

Disremembered Words

Disremembered Words

A Humorous Journey into The Land of Forgotten Words

By Antaeus

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Dedication

This book is dedicated to my wife Judy, who is an invaluable asset to my endeavors. Thank you for all your hard work.

To all of the intelligent individuals who are keeping the English language alive by speaking it correctly. Keep articulating.

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Introduction

Disremember - To dismiss from the mind, or to stop remembering.

Have you ever wanted to have your own argot or jargon (secret language)? A language that only you, and maybe some of your friends could understand?

I know that when I was a boy I did. So much so, that I saved every penny I could and sent away for a "Captain Video Secret Decoder Ring."

I didn't know it at the time, but it is called steganography, which is the art of secret writing. In today's digital age, the word means to hide secret information or data by encoding it electronically in another, innocuous (harmless), file.

Back then, all of my friends and fellow "Video Rangers" would impatiently sit in front of the TV every Saturday morning. At end the of the show Captain Video would post a secret message just for us video rangers.

The challenge for us rangers was to use the secret decoder ring to decode the message as fast as we could. Once we had decoded the message, we would run to our "clubhouse," which was a very large wooden equipment crate that someone had dumped in the empty lot nearby. The one to do that first would be our head ranger for the coming week.

I don't know why no one else thought of it, but there was no rule that said you couldn't run to the clubhouse and decode the message there. That's what I did.

Besides the aforementioned use of the ring, we would also send each other secret notes during school. Whoever was the head ranger that week, would sneak

into the classroom, before school started, and post a secret message on the blackboard.

The fun part was knowing that even when the nun saw the message, or found the note, she couldn't read it. That is unless she had a decoder ring too. One day, one of the harsher nuns caught me writing on the blackboard. I still have the scars from the pointer stick she beat me with.

This book is not a dictionary but a lexicon (book of words) containing over 600 arcane (obscure) and seldom-used words and phrases, all of which are fast disappearing from the English language. Once commonly used, for some reason most of these words and phrases have fallen by the wayside.

Along with the word, I have tried to give an example of how to use each word. When known, I have also provided its origin and around what year it began to be used.

I worked in a traveling carnival as a young boy whenever it came into town. I have added some carnival lingo to the list of words. My wife and I live in Sarasota, Florida, the former winter home of the Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Circus. In my opinion, this book would not be complete without some circus words and phrases as well.

The circus and carnival people, not unlike other tradespeople, have their own words and terms for things (lingo), which are different from the terms that we "Cake Eaters" (locals) would use. You will notice that an awful lot of the carnival words have to do with swindling people out of their money, stealing from their boss or the public, and rigging games of chance.

This is not to say that all circus or carnival people

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were dishonest. That would be akin to saying that all members of a certain nationality are dishonest. In fact, I can say from personal experience that in any dealings I had with the "carny" folks I worked with, I was treated honestly and fairly.

Circus and carnival people, like any other group of people, have their own rules and ways of doing things. Statistically, they are no more honest or dishonest than anyone else.

They just have more, and different, terms to describe swindling patrons. Words like "fireballing", (cheating) or "cake cutting," (stealing) "oach (skimming money), or swing", (stealing money from your boss), and rigging games (grifters or joing).

Even if you don't want to have your own secret language, these words are a lot of fun to read. Who knows? You may even want to add a few of the more arcane words to your vocabulary. Then you can watch the look on someone's face as they try to figure out what you are saying.

Be forewarned, though, by reading this book you may become a "lexophile." No, that's not someone who has a crush on Superman's nemeses, Lex Luther. A lexophile is a lover of words. Some lexophiles simply collect words, which they think are unusual or interesting, like I do.

Other lexophiles are fond of word play, and may use everyday words differently than others. They may say, "To write with a broken pencil is—pointless." On the other hand, they might say, "The batteries were given out—free of charge." How about "A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion." I heard that groan, and, yes, I did have the nerve to write those words down.

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A lexophile may also accumulate lists of obscure or arcane words, like the ones in this book, or look for words with meanings that have changed over time.

The arcane words in the following example are real. At one time or another, they were used daily in the English language. The translation follows the example, see if you can figure out what I am saying.

Example:

Henrietta was a dwizzen blowsabella and a dowager. She was also a maulifuff. The victim of an imprecation, she had hippomania and was always looking to be succored.

When Henrietta saw Dave in the parking lot, she tried to diffibulate Dave's salopettes, Dave's ridibund kickie-wickie, Deborah, who had a Callipygian, called Henrietta a rectalgia, and accused her of debauchery.

Frightened, and unable to hide her concupiscence for Dave, Henrietta produced an enormous eructation that startled everyone. Smashing her fist into Deborah's bone-box, she began to keak, and then ran to her amurcous funk-hole.

Here's the Translation:

Henrietta was a withered (dwizzen) red-faced female (blowsabella), and a lady of title (dowager). She was also a woman of little energy (maulifuff). The victim of a curse (imprecation), she had an unnatural obsession with horses (hippomania), and was always looking for relief (succor).

When Henrietta saw Dave in the parking lot, she tried to unbuckle (diffibulate) Dave's high-wasted skiing pants (salopettes), Dave's easily-moved-to-laughter (ridibund) wife (kickie-wickie), Deborah, who had a shapely buttocks (callipygian), called Henrietta a pain in

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the butt (rectalgia), and accused her of immorality (debauchery).

Frightened, and unable to hide her powerful feelings of physical desire (concupiscence) for Dave, Henrietta produced an enormous belch (eructation) that startled everyone. Smashing her fist in Deborah's mouth (bone-box), she began to cackle (keak), and then ran to her smelly (amurcous) place of safe retreat (funk-hole).

As you can see from the translation above, some of the older words can be very misleading. This book was put together for you to have fun with, and may even help you win a Scrabble game or too. So read on and enjoy the hidden language of seldom-used words.

Thank You from the Author

Thank you for purchasing and reading my work. If you found it to your liking, please tell everyone you know about it. You can also give constructive feedback at www.antaeus-books.com.

If you have the time, I would appreciate it if you would write a review on Amazon. Reviews mean a lot to an author and I would really appreciate yours. Again, thank you.

Words beginning with the letter "A"

Abatude — No, not someone from the singing group Abba with an attitude. It is a derivative (offshoot) of the word, abated, meaning decreased. The word was used to describe money that has been clipped. It also refers to any object that has been diminished.

In the "old days," the edges of gold or silver coins would be clipped off to make change. So the entire image would not be showing.

Today, it would be the equivalent of a quarter having a small piece cut out of the corner. That piece would represent 12 cents because you didn't have a dime and two pennies.

Abide — To put up with, tolerate or to await. "Tim decided to abide his time until he could take his revenge on Roseanne, the OWL (Older Wiser Lesbian), for taking his wife." OR, "It's too late, Albert, you signed the contract and now you must abide by its terms." Also to live with "A husband and wife will abide together as long as love shall last."

Abscond or Absconded – To run away and hide oneself, especially to avoid capture after performing an illegal act. "Sabastian robbed the poker game and tried to abscond with the money. When the mob caught him, they took back the money and absconded with his right hand."

Accismus — When you pretend you are not interested in something or someone, when you really *are* interested. "Don't be so accismus. I know that you crave the warmth of my voluptuous naked body next to yours."

Ace — Slang word for a one-dollar bill. "Ace me

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baby, I won the bet fair and square!"

Acrasia or Akrasia – The word means a lack of self-control; especially when you act against your better judgment. "Roger's acrasia kicked in when he walked by the poker table, and he lost a month's wages."

Agastopia — Admiration for a particular part of someone's body, especially a woman's. "Rufus is a true agastopian, he is drawn to a woman's backside like sugar draws butterflies."

Aghast — Either terrified or amazed, "Mary looked upon the being of light with gossamer wings, and was aghast by what she saw. Surely, he was an angel come to earth."

Aglet — What we now call the ornamental end of a shoelace. In the 16th and 17th centuries, an aglet was an ornament at the end of a ribbon used to secure a garment. Specifically, it is a metal or plastic tag or sheath at the end of something used for tying. Its main purpose is to keep the ends from fraying. "After his dog had chewed off the aglet, Audie couldn't lace his shoes because the ends were frayed."

Al-A-Ga-Zam — A carnival term that is a greeting among carnies. Also used by magicians as a made-up magical word. "When I say hocus pocus al-a-ga-zam and wave my magic wand, all your clothes will fall off." Also see hocus pocus.

Anachronism — Something belonging to, or appropriate to, a time other than that in which it exists. For example, "The Society for Creative Anachronism is an international organization dedicated to researching and re-creating the arts and skills of pre-17th-century Europe."

Anonym — A name that is formed by reversing the

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letters of another name A pseudonym derived by spelling one's name backwards. "Oprah had a sex change operation, after which she changed her name to the ananym Harpo."

Ankle-Biter — A small child. "Get that ankle biter of yours under control, before I slam you across the room!"

Annie Oakley – Not the famous lover of Wild Bill Hickok. It's a free or complimentary ticket or pass to a circus or carnival show. "Sam spent most of the day cleaning up after the elephants, and he was given an Annie Oakley in payment."

Aprosexia — No, not having sex with a professional hooker. An abnormal inability to pay attention, characterized by nearly complete indifference to everything. "Charles's aprosexia became unbearable for his wife, after he fall asleep in the middle of their lovemaking."

Arcane – Something that is mysterious, secret, hidden, obscure, and known or understood by very few. "Shorty knew a lot about the arcane art of making midevel armor."

Argot — A secret vocabulary and jargon peculiar to a particular group. Thieves, circus people and carnival people, as well as other groups, have their own jargon which is spoken among their own members. "There was no way the reporter could understand the circus performers' argot."

Askance — To look at someone or something with disapproval or distrust; to view someone or something in a suspicious or doubtful manner. "He looked askance at my wife when she said she was only twenty-nine years old."

Assuage — To ease, to soften, to lessen, or to

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soothe. "Jimmy confessed, to assuage his feelings of guilt."

At Sea — When you are confused about something. "Frank was at sea over the new computer program." See "Balled up."

Augur — In its Verb form it means to forewarn of, foreshadow. In ancient times, the word is also used in the noun form to refer to a religious official who observed natural signs. A fortune teller. "Barbie went to see an augur who observed the behavior of the birds, and told her she had divine approval to sleep with him."

Awry — (pronounced "a rye") Means something is crooked, or out of proper order. Also used to mean something is amiss, wrong, or astray, "Francis has not returned from the hunt, I fear that something has gone awry."

Words beginning with the letter "B"

Babushka — A Russian word meaning grandmother. "My babushka gave me some borsch (a soup made with beets) to take home." In the U.S. it means an old woman or a type of head scarf. The head scarf is shaped or folded in a triangle, and worn with two ends tied under the chin. It is sometimes referred to as a Kerchief which is different from a neckerchief. "Look mommy, grandma is wearing a red babushka and nothing else."

Balderdash — Senseless or pointless talk. "Sal's story about catching a mermaid is a bunch of balderdash. Also see Hogwash, Poppycock or Bunk.

Balled Up — When you are confused about something, or when something is not working correctly. "That computer program does not work, it's all balled up." Also see "At sea."

Bally — A platform. Usually located at the entrance to a circus or sideshow. The circus "talker" or "grinder" usually stands on it to deliver his or her "ballyhoo" or "spiel", to attract a crowd. "Get on that bally and charm those cake eaters in here."

Ballyhoo — Noisy shouting. Sensational or clamorous advertising or publicity. "David's ballyhoo was an attempt to have people sample his chocolate-covered insects line of food."

Bark up the wrong tree — To make a mistake, or error, especially in accusing someone. "If you think Judy is lying, you're barking up the wrong tree."

Barnburner — A person or organization that overreacts. "The breaking of Ralph's legs was a real barnburner on Duke's part."

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Basilisk — A mythical reptile with a lethal gaze or breath. Also known as the king of snakes, due to its killing glare and its poisonous breath. In more modern times it means baleful or spellbinding eyes or stare. "the eyes . . .with all their blaze of basilisk horror" — Bram Stoker.

Baste — To thrash to beat someone soundly. "Yeah, and Duke baste him up really good on top of it."

Battle-Ax — A mean old person, especially a female. "Alice, the old battle-ax, won't let her husband drink any beer because he wets himself when he does."

Bearcat — A sexy or seductive woman. "Come over here you big bearcats, I want to titillate your breasts."

Beat-Feet — To leave in a hurry or make a quick exit. "Let's beat-feet out of here, before Verona's husband gets home."

Beat One's Gums — To talk all the time, usually about nothing interesting. "Barbara is always beating her gums about something."

Bebop — To dance fast to a big band jazz orchestra. "Jenny's boobs are so big, when she bebops, they hit her in the face."

Beeswax (mind your own) — (1930's) A facetious (flippant) way of saying "Mind your own business." without being nasty. "Mind your own beeswax, Mr. Rogers, all we're doing is kissing."

Beggar's Velvet — Refers to the downy particles that accumulate under furniture and in corners (dust bunnies), which aren't cleaned regularly. "The beggar's velvet under the bed is so thick, you could stuff a mattress with it."

