

Has someone ruffled your feathers?

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Feather (pluma) and feathers you may know.

What about “ruffled”? To ruffle (agitar, rizar) something is to move it in a certain way. Sometimes mortals ruffle (erizan) their hair, and ruffle (arrugan) the bedclothes (ropa de cama).

There are some expressions that use “ruffle”.

Politicians sometimes “ruffle people’s feathers” (agitan las susceptibilidades de la gente), that is, politicians annoy or irritate people. Then someone has to smooth the person’s feathers (alguien tiene que alisar las plumas erizadas), that is to calm the person down (calmar, tranquilizar).

Two examples:

- Mr. Trump, the USA presidential candidaté for the Republicans, often ruffles the feathers of the Democrats.
- Mr. Morales often (a menudo) has to smooth the feathers of the players when his football team loses a match.

So, have you ever ruffled someone’s feathers? Probably!