 1978. The profit margin was eaten into further by the increasing volume cheap Chinese imports; the familiar pleas for protective tariffs were continued, but to no result. The company, which had discontinued its line of wooden clothespins, diversified into plastics, including plastic clothespins, which constituted only a small part of overall production. However, the National Clothespin Company finally ceased production of clothespins, the last American-manufactured clothespin coming off the production line in 2009, amid a certain amount of media attention and regret.<sup>[5]</sup>

Clothespins were further enhanced by the invention of stainless steel clothespins that do not rust or decay with outdoor use. Rather than using a torsion spring that often twists, causing the clothespin to fall apart, they rely on a strong, trapped, compression spring that results in a stronger grip.

## Other uses

### May 6 celebrations

A small but growing number of people are celebrating the humble clothes peg on May 6, which often falls on a bank holiday in the United Kingdom with apposite sunny weather.

The first peg day celebration took place in the Thomas Sheraton public house, in Stockton on Tees in 2003 and the tradition is now in its second decade.

It is said that pegs were inadvisably purchased as a romantic gift, and that those present at the gift giving were forced to promote the virtues of the clasping device in order to prevent the recipient taking offence.



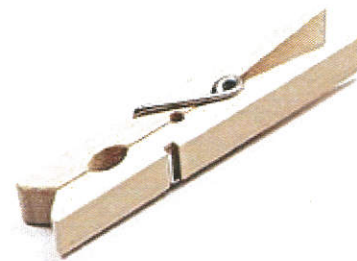
## Public art

One famous clothespin is a sculpture by Claes Oldenburg, entitled *Clothespin*. It is in Philadelphia across the street from the City Hall, and can be seen in the movie *Trading Places*.<sup>[6]</sup>

There is a 5-foot clothespin granite grave marker in the Middlesex, Vermont cemetery, marking the grave of Jack Crowell, the last owner of the National Clothespin Company, which was the last clothespin manufacturer in the United States (see above). He originally requested that it include a working spring be included so children could play on it, but the stone workers convinced him it wasn't feasible.<sup>[5]</sup>

## Filmmaking

During the production of a movie, commercial, music video etc., a spring-type clothespin is called a "CP 47", "C47", "47", "peg", "ammo", or "bullet". It is most useful on the set since lights used on film sets quickly become far too hot to touch; a wooden C47 is used to attach a color correction gel or diffusion to the barn doors on a light.<sup>[7]</sup> The wooden clothespins do not transmit heat very effectively, and therefore are safe to touch, even when attached to hot lights for a significant period of time. Plastic clothespins are not used as plastic would melt with the heat of the lights, and metal would transfer the heat, making the clothespin too hot to touch. People like gaffers, grips, electricians, and production assistants may keep a collection of C47s clipped to clothing or utility belt at all times.<sup>[8]</sup> Hence the nickname "bullet", as so many crew members clip a number of C47s to their utility belts, much like an old west gunslinger would carry extra cartridges (which are often inaccurately referred to as bullets) on his gun belt.



Spring-type wooden clothespin

When a performer is in full makeup they sometimes cannot drink from a cup so they drink from a straw. When the bottle or cup is too deep for the straw a C47 is clipped an inch from the top of the straw to keep the straw from falling into the drink.

## Lutherie

In Lutherie, clothes-pegs are often used to glue on kerfing during the production of guitars, mandolins, and other stringed instruments.<sup>[9][10][11]</sup>

## Frequency control at radio-control model flying/operation sites

Since multiple RC frequency use began in the RC hobbies in the mid-20th century, so-called "frequency pins" have been used to ensure that only one modeler was using a particular frequency at any one time. The common, spring-loaded two-piece wood clothespin - marked in some manner with text and/or color-coding for the designated frequency it references, usually with an added piece of thin plywood or plastic on the clothespin to place the text or color-code upon for greater visibility - is the usual basis for these, whether the model club itself provides them already clipped onto a "frequency control board" for the modeler to take for their activity (clipped onto their transmitter's antenna, in a so-called "subtractive" method) or the modeler make them for their own transmitter(s), and places them on a club facility's existing frequency



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## Wooden pegs, C47 or a clothespin

April 5, 2010 by [admin](#) [Leave a Comment](#)

Used to hold fabric on to a piece of cord, the clothes peg is simple in design.