Beguile also Beguiled — To entice, charm or

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captivate, sometimes by deception. To put under a spell. "Martha was cunning enough to beguile her coworkers into doing her work for her." "The Smiths were beguiled into giving their life savings to Leon the Loan Shark."

Beldam — Originally meaning a grandmother, this word has devolved into a derogatory term to mean an old, ugly-looking woman. "Look at that beldam walking across the street; she has the children running away in fear."

Benjamin — A slang word used to describe a one-hundred-dollar bill. "Hey Mark, I boffed your beldam sister like you asked, now where's that Benjamin you owe me."

Besmirch — To soil, sully or tarnish, particularly someone's reputation. "When Orville was caught having sex with his sheep, it besmirched his family's name."

Betty — A man who does a woman's work. "George is a betty, he does all the cleaning and cooking around his house while his wife drinks beer all day."

Bezoar — A calculus (abnormal growth), or concretion (mass), found in the stomach or intestines of certain animals, once reputed to be a remedy for poison. "Frank ate the cat's bezoar to win the bet, then puked his guts out."

Bilk also Bilked — To swindle or cheat someone. "Andrew was bilked out of his savings by a fortune teller (Augur)."

Bill and Coo — To hug and kiss with your favorite person. "If you bill and coo, and say 'I love you', you'll be alter bound, you horny hound."

Billfold — Another word for wallet. "Burt left his billfold at Gloria's house. Her husband found it, now Burt is in the hospital with multiple fractures."

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Biscuits — Used to describe dirty, worn-out shoes. "Get those smelly biscuits out of here!"

Blasé — Laid back, cool, and relaxed. "Don't act so blasé, Fernando. I know you're horny, I can see that lump in your pants from here."

Blivet — Has many meanings. Something annoying, ridiculous, or useless. Something for which one cannot find a word or something difficult to name. "This empty beer can is a blivet." Also a World War II military term meaning trying to fit ten pounds of manure in a five-pound bag. "Trying to get this tent back into its original package is like a blivet."

Blizzie — A slang word for a marijuana cigarette. "Hey Arnold, can I share that blizzie with you?"

Blow Your Pipes — A circus or carnival term that refers to someone who is hoarse from yelling at customers. "Be careful Rodney, if you keep yelling like that you'll blow your pipes."

Blowsabella — The word describes a red faced angry female whose hair is disheveled and hanging about her face. A berserker woman. (We used this one in the example at the beginning of the book).

Bluenose also Bluenoses — An insulting term for a puritanical person, or someone who is a prude. "You'll never have sex if you keep hanging out with those bluenoses."

Bob — also Bobbed — To shorten something; especially a horses tail or an animal's ears. "Francis's wife caught him fooling around with their neighbor, so she bobbed him. Now everyone calls him Francine."

Bodacious — Meaning something is remarkable or excellent. "What a bodacious book Disremembered Words is!"

Boff or Boffed — A slang word meaning to have sex with. It also means to hit. "Billy caught Fred boffing his girlfriend, so he boffed Fred in the mouth knocking out his teeth."

Bogart — To hog something. To keep something all for oneself. "Don't bogart that Blizzie Arnold, pass that over here!"

Bojangle — To act crazy, "Quit acting so bojangle and get over here." Also see Cock-eyed or Slap-happy.

Bollox — (often followed by "up") To do something badly, to bungle or mess something up. "If you bollox the robbery, you'll end up in jail." "You really bollixed up that deal."

Bombastic — A person who is pompous, verbose, or long-winded. "Gary is a bombastic jerk!"

Bon-Diggity — Attractive, or good-looking. "Hot-Diggity, Sophia is one bon-diggity woman!"

Bone — Also Boning — A slang word meaning to have sex with. "Don't get caught boning your best friend's girlfriend like Fred did." Also see Boff.

Bone Box — A pejorative (disapproving), term for the mouth, or mouth full of teeth. (We used this in the example at the beginning of the book). "Shut your bone box blabbermouth!"

Bone Yard — A junk yard or someplace where things go to die or be recycled. "Shelly sent her old computer to the bone yard."

Boo — A slang word for a marijuana cigarette. "Don't hog that boo, Arnold, pass it over here!"

Booby — A derogatory term for someone who is not intelligent, or someone that is stupid or foolish. "You gave him change for fifty dollars instead of a twenty, you

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damn booby." Also used for booby prize, booby trap, and is even the name of a bird.

Boogie-Woogie — A word to describe the Jazz dancing of the 30s and 40s. "Boy, Betty sure can do the boogie-woogie." Or like in the song "The Boogie-Woogie Bugle Boy of Company 'B'."

Boondocks — An isolated place far out in the country away from civilization. "Richard lives out in the boondocks so he can walk around naked."

Boondoggle — This word has lot of meanings depending on who you talk to: A project or scheme that is considered useless, and wastes time and money, a con game, or a deceitful transaction used to swindle or cheat someone. "That project was a real boondoggle!" Also something braided from leather, as a leather cord for the neck. "That's a nice boondoggle."

Booty — No not that! It means stolen goods or money. Okay that too. "After Sam collected his booty, he noticed Sarah's big sexy booty (butt), and asked her for a date."

Bop — To dance wildly to the big band jazz music of the 40s (see Bee-Bop). Also means to hit on the head. "I was dancing the bop at the hop, and someone bopped me on the noggin (head)."

Bozo — A stupid or foolish person. "Don't eat that, you stupid bozo, it's not a sausage, it's cat poop!"

BR — An abbreviation for bankroll. Originally a circus or carnival term that referred to a big wad of cash with one or two big bills rolled around a bunch of one dollar bills. It was used to entice marks. It is sometimes referred to as a "Carny Roll." "Frank flashed his BR to lure the local into the rigged card game."

Brass — Gall, nerve, or audacity. "Casey has a pair

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of brass balls."

Brick — Someone who is a good solid person. "Tony 'The Icepick,' is a brick, he just did me a favor and wacked (killed) that guy for free."

Britches — Another word for a man's trousers or pants. "Ray told the plumber to pull up his britches, so his butt crack wouldn't show."

Bromance — Okay you are correct on this one. A friendship/romance between males. "Did you see the way that Bob looked at Bruce, I think there is a bromance brewing there."

Bronx cheer — Blowing air through the closed lips to make a disgusting sound. "Our team lost so we gave them the Bronx cheer as they left the field." Also see Raspberry.

Brouhaha — A free-for-all fight, brawl or melee. "When Al tossed that wad of money in the air, it caused a huge brouhaha at the bar." Also see Rumpus.

Bubulcitate — (1600's), To cry like a baby. "When Barbara lost her dog, she was out wandering the streets looking for him and bubulcitating."

Bug-Eyed — Used to describe a person with wide-eyed astonishment. "When Barbara opened her purse and handed Hank a brand new one-hundred-dollar bill he was bug-eyed with surprise."

Bugger — A derogatory and offensive term, it usually refers to someone who practices anal intercourse. "I guess calling Brian's two-year-old son a little bugger wasn't such a good idea."

Bulkies — An 1800's slang word for a policeman. "Quick, cheese it (run), the bulkies are coming."

Bulls — A derogatory slang word for the police. It

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also refers to a male or female elephants in the circus. "Look at the size of those bulls!" Also see bulkie above.

Bunkum — (1500) Someone saying stupid, foolish, or untrue words. What we would call BS today. "What a load of bunkum that is." Sometimes confused with bumpkin below.

Bumpkin — A derogatory word used to describe a clumsy, unsophisticated person from the country. It is also a carnival/circus term used to describe a mark. "Hal enticed the country bumpkin, with the big bankroll, into a rigged card game then cleaned him out."

Bunk — Meaning something is nonsense or baloney. It also *refers* to something that is not true. "That's a lot of bunk!" Whereas to debunk means to *prove* something is not true. "The lawyer used facts to debunk the false claims against his client."

Bupkis — Referring to someone having nothing. "You've got bupkis on me bulkie (cop), so let me out of here."

Buster — Slang word for someone who is a loser, or a jerk. "What's up buster?"

Buttinski – Someone who meddles in other people's business, or who habitually and rudely intrudes into other people's affairs. "If Freddy the buttinski, keeps sticking his nose into my business, it's going to get broken."

Words beginning with the letter "C"

Caboodle — A whole lot. Everything. "Alexander bet his whole caboodle on a horse named whodunit, and lost."

Cake Cutting — A circus or carnival term that refers to short- changing a customer (called a mark). "Sully cake cut the mark out of three dollars when he gave him his change."

Cake Eaters — A circus or carnival term that refers to locals. "Open the gates and let the cake eaters in."

Calamity — A disaster, catastrophe, or mishap. "Losing the parole money was a real calamity for Barbara, until a policeman returned it."

Calliope — An old-fashioned musical instrument similar to an organ that produced sound by sending steam through large whistles. "Calliope music has a far-from calming effect on Roberto."

Callipygian or Callipygous — (1600) It means having shapely, or well-shaped buttocks. "Barbara Smith has such a nice butt she should change her name to Barbara Callipygain." (We Used this word in the description at the beginning of the book.) "Anthony is on a quest to find the callipygous ideal."

Cancer Stick – Slang word for a cigarette. "Larry, quit sucking on that cancer stick and help me unload the truck."

Candy Butchers — A circus or carnival term which refers to someone who sells candy, soda, popcorn and other food items. "The mark told the bull (policeman) that he gave that candy butcher a twenty-dollar bill, and he was given change for a ten."

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Canny — Someone who is astute and cunning. "David is very canny, he figured out who the killer was before the movie was half-way through."

Cantankerous — Bad-tempered, unreasonable, tetchy (peevish), crabby, argumentative, or grumpy. "Redd Foxx played a cantankerous old man named Fred Sanford, on the TV series Sanford and Son"

Capricious — A person that's impulsive, fickle, whimsical, or unpredictable. "I have no idea what happened; Ida's capricious exit left her groom standing at the altar." Or, "Victor is such a capricious person I never know how to act around him." Also something that's is unpredictable. "Hurricane Ida is so capricious we can't predict where she will make landfall."

Carny Roll — Originally a circus or carnival term that referred to a big wad of cash with one or two big bills rolled around a bunch of one dollar bills. It was used to entice marks. It is also referred to as a "BR."

Castigate — To criticize or reprimand someone. To rake someone over the coals. "There is no need to castigate Cassandra, anyone could have made that same mistake."

Cat — A 1920's term for a cool guy. Also a spiteful woman. "Boy, that Mike is one cool cat. It's too bad his ex-wife is such a vicious cat."

Cat House — A bordello or house of prostitution. "I went to Las Vegas and visited the famous cat house called The Bunny Ranch (just to look) while I was there."

Catawampus — Lopsided, or crooked. "Reginald was so cock-eyed, that every picture in his house was hung catawampus." Also see Cock-Eyed.

Caterwaul or Caterwauling — To screech like a cat in heat. To complain in a high whiney voice, "I know you

love to caterwaul about the garbage, Alice, but you can quit caterwauling now, I've already taken out the garbage."

Cat's Meow — Something excellent, outstanding. "Isn't Carol's act the cat's meow, and that dress she wears during the performance is the cat's pajamas." Also see Cats pajamas.

Cat's Pajamas — Something excellent, outstanding. "Mike, isn't Carol's act the cat's meow?" "Yea, Bob, and that dress she wears during the performance is the cat's pajamas."

Caustic — A cutting, scathing, or sarcastic, remark or statement. "Tom, you should apologize to Brenda. Telling her that her new dress made her look like a fat pig, was a very caustic and uncalled for remark "

Chanky — Something disgusting, nasty, or ugly. "Brenda, this is Tom, I called to apologize for what I said yesterday. The dress doesn't make you look fat; it makes you look chanky."

Charivari — (1400's) A mock serenade of dissonant noise done with kettles and tin horns meant to annoy. It was a custom observed by ancient peoples who believed that by beating drums or making loud noises, they could drive evil spirits away from newlyweds. In modern times it is a humorous, energetic acrobatic exhibition performed by clowns. "I went to the circus yesterday and had to listen to the clowns do ten minutes of a charivari."

Cheaters — Another word for eyeglasses. "I was at a restaurant over the weekend and had to put my cheaters on in order to read the menu."

Cheba — A slang word for a marijuana cigarette. Andy, if you don't share the cheba, I'm going to bunk you in the nose." (I think this is the fourth word to do

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with marijuana.)

Chew the Rag — To spend time talking. "Okay, lets chew the rag about all the other slang words for marijuana. There are 183 words that the government uses to describe marijuana, and I am *not* going to cover them all here."

Chicanery — A nice word for lying. Artful deception or subterfuge mostly used to achieve a political, financial, or legal purpose. "The Senator used subterfuge and chicanery to get re-elected to office."

Chintzy — Someone who is cheap. "Bob is so chintzy, he can squeeze two cents from a penny."

Chow or Chow down — A slang word for food or eating, mostly used by the United States military. "Hey, Billy, lets head down to the mess hall (eating area) and get some chow, I've been waiting since lunch to chow down on some Brussels sprouts."

Chowderhead also Chowder Head — A derogatory term for a stupid or foolish person. "Henry, stop putting your finger in the light socket, you chowderhead."

