

Many expressions that we use in American English come from movies and books. Today we will explore expressions from Lewis Carroll's famous book "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland." "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" was published in 1865. The story is about a young girl falling [pron. US], falling, falling ... for a long time down a rabbit hole. When she finally lands, she finds herself in a strange world. In this strange world are some of the most recognizable characters in children's literature. Many of them, and other expressions from the book, have found their way into American English.

The first character Alice meets is the White Rabbit. The White Rabbit is not your usual rabbit. First of all, he is wearing a vest and carrying a pocket watch. He also has somewhere very important to be: Running past Alice, he says, "I'm late! I'm late! For a very important date! No time to say hello goodbye, I'm late, I'm late, I'm late!" Alice chases after him, and that is where her adventures begin.

In English, chasing a white rabbit means to chase the impossible, a fantasy, a dream. In 1967, the rock band Jefferson Airplane wrote a song called "White Rabbit." The song tells of Alice's adventures and hints that drugs are involved. But don't worry. You need not take drugs. Following the white rabbit means following an unlikely clue and finding yourself in the middle of an extraordinary situation. This situation often challenges your beliefs and changes your life.