



My brother  
is always crabby  
in the mornings.

## IDIOM

When you are  
“crabby,” you easily  
get angry or  
annoyed about  
small things.



### With Different Verb Tenses:

- **Past Simple Tense:** “Jack was crabby yesterday.”
- **Present Simple Tense:** “Susan is crabby right now.”
- **Present Continuous Tense:**  
The present continuous tense is generally not used with this idiom.
- **Future Simple Tense:**  
“Without his morning coffee, he will (he’ll) get crabby.”
- **Present Perfect Tense:** “Have you ever been crabby?”

### You Can Also Say:

- “What’s wrong? You’re acting a bit crabby.”
- “Are you alright? You look like you’re in a crabby mood.”

### Where Does This Idiom Come From?

This idiom likely comes from the way a crab walks sideways as if it is trying to avoid others; as well, it often snaps its claws. It certainly doesn’t act in a friendly sort of way!

Many people feel a little crabby when they first wake up in the mornings, especially before their first cup of coffee.

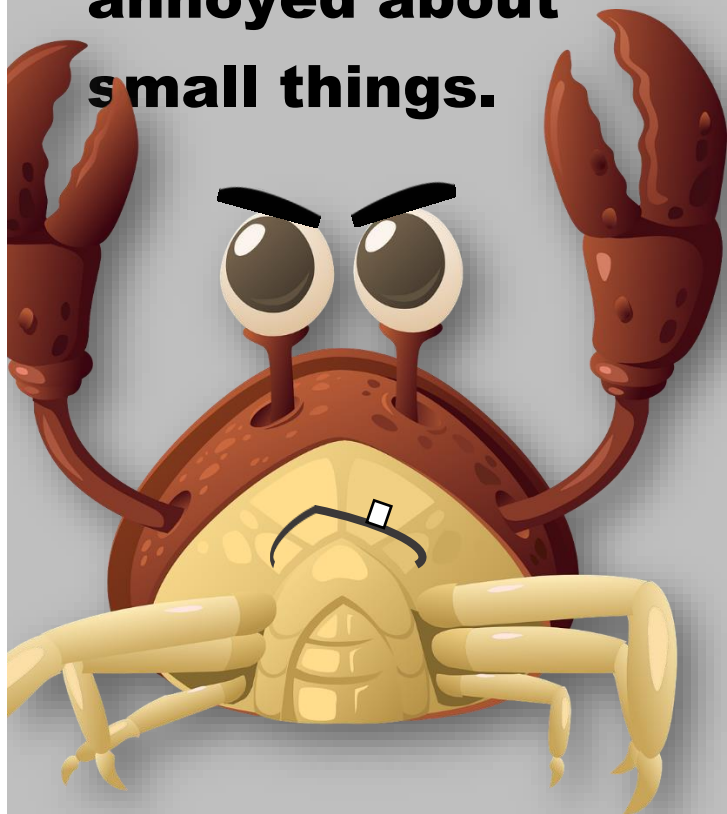
When was the last time that you felt crabby?



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