Chum (s) — A good friend or buddy. Someone or group of people you hang out with. "Brian and Zack are the best of chums." Also ground up fish used as bait.

Church Key — An old fashioned can or bottle opener. "Pass me the church key, I need to have a beer in the worst way." (The worst way I know of is upside down in a hammock.)

Clam — A slang term for dollar. "Hey Uncle Sal you old chowderhead, yesterday you gave me ten clams for a fiver, can you do that for me again?"

Clam Diggers — At one time they were also called 'High Waters.' These days we call them "Capri pants" "

Betty's classy chassis is really highlighted by those clam diggers."

Classy Chassis — Used to describe a female with a great figure. "Those clam diggers really cleave to Betty's classy chassis."

Cleave — To stick, adhere, or cling, "A bride should cleave to her husband, like Betty's pants cleave to her classy chassis."

Clitchy — A word used to describe a feeling of horniness or an intense feeling of arousal in women. "Husband dear, I am really clitchy, we need to have sex now!"

Clod — A derogatory term meaning a clumsy, unsophisticated person from the country. A stupid or foolish person. "Burnie is such a clod, he tripped over his shoe laces, fell down the stairs, and broke his leg." Also see Clodhopper.

Clodhopper — Another derogatory term meaning a clumsy, unsophisticated person from the country. "Burnie, you old clodhopper, how is that broken leg of yours." Also see Clod.

Clodhoppers — Heavy work shoes worn by farmers, and other people engaged in manual labor out of doors. "Burnie was wearing his clodhoppers when he fell down the porch stairs."

Cloven — Split into two, or to divided in two. "A goat has cloven hoofs." In the past participle it is cleave, which is different from the cleave mentioned above.

Clyde — A slang term to address an unknown male. Also used as a derogatory term. "There once was a Clyde, who wanted to hide, so he went out in the tide, now in the sea does he abide."

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Cockamamie (idea) — Half-baked, silly, hare-brained. "What a cockamamie scheme that is, it will never work." Also see Hare-brained.

Cock-Eyed — Crazy, foolish, silly, wacky. The word can also mean, cross eyed, misaligned, crooked or uneven. "What a cock-eyed scheme that is, it will never work." Also see Bojangle or Slap-Happy.

Codger — An endearing term for a man of advanced years, who is seen as slightly eccentric or amusing. "There once was an old codger by the name of Roger, who tried to hide from his wife, but couldn't dodge her."

Colloquialism — A word, or phrase that is employed in informal language but not in formal speech. Many of the words in this book are colloquialisms, like (such as) bamboozle (to deceive), chintzy (cheep), over yonder (over there), don't cause a ruckus (fight), I reckon (I guess). go bananas (Go crazy), buzz off (go away).

Comely — Someone who is pleasant looking, or easy on the eyes. "Samantha is a very comely looking woman."

Comeuppance — Just punishment, or deserts. Sometimes used to describe just reward. "Justin got his comeuppance when the car he stole ran out of gas in front of the police station."

Comrade — A fellow member of a group, especially a fellow soldier. A buddy or pal. "Hey Paul, did you know that in Russia a comrade is not just your buddy, he's also a fellow communist?"

Concupiscence — Lust or strong desire or powerful feelings of physical desire. "Mark's concupiscence for his wife was so strong that he could not stand to have any other man even look at her."

Conjoin — To bring together, united, combined, "At

last those to lovers have been conjoined as husband and wife."

Conk — To hit. "I am going to conk him on the head, and then bop him in the nose if he doesn't shut his mouth." Also see Bop.

Conundrum — A riddle, or puzzle, or a mystery. "How the Egyptians built the pyramids is a conundrum to modern man." Or "You've got yourself quite a conundrum there, Bobby."

Corker — Something excellent or outstanding, like an idea or a funny joke. "The comedian told a joke, about a donkey and a fly, that was a real corker."

Coveralls — A one-piece outer garment that covers and protects one's underclothing. Similar to a jump suit. "The farmer had to change his coveralls after the cow knocked him into the mud puddle."

Covet — To want or desire something, or to be jealous of what someone has. "Exodus 20:17 says, 'Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife; thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's goods.'"

Cowboy — No, it doesn't just refer to someone that herds cattle on a ranch. It is a circus or carnival term that refers to someone who is a trouble maker. "Watch yourself, that local is a real cowboy."

Coxcomb — It's not what you are thinking. It is another term for a conceited person or a person who is overly concerned with their dress and appearance. "Reginald is such a coxcomb. He found some lint on his jacket, so he went home to change his clothes."

Other words for this type of person are Fop, Dandy, Fashion Plate, Clotheshorse, Dude, or Swell.

Crack – No, this definition has nothing to do with

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cocaine. It is a circus or carnival term that referred to a very effective spiel used by carnies to get marks to play a rigged game. "Barnaby's crack was so good, he made almost \$1,000 from the marks in one afternoon."

Cradle – Not where your baby sleeps. It is a circus or carnival term that refers to the handle or pedal that controls a rigged game. "Watching how the carny people rig their games gives a whole new meaning to the phrase Rock the cradle."

Crank — Another circus or carnival term that refers to the handle or pedal that controls a rigged game. This gives a whole new meaning to "Crank it up." "Wally sure can manipulate that wheel of fortune crank"

Crapper – Invented by Thomas Crapper, a master plumber in England, it was originally called a W.C. (Water Closet) in England. In the United States his last name became associated with his invention and stuck. A plumbing fixture for defecation and urination it is also known as a commode, potty, pot, throne, toilet, stool, can.

Crapulous — No, it has nothing to do with bowel movements. It is a word relating to drunkenness or gross excess in drinking or eating (gluttony). "Henry's crapulous lifestyle led to his early demise."

Craven — Someone who is a coward or acts cowardly. A weak or spineless person, "The craven dog, Justin, ran away as soon as the shooting started."

Crotchety — No, it has nothing to do with an itchy crotch. It means someone who is capriciously (unpredictably) stubborn or eccentric. A bad-tempered or crabby person. "Quit being such a crotchety old man."

Cuckold — (kukewold) The word is used to refer to a husband, when he is unaware of his adulterous wife's

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unfaithfulness. "Christopher was cuckold by his wife, Johanna, for years before he found out about the affair, and killed them both."

Cudgel — A short club, or a stick used as a weapon. A short bat or nightstick. "The policeman hefted his cudgel menacingly as he looked at the two robbery suspects."

Cumber-Ground, — Someone who is just taking up space. "Ralph is the boss's nephew, that's why he will never be fired even though he is a world champion cumber-ground."

Curdle — Something that has turned sour, or congealed into lumps or curds, "You left the milk out overnight, now it's curdled and undrinkable." "Your bad breath curdles my stomach."

Curmudgeon — A bad-tempered, difficult, cantankerous (argumentative), person. Someone who is old, cranky, and more than a little stubborn " My friend Ron is a bit of a curmudgeon sometimes, but he is still a likable guy."

Words beginning with the letter "D"

Dad-Blamed or Dad-Blamed-It – A euphemism for God damned. "Now look what you did you stupid idiot, you stepped on my dad-blamed sore toe."

Dagnabbit — Started in 1890's, it is a phrase uttered during great consternation or surprise. "Dagnabbit, where did I put my cell phone?"

Dally — To linger or take one's time. "The car is idling in the alley, so Dolly don't dally, or we'll be late for the rally their holding in the valley." Also see Dilly-dally, or Dawdle.

Dang — An interjection or exclamation, which is used to express disappointment. "Dang, I thought I packed my chewing tobacco." Also see Dagnabbit

Darn or Darning— No not the interjection. A technique whereby someone repairs a hole in fabric, such as a sock by weaving thread across the gap or hole. "George wouldn't shut up, so Claudia knocked him out and darned his mouth closed."

Drat — An expression of anger or annoyance at something that happened. "Drat, I've lost my underpants. I'm sure I had them on when I left the house this morning."

Dapper — Describing someone who is neat, trim or well-dressed. "Dapper Dan dresses as well as he can, because he has a business plan."

Daunting — An activity that is intimidating, discouraging or overwhelming, "After the BP oil spills, the cleanup of Florida's beaches and ocean seemed like daunting tasks."

Davenport — Another word for couch or sofa.

"Donna sat on the davenport, waiting for her husband to come home."

Dawdle — To lag behind, or to take one's time. "Dolly don't dawdle just pick up the toddle (unsteady steps) so we can be on our way." Also see Dally.

Dearth — A scarcity or shortage, especially of food like in a famine. "After the hurricane hit there was a dearth of fresh water." Also an inadequate supply or lack of, "He was acquitted because there was a dearth of evidence at the trial."

Debate — Describes an unforeseen disaster, catastrophe, or calamity. "Having that bridge collapse during the rush hour traffic was a real debacle."

Debauchery — Used to describe acts of wickedness, depravity, or immorality, "Are you ready for a night of drinking and debauchery, MaryAnn?"

Decrepit — Someone who is elderly and infirm. "Everyone knows Johnston is a decrepit old master baiter."

Also, someone who is feeble, infirm, weak, or frail. "Johnson was so decrepit that he found it difficult to walk without a cane."

When describing an object, it means worn out or ruined due to either age or neglect. "I won't go to the old shipyard anymore, it's very depressing. All of the ships are decrepit and rusting away." Also see Dilapidated.

Defile — To sully, corrupt, ruin, also to dishonor or desecrate "His reputation was defiled by the newspapers."

Deosil — Alternative spelling of deasil, the word means to move clockwise or in the direction of the sun's course. "As the police surrounded the suspects house,

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half of them went in a deosil direction, while the other half went widdershins (anticlockwise). Also see Widdershins."

Deuterogamist —Late 1600's. Someone who marries for a second time. One who remarries after the divorce or death of his or her spouse. "Samuel just married for the seventh time. I think the qualifies him for the title Deuterogamist of the Year."

Diddly-squat — A small, worthless amount, or meaning less than nothing. "Bring it on, buster, as far as punching goes you ain't got diddly-squat."

Diffibulate — To unbutton or to unbuckle, "Walter was so aroused and excited that he ejaculated before his wife, Falsetto, could diffibulate his trousers."

Diglot — From the late 1800's. Something that has two languages at once. "This dictionary is a diglot, it has one side written in Spanish and one side written in English." The word can also be used to describe a bilingual person.

Dilapidated —A building that is in poor condition. An object in a state of disrepair or ruin as a result of age or neglect. "Our walk took us through a part of town that had many dilapidated. Buildings." Also see Decrepit.

Dilly-Dally — To falter or move slowly. To walk slowly, or to take one's time making a decision. "Don't dilly-dally or we will miss the show." Also see Dawdle or Dally.

Dingus — Describes something hard to classify whose name is unknown or forgotten. "Bring me that dingus over there. You know, the doohickey sitting on the thingamabob." Also see Thingamabob or Doohickey.

Discombobulate — To confuse someone or someone who is confused. "I didn't say that Richard is mentally

challenged, I said he's discombobulated."

Dodgy — Dangerous or risky, "This is a pretty dodgy situation you've gotten us into." The word can also refer to a person who is suspect, dishonest, or untrustworthy. "If you want my opinion, Harry is a pretty dodgy character."

Dog House — A circus or carnival term referring to the booth where the ride operator sits. "If you want to know where George is, he's in the dog house." Also used to insinuate (suggest) that you are not happy with someone. "George, you're in the dog house."

Doggone (it) — An expression used to emphasize how bad or annoying something is. "Molly, when you invited me to spend the weekend at a nudist camp, you never mentioned these doggone biting flies."

Donniker or Donikers — A circus or carnival term for the bathroom facilities for patrons (now we call them porta potties) "Danny, it's your job to keep the donikers clean so the marks (customers) will stay and spend more moolah (money)."

Donnybrook — A fracas, free-for-all, riot or skirmish. Here is a little known fact: Donnybrook was the location of the Donnybrook Fair, held from the time of King John of England onwards. The fair became notorious for drunkenness and violence. "When Sean spilled his beer on Clancy's new shirt he started a knock-down drag-out donnybrook." Also see Brouhaha.

Don't Make No Nevermind to Me – This is an idiom (phrase or expression) for "I really don't care, one way or the other." "So what if Samantha ate the last piece of cake, it don't make no nevermind to me."

Doodad — Something hard to classify whose name is unknown or forgotten. "What's this doodad for?"

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Doodle sack or Dudelsack — (1800's). No, It's not that hairy thing under your penis, it's a German word for bagpipe. "McDuffie won the doodlesac competition at The Sarasota Florida Scottish Festival."

Doodly-Squat — Same as Diddly-Squat. A small, worthless amount. "That doesn't mean doodly-squat to me."

Doohickey — Something hard to classify whose name is unknown or forgotten. See Doodad, Dingus or Thingamabob.

Doolally — A person who is insane, irrational or crazy. "Doolally Dave just killed his best friend for belching."

Doozy — Something really good. "That was a doozy of a story, Bob, please tell us another one."

Dord — A derogatory slang word meaning someone who is dense. "Dord Denise never remembers to flush the toilet." Also a ghost word, or a word that has no definition. In 1934, the New International Merriam Webster Dictionary, accidentally printed the word dord. Dord is the only known ghost word in the Merriam Webster's Dictionary history.