Over the years it has been subject to many redesigns and changes in manufacturing techniques but the principle remains the same.

John Peel - Caldbeck



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Wooden Dolly peg

Washed, wet clothes are held in place on a piece of cord strung between two objects and the clothes allowed to dry in the free air. The clothes peg holds the garments firmly but should not damage them.

Some of the early clothes pegs were made from a split piece of wood with a piece of wire or metal wrapped around the top of the split. This wire would stop the stick splitting completely.

#### Dolly peg

Shaped wooden pegs made from a single piece of wood were invented by the [Shakers](#). This group of celebrate Quakers had left persecution in England in 1774 and settled in Albany, New York.

The Shakers led a simple life, however they are credited with inventing many devices and tools still used today including the washing machine, packaged seeds and the clothes peg.

In the UK, the wooden peg was often made from [willow](#) as the wood was naturally springy and could be found in many woodlands.Many children, especially during the early 1900's would have a number of wooden pegs in their toy box. Girls would often draw faces on the pegs and makes clothes from scrap material turning the simple peg into a [doll](#).

This is possibly one source of the name dolly peg.

#### Variation on a theme

Over the years and with the advent of plastics the humble wooden peg has undergone many evolutions, often for just cosmetic reasons.

The earliest American patent for a clothespin, issued in March 1832, described a bent strip of hickory held together with a wooden screw.



Selection of pegs on a line

In 1853, David M Smith of [Springfield](#), Vermont invented the wooden clothespeg we know today, made up of two wooden legs hinged together with a metal spring.For the 35 years between 1852 and 1887 the US Patent office [granted patents](#) to around 150 different clothes pegs.

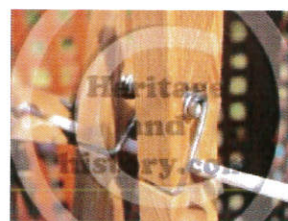
#### Film industry

Known as the C47, bullet or peg, the wooden sprung clothes peg is a valuable tool on set.

It is thought that the code C47 came about because 'clothes peg' was just not a suitable technical term for the 'accountants' in the industry.

C47's can often be seen used in many different ways on a filmset and are most commonly used by gaffers, grips and electricians.

Being non conductive to heat and electricity the simple wooden clip can be used to hold coloured gels on to hot lights or as a handle to move a



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hot barn door .

Wooden spring clothes peg

Other uses include holding script to a clipboard, clamped around a straw to stop it falling into a drinks bottle or with the addition of some coloured paints a coding system for cables or pulley ropes.

The wooden peg can also be taken apart and reversed creating a tweezer like device ideal for removing a hot gobo or gel from a narrow slot in front of a hot lamp.

### Other Names for the clothes peg

Every country and culture seems to have a different name for the clothes peg. Here are a few that we have found. Maybe you know of others?

Clothespin – America

C47 – film industry

Clothes peg or Dolly peg- UK

Wooden pegs are more durable than the modern plastic alternatives as they do not break down in the sunlight. However, care should be taken not to leave them out in the rain as they can discolour and leave stains on clothes.

### Further information

[The coming of the Toads](#) – Nicholson Baker, Nicholas Carr, and Googling Clothespins

Wikipedia – [The Clothespin](#)

[Alternative uses for clothes pegs](#) – BBC

[The Better Clothespin](#) – Why do inventors keep trying to improve a technology that is not only supremely simple but-for most of us-obsolete?

