



BAND NAME ETYMÖLÖGY

LED ZEPPELIN

+

WEEKLY PHRASE!

“Go Over Like A Lead Balloon”

Let's start with the phrase, which is apparently American in origin, having first appeared in a syndicated cartoon called *Mom-N Pop* in 1924 (see above). It means, of course, that something is bound to fail, which brings us to the band.

The gist is that guitarist **Jimmy Page**, formally of **The Yardbirds**, wanted to form a new band, a supergroup, with fellow ax-man **Jeff Beck**, an idea members from **The Who** expressed would go over like a “lead balloon.” Page's final band line up varied from his original vision, but ultimately he incorporated **The Who's** barb, tweaking it from “lead” to “led” to clarify pronunciation, and from “balloon” to “zeppelin,” which, let's face it, sounds a lot cooler. Ironically (I think?), the band soared to super-stardom and sold hundreds of millions of **albums**, which were vinyl disks with music recorded on both sides of them.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“Another term for balloon is bad breath holder.” –Demetri Martin