Dotard — (14th century) An offensive term for someone who has lost the ability to think clearly. A person who is in his or her dotage, "When Samantha was a young woman she was considered a genius, but now in her old age she has become a dotard." Or, "He is a doddering old person."

Dowager — A woman who has inherited money, a title, or property from her deceased husband. Now we use the term widow. "Daisy, the dowager, is a daze (slut), but in December she'll be wearing a doozy of a dress to Doris's dinner dance in Denver."

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Draze — (1913) A derogatory word to describe a man or woman who is promiscuous (indiscriminate). Someone who has frequent casual sexual relations with different partners, or who is lacking in judgment or selectivity in the choice of sexual partners. "Walter is a draze, he will sleep with anyone."

Drivel — Usually very hard to understand language. Attributed to Texas lawyer Maury Maverick who coined the word in the 1940's. "I can't understand most of the drivel the comes out of George W's mouth." Also see Gobbledygook and Gibberish.

Ducat — A circus or carnival term that refers to a free pass or ticket given to someone. "Silvester earned a ducat to the carnival for helping run the Ferris wheel yesterday. It's too bad the carnival left town last night."

Dukkering — A circus or carnival term that refers to fortunetelling. "Margarita spent the whole day dukkering the voss, (reading the hands) of all the marks (customers)."

Dungarees — Another word for jeans. There was even a song called "Dungaree Doll," which was sung by Jerry Lee Lewes, in the 1950's. "Dungaree doll, dungaree doll, paint your initials on my jeans."

Dwimmer — Someone skilled in the arts of magic, or illusion, "Be careful in dealing with Merlin, he is a wizard both cunning and dwimmer."

Dwizzen — Withered, or descriptive of someone with a parched appearance. "The dwizzen faced women was very active in the retirement community."

Dyslogistic — (late 1700's), Conveying disapproval or censure. "Joseph's parents were dyslogistic when he called his sister a slut."

Words beginning with the letter "E"

Effrontery — Used to describe arrogance, boldness, nerve or confidence. "Paul's effrontery is embarrassing to the rest of his family."

Egads — An interjection. Sometimes used as an expletive or an oath. "Egads a mouse, where did it come from?"

Emacity — (1600's) A strong desire or fondness for buying things. "Emily cannot walk by a window display without her emacity kicking in."

Endue — The modern equivalent of the word is endow. To provide someone with a certain quality or trait. "Judy is endowed with the ability to make people feel at ease." The word also means to give something "He endowed his entire used Band Aid collection to his hemophiliac nephew, Boris."

Ennui —Lack of interest or boredom. "The play was so bad that I began to suffer from a bad case of ennui."

Erinaceous — Pertaining to, or resembling a hedgehog. "Although she won't know what it means, never, ever, tell your date that she is looking quite erinaceous this evening."

Eructation — Burping, belching, or passing air forcibly, "Theresa's unexpected eructation was so loud it woke up the cat who promptly passed out from the smell."

Eschew — To avoid someone or something. "Peter put a wet towel over his face to eschew his wife's foul smelling eructation."

Euphemism — The use of a word or phrase that is even more vague than the original. It is similar to a

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synonym. "To say someone has "Passed away" is a euphemism for he or she "died."

Expectorate — A word used to describe the coughing up and spitting out of phlegm, to clear the bronchial passages. "Oliver was able to expectorate the phlegm after a few hard coughs.

Eye-Candy — Used to describe an extremely good looking man or woman. "What a piece of eye candy Judy is."

Words beginning with the letter "F"

Facetious — Flippant or lighthearted. Something not meant to be taken seriously or literally. "Dang, Louise, I was just being facetious when I said I wanted to have sex with you standing up in a hammock."

Fag — No not that. It's another word for cigarette! "I'm not going there. No matter what type of sentence I use the word fag in, guy's will turn it into something sexual."

Fagot — A bundle of sticks, twigs, or branches bound together and used as fuel, a fascine (see below), or a torch. The spelling was changed to *faggot* and is now it is used as a derogatory word for a gay person.

Fagin — (late 1800's), An adult who trains others in crime, especially children. As "In the novel *Oliver Twist*, written by Charles Dickens, Fagin was a fence who trained boys as pickpockets."

Fascine - A bundle of rods, sticks, or plastic pipes bound together. They are used in construction for filling in marshy ground or other obstacles and for strengthening the sides of hills, embankments, ditches, or trenches. "They used a fascine of tree branches to get the trucks across the marshy area of the trail."

Fastidious — Used to describe someone who is fussy, or picky. "Ed is so fastidious that he refuses to use the same knife and fork twice."

Feign — To pretend or to fake, "Oliver feigned being ill to get an extra day off from work."

Fess Up — It means to own up to something. Short for confess. "When Oliver's boss saw him at the baseball game on TV, he had to fess up to his lie."

Fetter — To chain or shackle someone or something. "Fetter the goat to the railing while I milk her." Or, "This marriage makes me feel fettered."

Fiddlesticks — A trifling thing. Something that is meaningless or inconsequential. "I don't care fiddlesticks what anyone thinks of this dress, I'm going to wear it anyway." Said Charles.

Filch — To steal something, to take something that does not belong to you. "I saw you filch that man's wallet."

Fireball — A circus or carnival slang term referring to a traveling circus that earns a reputation for swindling its patrons. "I used to work at the B&B carnival, until I found out it was a fireball outfit."

Flabbergast or flabbergasted — (1765-75). I included this word just because I like the sound of it. The word almost sounds like what it does. It means to amaze, astonish, confound, perplex, confuse, or mystify. "I love to flabbergast little-minded people by first telling them I am a transsexual, then shattering their preconceptions about my gender."

Flaccid — This is another one of those words that sounds like what it is. It is used to describe something limp or drooping. "Taking Viagra will help cure your flaccid problem."

Flagellation — An act performed by a masochistic or sadistic person or persons to receive erotic stimulation from whipping or being whipped. "Once David's love of self-flagellation petered out he discovered masturbation, which later led him to have a normal attraction to women."

Flapper — From the 1920's. An exciting woman in short, stylish skirts and short hair. The term flapper can

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also be applied to some modern woman. "Elaine dresses like a flapper and gets the men all worked up at the library."

Fletch — To arrange 3 to 5-inch feathers on an arrow. Someone who does this is called a fletcher. "Soledad used pheasant feathers to fletch his arrows."

Fletching — The placing and arrangement of feathers on an arrow to stabilize it during flight. "The fletching on this fire arrow are made from phoenix feathers."

Flibbertigibbet — A Middle English word referring to a chattering, flighty or whimsical person. "Sally has no friends because she is a flibbertigibbet."

Flimflam — To deceive cheat, or swindle. "Oscar was flimflammed out of his rent money when he purchased the Brooklyn Bridge for \$500.00."

Flummox — To perplex or bewilder. "Brian is so stupid, I bet I can flummox him in less than a minute."

Flummoxed — To feel perplexed or bewildered. "Brian felt flummoxed, in thirty seconds, by Sal's question."

Fop — A man who is excessively vain and concerned about his appearance. Also see Coxcomb or Swell.

Fortnight — Is a period of two weeks (14 days). "Having nowhere else to go, Larry stayed at my house for a fortnight"

Four-flusher — A person who makes false or pretentious claims or deceives others. "You had an ace up your sleeve, you four-flushing bastard!"

Fritter — To squander one's time, money, or energy little by little on trifling matters. "I wish we hadn't frittered the afternoon away."

Frivolity or frivolous — Something that is considered to be trivial, unimportant, or inconsequential. "Riding the merry-go-round is frivolity; don't waste your money on frivolous things."

Frock — A name for a woman's old fashioned skirt or dress. "My grandmother used to wear a frock and nothing else."

Frolic — Used to describe imaginative play. To skip, or dance around with abandon (lack of inhibition). "When we were children we used to frolic around the old oak tree in my back yard."

Fubar — A military slang word for someone or something that is Fuc*ed Up Beyond All Recognition. Also see Jargon.

Funambulist — (1785), A funambulist is a tight-rope, high-wire walker or a rope dancer. "Nick Wallenda is the greatest funambulist in the world."

Funk Hole — Refers to a dugout, or a place of safe retreat. "She began to keak (cackle), and then went for her amurcous funk-hole (safe retreat or hiding place)."

Words beginning with the letter "G"

Gaff – A circus or carnival word that refers to the *mechanism* used to control a fake game, as opposed to the cradle, crank or strom which is the *handle* used to control the rigged game. "As luck would have it, the gaff to the wheel-of-fortune broke just as Geovanni pulled the cradle.

Gallivanting — To go wandering, meandering or roving. "Quit your gallivanting around, Tom, you're a married man now."

Galoot — A slang word meaning a man who is strange or foolish. "Henry, you old galoot, what brings you to this side of town?"

Galoshes – Waterproof flexible rubber overshoes worn over footwear, to protect them against moisture. "Don't forget to put your galoshes on, it's raining pretty hard outside."

Game — Originally someone who is crippled. Now, someone who is tough. Someone ready and willing to do something, "Hubert is game to try anything."

Gandy Dancers – No not the male equivalent of the rockets'. There are a few definitions of this word. 1. (1915) Originally referred to the men who repaired railroad tracks. "After the train derailed, they called in the gandy dancers to repair the tracks." 2. (1930) A carnival tern for a seller of novelties. "The gandy dancer is complaining about his spot on the midway."

Gangling — Referring to someone who is lanky, tall, or awkward. "Francis is a very gangling young man, he is going to be gawky until he gets used to his height." Also see Gawky.

Gawky — Referring to someone who is ungainly, klutzy, or clumsy. "Those high-water pants make Francis looks so gawky." Also see Gangling.

Gay — No not that! Having a lot of fun. "Come on downtown and join us, we're having a gay old time at the dance hall."

Gee Whiz — An expression of surprise like just swell, oh shoot, darn it, wow, that's grand. "Gee whiz grandpa, did you have to wait until we were in an elevator to fart?"

Geezer — (old) In the U.K. It is a reference to guy, a bloke, or a person in general. It's the British equivalent of the American slang word "dude". In the U.S. A, it is a derogatory term for a very old person, or just an old person. "Do you smell that? The old geezer who just got off the elevator with the young boy must have farted."

Gibberish — To speak drivel or gobbledygook. Hard to understand language. Attributed to Texas lawyer Maury Maverick who coined the word in the 1940's. "I can't understand most of the gibberish that comes out of Veronica's mouth."

Gigolo — A man who lives off women, sometimes performing sexual favors in return. "Angelo made a good living as a gigolo, until a jealous husband caught up with him. Now he sings soprano at the church on Sundays."

Glad rags — A persons best clothing, usually worn only on special occasions. "Put your glad rags on Cathy, we're going dancing tonight."

Glower — To scowl, or frown, "Quit glowering at me, Carl, it's not my fault you're love muscle is flaccid."

Gobbledygook — (1940's) Referring to a convoluted language that is excessively hard for anyone to understand. Writing that is complex and meaningless. "The Polish language sounds like a lot of gobbledygook

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to me." Also see gibberish and drivel.

Goggle — No, I did not misspell the search engine Google. It means to stare at with round protruding eyes. "Quit goggling my breasts you pervert, my eyes are up here!"

Going South — A circus or carnival term that refers to stealing money. It is called south because the money would go into the apron worn by the worker. "We need to beef up security around here, a lot of money is going South." Nowadays it is used to say that someone gave you a BJ. "My wife promised me that if I painted the house, she would go south on me."

Golly, (Gee) —An expression of amazement. "Golly Gee, did you see that cow fly? Don't look up!" Also Golly Gee Willikers.

Gongoozler — (1900's), An idle spectator, especially one who stares for a long time at something. A rubbernecker. "Sylvia's brother, Robert, is a real gongoozler, he sits on a bench in the park all day, and watches other people have fun."

Gregarious — A strong, soft-hearted extroverted person. "Jennifer is such a gregarious and outgoing person."

Grifters — A circus or carnival term that refers to criminals who run crooked games, shoplift, or pick pockets. "Last week the police raided the circus and arrested all of the grifters."

Grimace — Showing a scowl or frown on one's face, denoting either pain or evil. "The evil grimace on the robbers face, made Sam wet his pants."

Grind — A circus or carnival term that refers to the end of a spiel which moves the crowd into the show. "It was Ed's job to open the tent flap when the grinder

(pitch man) reached his grind."

Grinder — A circus or carnival word for a show-person who entices the crowd before the show or during intermissions with an oral pitch. See above for sentence use.

Grip — Another word for a suitcase. A grip is also part of a TV or movie production team. "Leonardo lost his grip at the airport." OR "Sal works as a grip on at a movie studio"

Groat — A small sum of money. "I don't give a groat what you think about me wearing a pink frilly shirt." In medieval times, any of the various European coins, particularly an English silver coin issued between 1351 and 1662.

Guff — (1815–25). Empty or foolish talk, back talk, or to talk insolently to someone. "Don't you give me any of your guff mister, I'm your mother, I brought you into this world, and I can take you out of it!"