Clothes Peg [iconography](#)

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LAUNDRY TIPS

# Unexpected New Uses for Laundry Room Items



< > 4 of 5

See All

## New Uses for Clothespins

- **Hold that thought:** Use a couple of pins to keep cookbooks open while you follow recipes.
- **Track your towels:** If you have houseguests, write their names (and yours) on separate clothespins, then attach each clothespin to the appropriate towel to avoid mix-ups when all the towels are hanging in one bathroom.
- **Support your stems:** Clothespins can support vines and climbing plants in the garden. Just make sure the stems pass through the holes in the pins.
- **Make clips for displaying recipes and to-do lists:** Glue a magnet to the back of a clothespin and stick it to the refrigerator or stove hood.
- **Use as place-card holders:** Or use them to keep napkins and plastic utensils together at a backyard barbecue. Spray-paint them bright colors for a fun, summery look.



Photo by Mark Lund



## PROMOTED STORIES



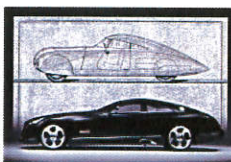
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Same set-up on darker wall. I like both but kept it on the lighter wall because it really brightens it up.

[Go here to see how I built it.](#)

### 3) Find it!

I do this all the time and it is a time saver. They come in handy to clamp something on to the side of my purse when I don't want it lost in the black hole it sometimes becomes...





## 4) Snowflake Ornaments

[See the tutorial Here](#)



## 5) Keep Pairs of gloves together.

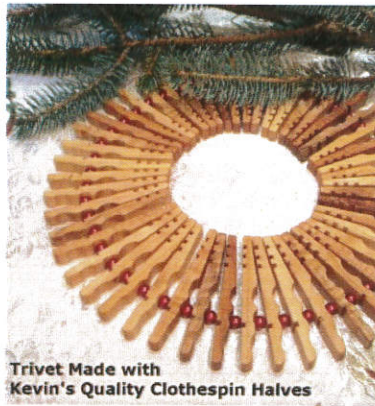


I love this... I also pair it with this idea



make it whatever shape I want.

[See the Tutorial Here](#)



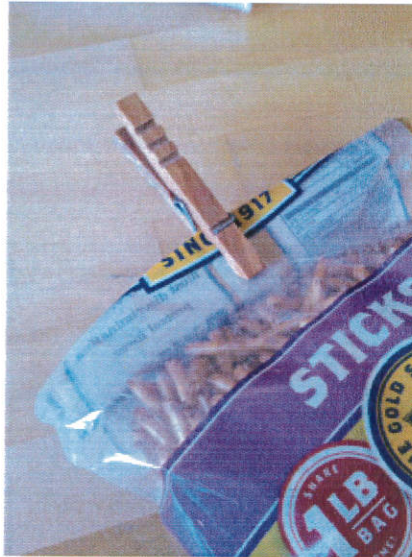
## 8) Hold Pages in a book. Or use as a bookmark



Would be great for cookbooks  
or for reading while working  
out

## 9) Name/Place Cards or Business Card holder.

I think these would look so wonderful for place cards in a rustic wedding.



### 11) Nail Holder



**Yeah! No more banged up fingers!**

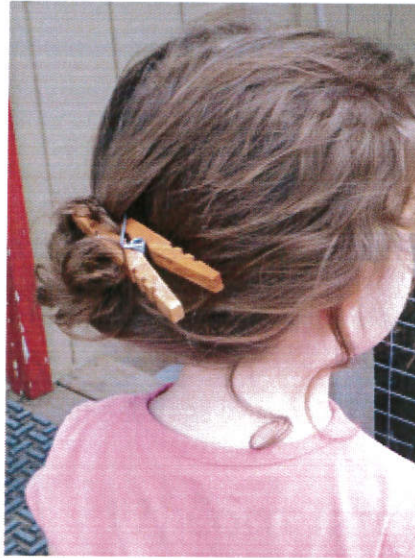
### 12) Towel Clip

Okay... As crazy as this may sound to some.. This is one of my favorite uses.

This may not be a big deal in some families but being a mother of preschoolers the towel is ALWAYS on the ground. This works great! The preschooler can wipe her hands and our clips are strong enough that they keep the towel on the holder.



