

Don't go overboard!

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“Overboard” (por la borda) is a nautical word.

Sometimes mortals “fall overboard (caen al agua), that is, they “fall over” the side of the ship or boat into the sea. Perhaps a seaman would shout “man overboard” (¡hombre al agua!) so that a rescue should start.

There are also some idioms (modismos) that use the word. The context is something that is exaggerated or excessive.

Examine these:

- Let's not go overboard (no hay que exagerar) about the negative effects of Brexit. If someone goes overboard he is exaggerating, in this case, the effects of Britain leaving the EU.
- You can have some wine but do not go overboard (...pero tampoco en excesivo), meaning that you should not drink a lot of wine.
- Mr. Sánchez went overboard (... tiró la casa por la ventana para ...) in the arrangements for Mr. Podemos's birthday party. This means Mr. Sanchez arranged too much and it was excessive.