Gumption — Get-up-and-go or courage, nerve, bravery. "It took a lot of gumption for Ed to attack the hijacker and take his gun away."

Words beginning with the letter "H"

Hankering — To crave or want something. "I've got a hankering for some chocolate covered grasshoppers, want to join me?"

Hare-Brained — Something that is dumb, stupid or foolish. "These are disgusting; who's hare-brained idea was it to go out for chocolate covered grasshoppers anyway?"

Hassock — Something to put your feet up on. Another word for a padded foot stool. "Harry put his feet on the hassock after he chased away the sleeping cat."

Hayburner — A gas-guzzling car. "My father's 1950 Chevy burned a lot of gas, it was a real hayburner."

Heater — In the gangster vernacular, it a term meaning gun. "Put that heater away, Carlo, there's a copper standing across the street." Commonly, a device for warming the air or water.

Heretofore — A Middle English word meaning up to the present time, or previously. "Heretofore, cell phones were a lot bigger than they are today."

Hi-Fi — Short for High Fidelity. High quality equipment used for reproducing sound, somewhat like a stereo system. "Phil played his Glen Miller records on his Hi-fi every night before he went to bed."

High School Horse — A circus or carnival term that refers to a horse who has learned to do fancy steps as part of its performance. "Inebriate, the high school horse could count to six on command, when he was sober."

Hippomania — Derived from the Greek word "hippos" meaning horse. Having an unhealthy obsession with horses, "Wanda's severe case of hippomania made

her afraid of Inebriate the high-school-horse."

Hoary – Guy's, it's not an array (collection) of Ho's, it's someone who is so old that they inspire veneration (respect or reverence). It can also be used to describe something that is white with age. "Silvester's grandfather had a hoary beard and hoary hair."

Hobnob — To converse in a friendly and casual way, "Judy went out to the diner so she could hobnob with her friends."

Hocus-Pocus — Referring to meaningless talk that is designed to draw attention away from and disguise what is actually happening. It is also a string of meaningless words often used by a person performing magic tricks. The word also means nonsense, rubbish, garbage, balderdash, malarkey, baloney, bunk, or hogwash. "Salvatore thinks psychology is a lot of hocus-pocus."

Hokum — False or irrelevant material introduced into a speech, an essay, etc., in order to arouse interest, excitement, or amusement. "The Congressman's speech contained a lot of hokum."

Hodgepodge – A mismatched bunch of "stuff." "Elizabeth's car was held together by a hodgepodge of spare parts."

Hogwash — Nonsense or baloney, something not true. "That story Bob told us was a lot of hogwash." Also see Bunk.

Honeyfugle — No it's not something you eat. It means to swindle or cheat. Being deceitful or using fakery. To deceive someone. "She used honeyfuggle to marry me, then she emptied out my bank account."

Hooch – A slang word for whiskey or alcohol. "Hey Jake, pass me that bottle of hooch, my wife just left me and stole all of my money."

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Hoochie Coochie – Also Hootchie Coochie. A sexually provocative belly dance that originated at the Philadelphia Centennial Exhibition in 1876. "My wife danced the hoochie coochie for me the other night while naked. She got me so excited that I wet myself."

Hootch Dancer – A carnival word for an early form of strip tease performed at a carnival side show. Little known fact: To earn extra money, the dancers sometimes performed other acts. Their lap dances were much like today's lap dances only more penetrating (if you know what I mean). "Man, that hootch woman was such a good dancer, that when she sat on my lap she had my pud (penis) standing at attention."

Hopper — Another word for toilet bowl. "Mindy, get off the hopper, so I can use it, before I wet my pants." Also see Crapper.

Horse Around — To play carelessly. "You boys better stop horsing around before someone gets hurt." Also see Horseplay.

Horseplay — A form of exuberant roughhousing or rough and tumble play, almost a free-for-all. "Stop that horseplay before someone gets hurt."

Hot Diggity (dog) – In use around 1950, it is an expression of awe, delight, or just plain amazement. "Hot diggity, Jane said yes when I asked her on a date."

Hotfoot – To move along quickly. "The sergeant had us hotfooting it to the parade grounds at 4 A.M." Also, a practical joke in which a match is sneakily inserted in the space between the sole and upper of the someone's shoe. The match is then lit and allowed to burn down, causing the victim pain.

Hotsy-Totsy — Excellent, or outstanding, as right as can be; perfect. "That woman I saw you with yesterday

sure was hotsy-totsy." Also see Hunky-Dory.

Houghmangandy — To have sexual intercourse with someone you are not married to (being promiscuous). "How can you accuse me of houghmagandy with Susan, when I don't even know what that means?"

Housecoat — A robe, wrap or loose dress that women used to wear around the house. A fancy bathrobe. "Gretchen, take off that housecoat, and let's get it on."

Hunky-Dory — Fine or satisfactory "Everything around here is hunky dory since my sex life improved." Also see Hotsy-totsy.

Hyperbole — To exaggerate or overemphasize something. A deliberate and obvious exaggeration. "Those chocolate covered grasshoppers taste so good, I could eat a million of them."

Words beginning with the letter "I"

Icebox — Another word for refrigerator. Before the invention of the modern refrigerator, Food would be kept cold in a lined box where a block of ice was placed. The "Ice Man" would come twice a week to replace the melted ice with a new block. "We kept our money in the icebox so we would always have some cold cash on hand."

Idiot-Stick — Anything so simple to use, that an idiot can use it. "That TV remote is an idiot stick, but George can't seem to figure out how to use it. What does that make him?"

Ignoscency — Forgiveness or someone with a forgiving nature. "Before he died, Barabbas was shown Ignoscency by Christ."

Ilk — Of the like. Describing a kind or sort of person or thing that is similar. "Those damn politicians, they're all of the same ilk, no matter what they promise, they never deliver."

Illywhacker — No, it's not another word for masturbation. It's an Australian slang word meaning con man, or a small time confidence man or woman. "Theresa the illywhacker made a lot of money selling plunger bottoms as breast enlargement equipment to gullible women "

Impignorate — No, not to impregnated a pig. To pawn or mortgage something. "Dudley had to impigorate his blow-up doll to pay his mortgage."

Imprecation — (1800's) A curse or a malediction (magical word). More than simply the use of bad language, it's more of a prayer that harm will come to

someone. The act of invoking evil upon someone, "If you really don't like someone you can shout out an imprecation at them." Also see malediction.

In His Cuffs — A euphemism for "He's drunk." Used to describe someone who is drunk or intoxicated. "Brian was in his cuffs, when he fell down the back steps of the One Night Stand hourly rate motel."

Indisposed – Unwilling to say or do something. Another word for unwilling, disinclined, reluctant, or loath. "I was indisposed to give him the money he requested." Also another way of saying slightly sick or ill, feeling poorly, or under the weather. "My wife is indisposed and can't make it tonight."

Interrobang — (‽) No, this is not a new way of interrogating women. It is a printed punctuation mark that combines the question mark and the exclamation point. The symbol is actually a question mark over the top of an exclamation point. "Have you ever seen an interrobang before?"

Iron Jaw — A circus term that refers to an aerial act where an aerialist swings and does tricks while hanging from a suspended mouth piece. "Josh has an iron jaw, just look at the way he hangs there holding onto the trapeze with his mouth."

Ithyphallic — Grossly indecent or obscene. Relating to the phallus carried in the ancient festival of Bacchus. Someone having an erect penis. "Sam's ithyphallic state, while in public, was embarrassing to his wife."

Words beginning with the letter "J"

Jake — Everything is okay or alright. "The fact that Robert is gay is Jake with me; the fact that he keeps grabbing my butt isn't".

Jargogle — To befuddle, confuse, jumble or mess up. "Please stop talking to me about quantum physics, I don't need you to jargogle my brain any more than it is."

Jargon — Slang. Language that is used by a particular group, profession, or culture, where the words and phrases are not understood by other people. "Unless you are a member of the armed forces, their jargon sounds like gobbledygook."

Java — A slang word for Coffee. "Let's go to Starbucks and have a cup of java." Also referred to as "Joe."

Jawhole — A cesspool or sewer entrance. "Elijah slipped and fell into the jawhole while trying to jump over it"

Jeepers Creepers — A word used to express surprise or dismay. A euphemism for Jesus Christ. This is from the song by the same name, ". . . Jeepers Creepers! Where'd ya get those peepers? On! Those weepers! How they hypnotize! Yeah! Where'd ya get those eyes?"

Jemmy — Variant of the word jimmy. A refers to a burglar's short crowbar. To force things open. "The thief was trying to jemmy (or jimmy) the window on the second floor of the home, when the homeowner came home. He accedently fell and broke his arm when the ladder slipped."

Jocular — Also jocularity. Funny, humorous, or flippant. Given to joking. "Mark was in a jocular mood,

until his prostate exam by Dr. banana finger."

Joey — A circus or carnival nickname for a clown. The term "Joey" originally referenced the famous English clown, Joseph Grimaldi, who lived and worked during the 18th century. In Australia a joey refers to a young animal, especially a baby kangaroo. "That joey with the big red nose sure looks funny."

Jocko — A circus or carnival term for a chimpanzee. "Did you see what that jocko did? He pooped in his hand a threw it at the spectators!"

Joining — A circus or carnival term referring to fixing a game so that no one can win. "Boy, there are a lot of carnival terms for rigging games to keep people from winning, I think joining is number six or eight."

Jollux — Slang phrase used in the late 18th century to describe a fat person. "Oh, he's a bit of a jollux."

Jolterhead — Someone with a large or heavy head. Also someone who is a clumsy oaf. A blockhead. Justin is such a jolterhead, he just fell up the stairs and banged his giant head on the step.

Juice — A circus or carnival term that refers to bribes paid to local law enforcement, so that the show could go on. "Harry, go out and give this juice to the police captain waiting outside."

Words beginning with the letter "K"

Keak — To cackle or laugh strangely. "Bartholomew, quit keaking, it's making me nervous."

Keister — (1880's) Originally this word referred to a handbag, suitcase, safe, where a thief kept his ill-gotten gains. Now it is a slang word for your buttocks. "Judy has a very nice keister."

Kick — A carnival term that refers to the place where a carny keeps his money. "The bearded woman found out where the owner kept his kick, stole it, and ran away with the rubber man." Also see Keister.

Kickie-Wickie — A wife. A witty word for wife derived from Shakespeare. Some say it's a derogatory term on a par with kitchen-wench, "My kickie-wickie is home watching the rug rats, while we take in this porn flick."

Killjoy — Someone who spoils all of the fun. Barry, your Kickie-Wickie is a real killjoy, she took away our inflatable dolls." Also see Squelcher.

Kip — A British slang word mostly meaning bed. "Hey Janice, lets jump into the kip and have some fun." The word can also mean a rooming house; a room or a bed in a rooming house, get some rest, or a bit of sleep. "After working for fourteen hours straight, we were all ready for the kip."

Knark — Pronounced "Nark." Originally a word used to describe a hard-hearted or savage person. In modern terms it means to tell on someone especially in dealing with illegal drugs. "Barry pulled a knark on Stephan and told the police where he kept his drugs."

Words beginning with the letter "L"

Labeorphily — The collection and study of beer bottle labels. "Leonardo the Lush said he drank all of the beer so that he could use the labels for his labeorphily collection."

Labiomancy – No, it has nothing to do with dead Labrador retrievers. It is the art or practice of lip reading. "Leonard studied labiomancy in collage so he could help deaf people."

Lactifluous — Flowing or overflowing with milk. "Margaret's breast were lactifluous after she had the baby."

Ladronism – The practice of banditry or robbery. Bonnie and Clyde committed ladronism throughout the south until they were cornered and killed by the police."

Lagniappe – An Australian word for a gratuity. "We gave our Australian guide a large lagniappe when the tour was over."

Lambaste – Originally it meant to beat or whip someone severely, or to give them a good thrashing. "Harley threatened to lambaste anyone who trespassed on his property." Now the word means to scold sharply, berate chew out, or, reprimand. "From where I was sitting I could hear the basketball coach lambaste the referees."

Lexiphile — A lover of words. Some lexophiles simply collect words which they think are unusual or interesting. Others are fond of word play, and may use everyday words differently than others. "To write with a broken pencil is---pointless." Or "The batteries were given out--free of charge." A lexophile may also accumulate lists of

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obscure words, or look for words with meanings which have changed over time. "My brother sent me an email with some phrases that lexiphiles would love."

Liberty Act — A circus or carnival term that refers to horses that perform tricks without human riders. "The equestrian liberty act proudly promoted Percy the palomino properly prancing prettily along the protruding platform patiently performing his tricks."

Lickety-Split-As quickly as possible. As fast as you possibly can. Immediately. "Let's get this job done lickety-split, I've got a date with a lexiphile tonight."

Lingo — A language or form of speech. A dialect. "You had better call Charlie, he speaks their lingo." Also see Argot.

Liripoop — (1913) A part of clothing, the tail of a hood or cloak, or a long-tailed hood, like the tail of a graduate's hood. "His liripoop hung down the graduates back when the hood was off."

Loath — To be reluctant to do something, "Delilah was so good in bed, that Samson was loath to kill her after she cut his hair."