It worked great! I think we are going to start a new trend 😊



How cute is that!

## 15) Fridge Art and Picture holder

One of my favorites. I stuck some self-adhesive magnets to the back



## 16) Headset Organizer



The Busy "Bag" activity we used in the car



This is a Crystal Light container with a hole cut in the top. The painters tape protects little fingers.

## 21) Holding a table cloth on an outdoor table

Missed getting a picture of this.... One of The Carpenter's Grandmothers LOVES clothespins and she doesn't even own a clothesline. She has an outdoor table and because she lives in a windy area she has to secure her table cloth on with clips.

**There are a couple crafts I want to complete that I don't yet have done...**

I will post pics when they are complete



## *A short inspirational story* : **Two frogs**

A group of frogs were traveling through the woods, and two of them fell into a deep pit. When the other frogs saw how deep the pit was, they told the two frogs that they were as good as dead. The two frogs ignored the comments and tried to jump up out of the pit with all their might. The other frogs kept telling them to stop, that they were as good as dead. Finally, one of the frogs took heed to what the other frogs were saying and gave up. He fell down and died.

The other frog continued to jump as hard as he could. Once again, the crowd of frogs yelled at him to stop the pain and just die. He jumped even harder and finally made it out. When he got out, the other frogs said, "Did you not hear us?" The frog explained to them that he was deaf. He thought they were encouraging him the entire time.

This story teaches two lessons:

1. There is power of life and death in the tongue. An encouraging word to someone who is down can lift them up and help them make it through the day.
2. A destructive word to someone who is down can be what it takes to kill them.

Be careful of what you say. Speak life to those who cross your path. The power of words... it is sometimes hard to understand that an encouraging word can go such a long way. Anyone can speak words that tend to rob another of the spirit to continue in difficult times. Special is the individual who will take the time to encourage another.

Author Unknown

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# The Scorpion and the Frog

Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

**Scorpion and the Frog** is an animal fable about a scorpion asking a frog to help it cross a river. The frog is afraid of being stung during the trip, but the scorpion argues that if it stung the frog, the frog would sink and the scorpion would drown. The frog agrees and begins carrying the scorpion, but midway across the river the scorpion does indeed sting the frog, dooming them both. When asked why, the scorpion points out that this is its nature. The fable is used to illustrate the position that the natural behaviour of some creatures is inevitable, no matter how they are treated and no matter what the consequences. It is also used to illustrate that a person (frog) is to blame for the trouble they are in if it was caused by associating with another (scorpion) they know to be no good.

Common variations commonly include a farmer, youth, turtle, or fox in place of the frog, and a snake in place of the scorpion. The Farmer and the Viper is a specific variation which can be attributed to Aesop. There is also a variation<sup>[1][2]</sup> in which the final words of the scorpion are "It is better we should both perish than that my enemy should live."



An 1847 illustration of "The Scorpion and the Frog" from the Persian Kalilah and Dimna

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## Origin

The author is unknown, and variations of the fable appear in West African<sup>[3][4]</sup> and European folktales. The story is often identified with Aesop's Fables, although only variants appear therein.<sup>[5][6]</sup> A study published in a German journal in 2011<sup>[7]</sup> points out a connection between the genesis of the fable and the tradition of the Panchatantra, a collection of animal fables dating back to India in the 3rd century BCE. Whereas the original Sanskrit work and its early translations do not contain any fable resembling *The Scorpion and the Frog*, an earlier version of it, *The Scorpion and the Turtle*, is to be found as an interpolated fable in post-Islamic variants of the Panchatantra.<sup>[8]</sup> The study suggests that the interpolation occurred between the 12th and 13th century in the Persian language area and offers a constructive frame of orientation for further research on the question of the fable's origin.