Logophile — Someone who is a lover of words. "Alice is a true logophile, she tries to learn a new word every day."

Logomaniac — A person who is obsessed with words. "Nancy is a logomaniac, she carries around two dictionaries with her all the times."

Lollapalooza — An extraordinary, exceptional or unusual thing, person, or event. "That Hoochie Coochie woman at the circus was a lollapalooza, wasn't she?"

Lollop- To run or walk with a bouncing or bobbing motion. Similar to prancing. "Keven raced off after the

Antaeus

robber and lolloped back victoriously with a Mary's purse held high."

Lollygag — To dawdle or spend time aimlessly. Also to delay or to fool around. To waste time doing unimportant things, or to keep someone wanting by being slow (lollygagging). "Quit lollygagging around you two, and put those empty bottles back in the truck." Also see dawdle.

Lot Lice — A circus or carnival term that refers to children of performers and workers who grow up under the big top. "Get those lot lice outa sight before we get arrested for not sending them to school."

Words beginning with the letter "M"

Malediction — (1400's) The calling down of a curse on someone, by uttering a magical word or phrase "Damn you to hell, that's mutiny Mister Christian!". Also see Imprecation.

Malefactor — A person who commits an evil act, a wrongdoer or reprobate. Also a person who has done something illegal and has been or will be convicted, "Sylvia is the malefactor who was videotaped stealing money from her mother's account."

Mark — Originally, a circus or carnival term that refers to the townsperson that has been chosen as a victim. There are five other words to describe a local victim, chump, mooch, Clem, emby and lugen (which refers to a really stupid mark). "It might be just me, but after researching this book, it seems that the carny people have a lot of words for stealing, rigging games, and the people they will be stealing from."

Masticate — No not that word that's masturbate. This one means to chew something thoroughly. "If you don't masticate your food properly you will get an upset stomach."

Maudlin — Self-pitying. Tearfully sentimental, especially after drinking alcohol in excess. "Larry the Lush becomes very maudlin after twenty or thirty shots of tequila."

Maulifuff — A woman with little energy. A fussy female who does little or nothing. "Claudia, the maulifuff, watched TV all day. Meanwhile her husband worked two jobs to support her beer habit."

Melee — A fracas, free-for-all, riot or skirmish.

"When it looked like his brother was losing, Mark jumped into the middle of the melee." Also see Donnybrook, Rumpus, and Brouhaha.

Merkin — (1617) An artificial covering of hair worn on the pubic area. Such "pubic wigs" are used in the theater and film world as modesty devices during nude scenes. "I quote Eric Partridge, noted lexicographer of the English language, when I say a merkin is an artificial vagina for lonely men"

Mimeograph — A machine used for making copies, using an inked stencil rotated on a cylinder across the pages. "In the 1950's people used a mimeograph machine to make copies."

Mimetic — Also spelled mimic. Representational of, or imitative of. "Johnson's small phallus size was a mimetic of his mind."

Mischance — An accident or bad luck/ill fortune, "Martha had one mischance in her race for the gold medal; she broke her ankle."

Miscomfrumple — To crease or rumple, "We are late because my wife had to iron her miscomfrumpled dress."

Misconstrue — To misunderstand something or to mistake someone's motives or intentions. "Please don't misconstrue my intentions toward you, Herald, I am not asking to sleep with you, I just want to take you out for lunch."

Misogynist — A person who hates, dislikes, mistrusts, or mistreats women. "Mary lost her job at the gynecologist's office because she was a misogynist."

Mollycoddle — To treat someone leniently. "No matter what her son does, Beatrice will always mollycoddle him."

Disremembered Words

Monocle — (1886) No, it's not someone with one testicle, that would be a Monorchid. It's from the Greek word monos (single or alone). A single eyeglass, kept in position by the muscles around the eye. "Hercule Poirot removed an alabaster rimmed monocle from his vest pocket, and examined the piece of broken pottery.

Monorchid — Refers to a person or animal with only one testicle. "Eugene used to love tea-bagging, until someone bit down too hard, now he is a monochid."

Moolah — A carnival word for money. "We made a lot of moolah this weekend boss."

Moxie — The ability to face difficulty with spirit and courage, also called gumption. "Jumping into that shark infested water to save that iPhone took a lot of moxie, but it was also brainless of you."

Words beginning with the letter "N"

Nacket — No, it does not mean without clothes, it is a mischievous or brattish boy. "Did you report that nacket caddie at the golf course this morning."

Nannicock — A derogatory term for a man who dresses like a woman, a transvestite. "I can't believe that I kissed that nanicock!

Niggard — First used around the 1300's, the word refers to a miserly person, especially one who gives gifts, but in a grudging manner. "Waverley, quit acting so niggardly, and buy you wife a real wedding ring!"

Nincompoop — A word from the 1600's that describes a silly, foolish, or stupid person. It is also used to describe an extremely naive or incompetent person. "Quincy, you're a stupid nincompoop, you forgot to make return flight reservations, now were stuck here for another day." Also see Ninny.

Ninny — Shortened version of nincompoop. A derogatory term for a fool or a simpleton (blockhead, bonehead) or a silly, idiotic person. This word can also be used affectionately, "You went into the girl's bathroom by mistake, silly ninny!"

Ninnyhammer — Describes a fool or simpleton. "Quincy, you're a stupid ninnyhammer, you forgot to make return flight reservations, again, now were stuck here for the weekend." Also see Ninny and Nincompoop.

Nitpicking — A fussy, finicky, faultfinding person. "Quinn is such a nitpicking person that no one wants to work with him." Also see Persnickety.

Noisome — Something or someone that is foul. "You're such a noisome person, I wish someone would

Disremembered Words

break your neck."

Nonchalant — To be calm, cool or indifferent when others are concerned. "Barry acts very nonchalant when it comes to the way women are treated, but I happen to know that he is a very loving and caring person.

Nudiustertian — (1647) The word means the day before yesterday. "I'd ordered the doohickey on-line for \$75.00 that nudiustertian morning, and I was not expecting it to arrive until the following week.

Nut — A circus or carnival term that refers to a show's operating expenses. Today salesmen refer to "making their nut," when they make their quota of sales. "Every time that Goeff got close to making his nut, they raised his quota, so he left and took his customers with him.

Nutmegs — A slang word for testicles, "Oh, James, I am sooo sorry. I thought you asked me to *kick* your nutmegs."

Words beginning with the letter "O"

Oach — A circus or carnival term that refers to skimming some money from your take. The boss had the strongman break Samey's arm when he found out Samey was oaching."

Octothorpe — Coined in the 1960s by researchers at Bell Telephone Laboratories, it is just one of a plethora of names for the # symbol. On the telephone keypad or keyboard # is called the pound symbol, number sign, hash or crosshatch. Today it is called a hashtag. "#DisrememberedWords."

Oleaginous — Having the nature or qualities of oil. Oily and greasy---more so a person; excessive and false earnestness; ingratiating. "With his slicked-back hair and shiny face, Ralph certainly looks like an oleaginous character."

Onolatry — Worship of the donkey or ass. Also: excessive admiration for, or devotion to, foolishness or a foolish thing. "If the practice of onolatry doesn't have to do with worshiping the human behind, why would anyone perform it?"

Ornery — The word "ornery" began as "ordinary." In the days when you were either of the "gentle" class or merely "ordinary," parents would say to their stubborn children who refused to do as they were told. "Don't be so ordin'ry.

Now it is used to describe a person who is mean-spirited, disagreeable, and contrary in disposition.

Disagreeable: "No one can get along with my ornery cousin."

Stubborn: "I can't do a thing with that ornery mule."

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Habitually bad tempered: "He is an ornery old man who always yells at the neighborhood kids to stay off his sidewalk."

Ort — A word from the 1400's meaning a scrap or morsel of food left at a meal. "Xavier was so hungry, he didn't leave an ort of food on his plate." (It's used a lot in crossword puzzles)

Ossified — Another euphemism to describe a drunken person. "Claudia was so ossified, she couldn't get up the stairs to her apartment, so she slept in the first floor hallway."

Ostentatious — Someone or something that is flashy or showy. Especially inanimate objects. "That piece of jewelry you are wearing is way too ostentatious for a luncheon."

OWL — No, not the bird of Athena, the Greek goddess of practical reason. It is an acronym meaning Older Wiser Lesbian. "Let's go see Catrina, she's an OWL and she will know what we should do about getting married."

Oxter — (1490–1500), The armpit. From the Old English oxta or ohsta. "George's powerful oxter odor cleared the conference room in a rush."

Words beginning with the letter "P"

Paizogony — Necking, or love-play. "How about coming over to my place for a little paizogony."

Palingenesis — Rebirth; reincarnation Its meaning stems from the Greek words palin (meaning again), and genesis (meaning birth). "John Masefield the Poet Laureate of England believed in palingenesis."

Pansexualism – Is a relatively new class of sexual identity. It is characterized by physical or romantic attraction to others, regardless of their gender identity or biological sex. Sometimes called omnisexuality the prefix word is derived from the Greek Pan, meaning "all."

Paracoitus – A male sexual partner. "Larry's latest paracoitus was a tall, twenty-something, well-muscled specimen."

Parthenology – The study of virgins or virginity. "Now that I am out of college, I would love to receive a grant to continue with my parthenology study."

Parthophobia – The fear of virgins. "Roger claims he has parthophobia, so he will only sleep with divorced women."

Parlor — Another word for living room or sitting room. "My grandparents used to have plastic covered furniture in their parlor, that no one was allowed to sit on."

Paste — A circus or carnival term that refers to the imitation jewelry the performers would wear. "Fortunately, the thief didn't get away with the real necklace. The one he took was made of paste."

Pedal Pushers – Women's pants that are now called "Capri" pants. "Linda's pedal pushers were so tight they

Disremembered Words

looked like they were painted on."

Pejorative — Disapproving derogatory uncomplimentary. "Elaine isn't speaking to her husband, because he kept making pejorative remarks about her new dress."

Pelf — (1300's) Money or wealth, especially when regarded with contempt or acquired by reprehensible means, or dishonestly acquired. "Frodo made his pelf as a carpetbagger."

Percolate – Liquid passing through a filter, or water passing through the earth's layers. "In my younger daze (days), coffee would be put into a pot with water and allowed to percolate."

Percolator — An old fashioned coffee maker. "After a few minutes on the heat, the water began to boil and the percolator began to percolate the water through the coffee grounds."

Persnickety — A painstaking, meticulous, and demanding person. "Don't be so persnickety, eat your sandwich. My hands *are* clean, I washed then last week." Also see Nitpicking.

Phallus — An erect penis, or a penis- shaped object. Sometimes a mimetic (representational) image of an erect penis. "When he became aroused, Johnson's phallus measured just short of four inches long."

Philocomal — Either love of hair or attention to the hair. Paying too much attention to the care of the hair. "Rapunzel Longlocks is philocomal about her long, red hair."

Pickle — Used to describe a tough situation. "Jeff is in a real pickle, his wife just came home and found him sleeping with her sister."

Picture Show – Officially: A form of entertainment that enacts a story by sound and a sequence of images giving the illusion of continuous movement. Another name for films, mostly used in the USA "Let's go to the movies or theater and see a picture show!"

Pillory or (Pilloried) – Originally a wooden framework set on a post, with holes for the head and hands. "Jeb was sentenced to three days in the pillory for pinching the mayor's wife's buttocks." The word also means to ridicule or humiliate someone for something they said or did. "Hyrum was pilloried by his friends for his political orientation."

Pinion — To bind or hold fast. This word was derived from the word "pinioning" which originally meant to trim a bird's wing to prevent it from flying away. It also means to restrain or immobilize someone. "The thief pinioned Tom's arms behind his back before ransacking his house."

Plaster — A circus or carnival term that refers to cheap prizes made of plaster that look like they are worth more than they are. "Why is it that almost every word that has to do with a circus or carnival, is about sex or cheating, and now about the cheap plaster prizes they give out."

Platonic — A nonsexual relationship involving friendship, affection, or love without sexual relations between the parties. "Danny's relationship with his teacher was strictly platonic."

Plethora — A word used to describe and overabundance or surplus of something. "Mary has a plethora of silver bells and cockle shells in her garden."

Pocketbook — Another word for a woman's purse. "Is that your pocketbook on the chair?"

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Poignant — Anything affecting or moving the emotions. "Elroy's poem about his boundless love for his wife, was so poignant it moved everyone in the audience to tears."

Poke — A circus or carnival term that referring to money belonging to a carny. "Keeping your poke safe while on the road is a full-time job."

Pollinctor — (1800's) A person who prepares a dead body for cremation or embalming, or one who prepared corpses for the funeral. Today we call these people "undertakers" (Much easier to say). "I would not want Sam's job; he supports his family by working as a pollinctor at the funeral home."

Polydipsia — (1650's) Someone having excessive or abnormal thirst. "Charles has polydipsia, and drinks thirty glasses of water a day."

Pompous — Someone who is self-important. "Gary is a pompous ass!"

Poppycock — No not a flower's penis. Something that is nonsense. Empty talk or writing. "Tom's prediction that there will be telephones without wires is a bunch of poppycock!"

Portend — Foretell, give warning, act as an omen, "All those people banging on our door portend that something unpleasant, is about to happen."

Possum Belly — A circus or carnival term that referring to the box under a wagon used for storage. "Neal kept his poke in the possum belly of his wagon"

Prattle — To utter or make meaningless sounds suggestive of the chatter of children. To talk in a foolish or simple-minded way. "Quit your prattling, can't you see I'm trying to read!"

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Prick — No not that! To puncture something or someone. "Oscar pricked himself with a pin to stay awake."

Prissy — No, not an overly feminine person. It's someone who is prim and proper, and very straitlaced. "Fauntleroy, if you continue to keep your nose in the air, people will think you are prissy."

Procrastinate — No, it's not a professional castrator. It means to drag your feet, or to put off doing something. "If you continue to procrastinate, your homework will never get done."

Prognosticate — To predict, foresee or to forecast an event before it happens. Lilly says she can prognosticate when a tornado will come."

Pshaw — A word used to express a contempt for something, or a feeling of disbelief. "Me, afraid of poison? Pshaw, I spit on poison."

Pud — The old English word for penis. The Online Slang Dictionary defines pud as "a man's penis," but does not give its origin. "Jimmy's mother caught him pulling his pud, so she broke all his fingers."

Pummel — To beat, pound or punch someone. "After Jimmy's mother broke all of his fingers for pulling his pud, she pummeled him." Also see Wallop.

Pussyfoot — No it's not a cat's foot. The word means to move quietly and usually very secretly. To tiptoe or creep. "Quit your pussyfooting around and go out and play."

Words beginning with the letter "Q"

Quadragenarian — If you are between forty and fifty years of age, this is you. "Alice turned forty today, that makes her a quadragenarian.

Quadrille — There are lots of meanings for this word. The word is of French origin. It means a kind of square dance in 2/4 time, composed of five sections, and performed by four couples. "I was told that Karen happily danced a half dozen *quadrilles* and thanked her hosts for a fun evening."

It is also a piece of music for a quadrille dance, or each of four groups of riders who are taking part in a tournament. The groups are distinguished by special costumes or colors.

Quaint — Something that is old-fashioned or charming. "Isn't that a quaint dress viola is wearing?"

Quat — A pimple or pustule. Also used to describe an insignificant person. "You quat," or "Don't mind him, he's just a quat on a pigs behind."

Quincunx — Is an arrangement of five objects in a square or rectangle, one at each corner and one in the middle. "When Gypsy shook the jar and tossed the rocks into the circle, they formed a perfect quincunx. She looked in horror at me, and drew a magical sign in the air between us. She began to chant, "Even a man who is pure in heart, and says his prayers by night, may become a wolf when the Wolfsbane blooms, and the autumn moon is bright. *"

*A quote from the 1941 horror movie titled "The Wolf Man," starring Lon Chaney, Jr.

Words beginning with the letter "R"

Racket — A circus or carnival term that referring to any operation that uses deception to dupe people out of their money. "Here we go again yet another carnival racket word."

Ragamuffin — Another word for "waif." Used more to describe a poorly clothed and often dirty child, "The little ragamuffin was so hungry, she ate the entire apple pie that was cooling in the window."

Raillery — Good-humored teasing or joking; like when you laugh and make fun of someone, but in a friendly way. "There was a bit of raillery going on between Sam and Fred, when Fred told Sam his nose was blocking the sun."

Rambunctious – Someone who is uncontrollably excitable or exuberant. "Raymond, don't be so rambunctious because you finally have a date."

Ramification — The unintended consequence of an action, or decision, which would make the desired result more difficult to achieve. "Stephen lost his queen as a ramification of his erroneous move of the knight."

Ramshackle — Something in a state of severe disrepair, or that is badly in need of repair, like a house with a sagging roof. "The once wealthy old man, now lived in a ramshackle house at the edge of town." Also see Dilapidated.

Ransack — To rob, despoil or to plunder, "Call the police, our house has been ransacked."

Rapscallion — A rascal, or scamp or a disreputable person. "Jordan, you old rapscallion you, how have you been since you were released from prison."

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Raspberry — Another word for the Bronx cheer.

Ratoon — No, not a cartoon about rats, or the offspring of interbreeding rats and raccoons. It's a small shoot growing from the root of a plant. "Finally, after three years of TLC, Judy's orchid grew a ratoon."

Reading the Midway — A circus or carnival term referring to someone who is walking around with their head down, looking for money or valuables on the ground. "While reading the midway, Jake found a ten-dollar bill."

Rectalgia — No not an insignia (badge) featuring a rectum. It's a rather descriptive term for a person who is a pain in the butt, "Get out of here you rectalgia!"

Reprobate — I love this word. It can mean so many things. It can define someone as a degenerate or a troublemaker. It can also mean someone is a depraved, unprincipled, or wicked person. In the extreme it is a person rejected by God and beyond hope of salvation. "Claudia the callipygian is a drunken reprobate."

Respite — Giving relief, a calm interval or break, "At the fifteenth mile, the Sargent gave us a five-minute respite from our thirty-mile march."

Ridibund — This is an 1800's word. It means someone who is easily moved to laughter, "Don't mind her, she is ridibund"

Riffraff — People who are considered to belong to a low social or economic group, and are thought not to know how to behave correctly in social situations. "Get that riffraff out of here."

Rigmarole — Something that is a hassle, or a fuss. "What is all this rigmarole about?"

Rogue — An unprincipled, deceitful, and unreliable

person; a scoundrel or rascal. Or, a vicious and solitary animal, especially an elephant that has separated itself from its herd. "Billy is quite the rogue."

Rosin-back — A circus or carnival term that refers to a horse which is used for bareback riding. Rosin was sprinkled on the horses back to prevent the riders from slipping. "That rosin-back stomped his trainers head in, then urinated on it."

Rubbers — A pliable, waterproof overshoe, worn over normal shoes to protect them in wet weather or snow. It is also a slang word for condom. "Put your rubbers on boys, it looks like it might rain, and we don't want your feet to get wet." Or "Boys, be sure to put your rubbers on before you have sex with the hoochie coochie girls."

Ruddy — A word meaning reddish or rosy. Someone's complexion. "Phil has a ruddy complexion."

Rumble Seat — A folding passenger seat on the back of some early automobile. Not unlike some of the folding seats in today's autos. "Barbara got to ride in the rumble seat the last time, it's my turn now."

Ruminating — It is what cows do when the partly digested food (cud) is returned from the first stomach to the mouth for further chewing. As our ancestors used to say, chew the cud.

In humans it means to turn a matter over and over in your mind, or to think carefully and deeply about something. "We ruminated on the nature of why there is always lint in our belly buttons."

Rump — Slang word for your buttocks. Also the fleshy hindquarters of a four-legged mammal, not including its legs. "Boy that Judy has a sexy rump."

Rumpus — A commotion or disturbance. "Guy's

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insistence on having another drink caused a rumpus when the bartender refused him." Also see Brouhaha.

Words beginning with the letter "S"

Saccharine — Someone who is excessively sweet and ingratiating, i.e. a suck up (ass kisser). "I don't trust your new boyfriend; he acts too saccharine for my taste."

Sallow — Having yellow or pale brown skin. A sickly, yellowish color. "We knew Olivier was very sickly, he had a high fever, and a sallow complexion."

Salopettes — High waist skiing pants with shoulder straps. "Why are you wearing salopettes in the middle of summer?"

Sashay — To go somewhere, usually wiggling one's butt. Hey Martha, why don't you sashay over here, and I'll buy you a drink.

Scadoodle — A heap or large amount of something. The word also means to get away or run away. "Jefferson tried to scadoodle with a scads (lots) of money." Also see Scads.

Scads — Large numbers or quantities. Also see Scadoodle.

Sallywag — A scoundrel, rogue, villain, swindler or trickster. "Watch out for Eirene at the carnival, I'm told he is a sallywag."

Scamp — A rogue or mischief-maker. "Al is the biggest scamp I know."

Scaramouche — A stock character in the Italian commedia, a bragger and cowardly buffoon. "That Scaramouch, Orlando, bragged about how brave he was, then ran away when a mouse got in the house."

Scofflaw — Someone who contemptuously breaks

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the law, especially a law that's difficult to enforce. "When it comes to unpaid parking tickets Henry is the world's biggest scofflaw."

Scrill — A circus or carnival slang word for money. "The mark was taken for all his scrill by the fortune teller."

Scrippage — Your baggage and personal belongings. "Will you give me a ride to the airport, the airline just found my scrippage."

Scurrying — To go rushing, or dashing off. Or to move at a hurried pace, with small fast steps. to Scamper, Scurry, or Run off. "The rat went scurrying off."

Scuttlebutt — A cask of water or a drinking fountain on a modern-day ship, or naval or marine base. Also means rumor, gossip. "We all stood by the drinking fountain and listened the most recent scuttlebutt."

Serendipity — The occurrence or development of events that by chance end in a happy or beneficial way. Finding good things without looking for them, or having unexpected good luck. "The detective finding that secret room was a fortunate stroke of serendipity."

Settee — Another word for Couch. Also a comfortable seat for two or more people. "Walter came home unexpectedly and found Alice and Maria on the settee kissing. Being of an open mind, he asked if he could join them."

Sheba — A very sexy, seductive woman. "Walter's wife, Alice, was pretty, but Maria was a Sheba, so Walter kissed Maria first."

Shenanigan — Silly behavior. "Their sexual appetites sedated, Walter, Alice and Maria all laughed when the shenanigans were over."

Similes – Similar to a metaphor except that where a simile compares two items, a metaphor directly equates them. A figure of speech where two unlike things are compared. "Those people waiting in line look like sheep." A metaphor would be " Those people waiting in line are sheep."

Skedaddle — To run off or run away. "In the end, Alice and Maria skedaddled with all of Walters money." Also see Skidoo, and Vamoose.

Skeevy — New York/New Jersey slang word for morally or physically repulsive. Also disgusting, or sleazy, those that guy is skeevy. The word originates for the Italian word "schifo" which means to disgust or nauseate. "After the threesome was over Alice felt skeevy."

Skidoo — To leave, or run away. "Walter was sorry he didn't skidoo before Alice and Maria did." See Skedaddle, and Vamoose.

Skullduggery — Deception, dishonesty, trickery, or mischief. "Walter's mother told him that's what happens when you get involved in skullduggery."

Slap-Happy — Crazy, insane. "With his wife gone away with her lover, and no money in the bank Walter went slap-happy." Also see Bojangle, or Cock-Eyed.

Sleazy — Corrupt, Immoral, Dishonest, Crooked, "Alice was quite a sleazy person."

Sluggard — Coined around 1350–1400, the word refers to a slow or lazy person, or a person who is habitually inactive or lazy. A sluggardly person, "Get off your backside and weed the yard, you sluggard!"

Slum — A circus or carnival term that refers to very cheap prizes purchased in bulk for \$1.00 a gross. This merchandise is also referred to as hooch or plaster. "I

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need to order more slum; the marks are eating that plaster up.

Snazzy — Something or someone that/who looks smart, stylish, or nice looking. "Boy, Walter looks snazzy now that he hit the lottery, I'll bet his wife Alice is sorry she left him."

Sniggering — When someone is laughing, or giggling so hard that they begin snorting making a disgusting noise through their nose, that sounds like a swine. "Stop that sniggering you sound like a pig."

Snocker — Yet another word for someone who is drunk, or intoxicated. "Let's get snocker at Walter's divorce party."

Snooker — To cheat or deceive. One who has been cheated has been snookered. "Marlow was snookered out of a week's pay at the carnival. Also a billiard (similar to pool) game.

Snookums — A term of endearment for either a male or female. "My little snookums."

Snuggle bunny — The female, or male, person you get close to in bed. "Come to bed my beautiful and sexy snuggle bunny."

Spiel — A speech or pitch. Sometimes called a flimflam, or guff. "I had to listen to the used car dealers spiel, before he would let me take the car for a test drive."

Squelcher — Someone who seeks to suppress or put a stop to something. "Yolanda tried to squelch her ticket before her husband found out about it."

Steganography — The art of secret hidden writing. Considered by some to be the dark cousin of cryptography, it was used by spies to send invisible

messages to their cohorts. The word now means to hide secret data by encoding it electronically in another, innocuous file, such as an image or video. "They used steganography to hide their plans."

Sternutation — (1500's) The act of someone sneezing or the sound of someone sneezing. "Guy's sternutation was so loud and hard, it caused him to fart at the same time. That's what started the neighborhood dogs barking."

Stout — This word has two meanings. It usually means heavy or fat. It can also refer to someone who is brave or courageous. the song, "Give me some men who are stout-hearted man, and I'll soon give you 10,000 more." *Sigh; they don't write songs like that anymore--- just kidding.*

Straitlaced — Someone who is moralistic, a goody-goody, very proper or prudish. "Stan is so straitlaced he's never had sex." Also see Prissy.

Strom — A circus or carnival term that refers to the handle or pedal that controls a rigged game. "Harley was known for his heavy hand on the Strom."