The image of a scorpion carried across a river by a frog occurs much earlier, in the Babylonian Talmud (*Talmud Bavli*) (5th century CE, based on earlier stories), though with a different outcome and purpose: the scorpion crosses the river and stings a man, killing him. This illustrates a scorpion, who cannot swim, being carried across to fulfill God's will.<sup>[10]</sup> *The Lady Frog and the Scorpion* states that it is a classic Nigerian folktale from Kogi, Nigeria.<sup>[11]</sup>

## References

- The Mars Volta singer Cedric Bixler-Zavala alludes to the fable in the song "Agadez" on their fourth album, *The Bedlam in Goliath*.
- "The Snake" (b/w "Getting Ready for Tomorrow") by Al Wilson (singer) (1968)
- The Matches' song "To Build A Mountain", on their album *A Band In Hope* (2008), refers to this story.
- This fable is also the subject of the song "The Scorpion" by the band Megadeth on the album *The System Has Failed*, which describes the actions and behaviours of antisocial personality disorder.
- This story is also the inspiration for the song "Scorpion Frog" by the Israeli band Infected Mushroom.



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## Boiled Beef

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Example: [Collected on the internet, 1998]

There's an old folk warning that if you throw a frog in boiling water he will quickly jump out. But if you put a frog in a pan of cold water and raise the temperature ever so slowly, the gradual warming will make the frog doze happily . . . in fact, the frog will eventually cook to death, without ever waking up.

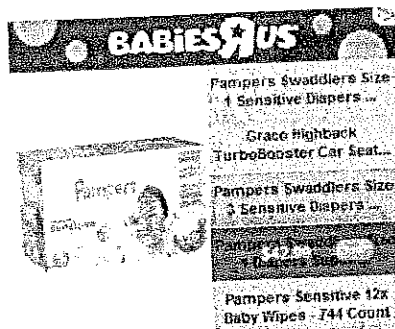
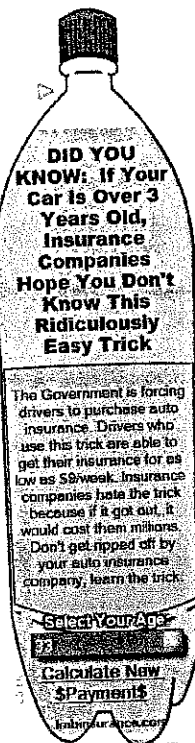
**Origins:** The "boiled frog" story is indeed a kind of "old folk warning," an all-purpose didactic anecdote particularly favored by business types recklessly and aggressively may leave one with an empty pot, but traversing a steadier course of more gradual change is much more likely to bring about the desired result. (One specific application might be the computer market: a PC manufacturer who comes out with an entirely new line of machines incompatible with software written for earlier models might lose a good deal of his customer base, but one who ensures that his new PCs are backwards-compatible with older software will have a much easier time inducing his customers to upgrade their hardware.) Or the story can be used in the opposite sense, to demonstrate the perils of remaining complacent in the marketplace. (A PC manufacturer too slow to upgrade his product line may not realize until too late that his market share has gradually eroded to the point that recovery is impossible.)

The fable is also used by moralists as a cautionary tale warning against the folly of letting smaller wrongs just slip by or of falling into a pattern of small and seemingly harmless sin rather than disturb one's complacency enough to address these issues, thereby allowing evil to grow into a powerful force. When used in this fashion, those being regaled with the anecdote are being cautioned against their moral inactivity or laxity leading to their someday finding themselves to be the frog engulfed in a deadly situation.

The explanation usually given why a slowly-boiled frog will complacently remain in a pan of water, even to his death, while a quickly-boiled one will try to escape, is something like the following:

I am told the above instructions work because frogs are cold-blooded. This means its body temperature is the same as the surroundings, unlike us human beings. We are warm-blooded, meaning our body temperature is kept more or less constant, and does not follow that of our surroundings. We shiver in cold weather to keep up our body temperature. We sweat in warm weather to cool ourselves down.

The frog's body temperature follows its surroundings. If you put the frog directly in boiling water, it will sense the heat immediately and jump out. But when you heat the



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