Struggle Buggy — The backseat of a car, where you make a great physical effort to have sexual intercourse. "Hey, Bobby, get a load of Don's new struggle buggy. Boy, is he going to score with that!"

Succor — No, that's a sucker. This word means to give aid or assistance to someone in distress. To be succored is to be aided. Instead of, "Sylvia gave aid and comfort to Ralph. You would say Sylvia gave succor to Ralph." (*Guy's don't go there.*)

Sully — To defile or make unclean. Something or someone that has been soiled. "Alfred was so fearful of the dog that he sullied his pants."

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Supercilious — Someone who thinks very highly of themselves. "You're more than stuck-up (snobbish), you're a supercilious jerk!"

Swab — In military jargon a word for a mop, which is used mostly by Navy personnel. A large mop used on shipboard for cleaning decks, living quarters. "Hey, sailor, get your ass busy swabbing those decks."

Swabbie or Swabby — In military jargon a slang word in the United States Navy or Coast Guard for a sailor. Derived from the word swab (above), meaning to mop. "Hey, Swabbie, is that a banana in your pocket, or are you just glad to see me?"

Swanky — Using one's wealth, knowledge, or achievements to try to impress others. Something elegant or ostentatious A luxurious place. "After Barry took his girlfriend to a really swanky place for dinner, he got lucky."

Swarthy — (1570 or 80) Having dark or leathery skin or complexion, or skin that is overly tanned. "After Harley fell asleep on the beach in the sun, he shouldn't have been surprised when his friends called him 'Swarthy Harley!'"

Swell —The word is also used in modern times to mean you are feeling well. "Those drugs are starting to kick in and I am really feeling swell right now." Also see Coxcomb or Fop.

Swing — A circus or carnival term that refers to stealing money from your boss. "Rudy put the swing in a safe place until after the show." *Wow! This is the sixth circus word for stealing money. There must be a lot of stealing going on in the circus.*

Swoon — To faint or pass out, "Beverley's overly tight corset caused her to swoon. When she woke up it

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was missing and so was her date."

Sybarite — A person who is devoted to the life of luxury and sensual pleasure. "Fred hit the lottery, now he is living the sybarite lifestyle, with six pole dancers for roommates."

Words beginning with the letter "T"

Tad — A little bit. "Ray is a tad lazy, he always sleeps late."

Tallywhacker — The part of a man's anatomy that is rigid and erect during sexual intercourse. Okay, I could have just said that it's another slang word for a man's penis, (doh, as if a woman had one.), but the first line was more fun. "Gosh, Anthony, your tallywacker looks like it has been through a ringer. Is that because you went see those hoochie coochie girls?"

Tarnation — Used to express anger or annoyance or dissatisfaction. "Now why in tarnation would you want to go and hit my tallywacker with that fly swatter." It' like saying "hell".

Tarry — To wait or pause, "Sylvester tarried for a while in Jacksonville, Florida, on his way to Sarasota."

Tawdry — Cheap, showy, and of poor quality, "Sally wore that tawdry dress to work again today."

Tawny — (1350 or 1400). A dark or dull yellowish brown color, or a warm sandy color. "The lion's tawny coat made him all but invisible in the tall wheat-like grass."

Teeming — Raining really hard. "It's teeming out!" Also used to show something is overcrowded. "This stream is teeming with trout."

Tetchy — (touchy) Someone who is bad-tempered or likely to get angry easily, without good reason. Irritably or peevishly sensitive. He sounded tetchy when the doctor asked him if he'd been seeing those hoochie coochie girls again.

Testudineous — No, it doesn't mean smart testicles.

It means to be as slow as a tortoise. "The barista was so testudineous, it took almost twenty minutes to get my coffee this morning."

The Cat's Meow — The phrase used to describe a highly admired person or thing. "That Claudia sure is the cat's meow."

Thingamabob — Something that is hard to classify whose name is unknown or forgotten. An object for which a name is unavailable. See Thingamajig, Doohickey, and Whatchamacallit.

Thingamajig — An object for which a name is unavailable. "What's that thingamabob on the end of the ladder?" Also see Thingamabob and Doohickey.

Thwart — To foil or to stop something or someone, "Garry's plans of Florida real estate dominance were thwarted by his greed."

Titillate — No, this word has nothing to do with eating breasts, or being eaten by breasts. The word means to excite pleasurably or arouse by stimulation. "The smell of that expensive and well-cooked steak, titillated Tom's tonsils."

Tittynope — This word has nothing to do with breasts either. It is a small quantity of something left over. "Sal left a tittynope of meatloaf on his plate."

Toddle – To move with short unsteady steps. "Dolly toddled toward the car parked in the alley."

Tom Fool — (1800's) Tom Fool was a name given to anyone who exhibited foolish behavior or to a half-witted person. "Barbara is a Tom Fool, she just mounted her horse backwards."

Tomfoolery – (1800's) See Tom Fool above. The word describes that person's actions. "You boys know

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better than to get into the pasture with the bull, quit your tomfoolery and get out of there."

Toothsome — A word meaning pleasantly appealing or appetizing. The word also means something tasty or delicious, sometimes meaning sexually attractive, "Sarah is a toothsome redhead."

Traipsing — To go wandering or roaming about aimlessly or idly, plodding around. "While you've been traipsing about the countryside, I have been home raising the children." Originally "Trapessing"

Transistor — A small low-powered solid-state electronic device consisting of a semiconductor and at least three electrodes. It was used in the construction of older Radios and TV's. "When I was a child, transistor radios were the big rage. To own one was considered a big deal."

Trencherman — Someone who is a hearty eater. "Benny is definitely a trencherman, I just watched him eat three one-pound hamburgers and two pounds of French fries.

Triviality — Something small without meaning or of no consequence. "The flat tire on the way to the office was a mere triviality, I still arrived on time for my appointment."

Trollop — A derogatory term for a woman who is sexually promiscuous. "David calls Ginny a trollop because she told him she would rather sleep with anyone except him."

Tropology — The use of metaphors in writing or speaking. To tropologize is to use it as a metaphor such as "He is the Nixon of politics."

Truculent — Someone who refuses to accept authority or who is argumentative. A person who

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aggressively refuses do what is asked of them. "Don't be so truculent, just take out the trash as I asked you to do an hour ago.

Twain — (12th century). Two, a couple or pair, "Ralph likes action movies, while Barbara likes tearjerkers, and never the twain shall meet."

Two Bits — A United States twenty-five cent piece. "Hey buddy, can you lend me two bits for a cup of coffee?" (nowadays it's \$2.50)

Typhlobasia — Kissing with the eyes closed. "Doesn't everybody typhlobasia?"

Words beginning with the letter "U"

Ubiquarian — Someone who seems to be everywhere at once. " Peter, don't be so ubiquitous, every time I turn around, there you are.

Ubiquitous — Seeming to be present, everywhere at the same time; omnipresent. "Penny's purse seemed ubiquitous in its presence at the party, everywhere I tried to set there it was."

Uncanny — Something that is eerie, mysterious or too strange to seem merely natural or human. "He has an uncanny resemblance to my dead father."

Unconsentaneous — Not in agreement or disagreeable. "Stop being so unconsentaneous, the moon is made of green cheese.

Unguiculate — Having nails or claws like mammals, as opposed to having hooves. A Derivative of the word "unguiculus" meaning fingernail, toenail. "The longest female unguitules belong to Lee Redmond of the USA, who's fingernails are 28 ft 4.5 in. The longest male unguitules belong to Melvin Boothe of the USA whose nails had a combined length of 32 ft 3.8 in."

Ungulate — A hoofed mammal, such as a horse, pig, deer, buffalo, or antelope. "A pig is an ungulate"

Unsullied — Something or someone that is pure or immaculate, uncorrupted, "Her reputation as a defender of the weak and oppressed, has been unsullied by the scandal surrounding her husband."

Upbraid — To criticize severely, to reproach or to scold, "Cavanaugh was upbraided by his wife because of his drinking."

Words beginning with the letter "V"

Vagabond — A word for a homeless wanderer or nomadic person, a vagrant or tramp, "Harold only has the clothes on his back, and never stays in one place too long, but he loves being a vagabond."

Valetudinarian — Is a sickly or weak person, especially one who is constantly and morbidly concerned with his or her health. "My brother, the valetudinarian, takes twenty different medications each day."

Valise — Another word to describe a suitcase, or piece of luggage. "The dark haired strange boarded the train and tossed his valise on the overhead shelf before taking a seat."

Vamoose — A Spanish word that means to leave, run off or run away. "When the conductor discovered Sam didn't have a ticket, he told him to vamoose." Also see Skidoo, and Skedaddle.

Varmint – A derogatory term describing a person, or an animal regarded as troublesome, unpleasant, or despicable (like a rat or possum). "Get away from me you stinking varmint."

Veranda — A porch, or terrace. "Amanda sat on the veranda and watches the antics of the panda."

Verbose -A person who is being talkative, long-winded. "Sal, the bus driver, was so verbose that all of the passengers shouted to him to shut up."

Verecund — Adjective meaning shy, coy and bashful. "Everyone, that is, except the for the verecund woman in the back seat."

Vernacular – The specialized vocabulary of a particular trade, profession, or group. "The loan shark

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calls the interest his victims have to pay Vig, which is short for Vigorish."

Vernalagnia — Spring Fever. "The bus driver's excuse for being so verbose was that he had a touch of Vernalagnia."

Victrola — Used for playing music recorded on a round tube-like cylinder which was the forerunner of today's vinyl records. "Elizabeth played some Tommy Dorsey music on her Victrola."

Vigorish — A slang term for high interest on a loan. Also called Vig in the vernacular. An excessive rate of interest on a loan, from an illegal moneylender.

Virgule — A diagonal mark used to separate alternatives, and/or. "Yes it is what we now call a forward slash mark."

Volpone — It is Italian for "sly fox." It also means a cunning schemer; or miser. "Watch out for Rudolph he is a volpone."

Voluptuous — Someone who is suggestive of sensual pleasure by the fullness and beauty of her form. "I enjoyed seeing those voluptuous women dancing on stage yesterday."

Vomitory — Any passageway leading to a tier of seats in a theater, or a stadium. "I met my wife on the way to the vomitory."

Voulu — Adjective meaning contrived, or deliberate. "The shooting of Oswald was a voulu act to cover up the conspiracy."

Words beginning with the letter "W"

Wabbit — No, it's not what Elmer Fudd calls a rabbit. It means exhausted or slightly unwell. "Elmer felt wabbit after chasing the rabbit all day."

Wad — A slang term for a bunch of money, It's also a slang term for the male genitalia. "Gloria fainted when she accidentally saw Salvatore's wad."

Waggish — Humorous or witty, roguish in merriment and good humor. "Pat is so waggish, I just have to look at him and I start laughing." Also see jocular.

Waif — A homeless person especially a child, who has no home or friends. An orphan, "Sandy adopted the small, thin, waif, that she found at her doorstep."

Wallop — To bash, whack or hit someone. "I gave him a good wallop on the behind for taking my seat," Also see Pummel.

Warmonger — Someone in a position of power, who is eager for war or tries to start a war. Adolph Hitler a war monger."

Weir — A low dam built across a river to regulate its flow. When the homes upstream began to flood they had to open the weir.

Whatchamacallit — Something hard to classify whose name is unknown. "I left my whatchamacallit, on the Whatsit."

Whatsit — Something that is hard to classify whose name is unknown or forgotten. "See above"

Wheedle — To coax, persuade or cajole, "Thomasine wheedled the secret from her husband, by offering him a BJ."

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Wheel-Horse — A person who is an important, hard-working member of an organization. "Vinnie is the wheel-horse of this organization, without him the cops would have caught already."

Whippersnapper — Usually used by an older person describing a bratty kid or younger person. "Get out of here, you young whippersnapper."

Whirligig — An object that spins or turns very quickly or revolves rapidly. "A merry-go-round is a form of whirligig. "Little Billy had fun on the whirligig in the park."

Whizz-Bang — Loud or fast. Also someone who is outstanding, successful, or effective. "Soledad is a real whizz-bang of a mechanic."

Whoopee — A word used to express great and sudden excitement. Also a euphemism that means sexual intercourse as in making whoopee. "Veronica and Victor made whoopee under the sassafras tree."

Widdershins — Means anticlockwise or counterclockwise; against the sun. To move in a left-handed direction "As the police surrounded the suspects house, half moved deosil (clockwise) and the other half moved widdershins." Also see deosil.

Windlestraw — A person who is tall, thin and unhealthy looking. "Have you seen Burt lately? He's a real windlestraw."

Winebibber — A person who habitually drinks a lot of alcohol. An alcoholic. "Let me introduce you to Freddie, the town winebibber."

Winklepicker — A style of shoe or boot in the 1950s with a sharp and long pointed toe. This type of shoe made a comeback in 2001. "My brother Charles has five winklepickers, in different colors, that he wears."

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Wiseacre — Someone who makes smart, impudent remarks. "Shut your trap you wiseacre, before someone shuts it for you."

Wisenheimer — Someone who thinks they are smarter than others. "What are you, a Wisenheimer?"

Wizened — (1500's). Having a shriveled appearance wrinkled, "Tom is a wizened old man."

Worble or Wobble — Means to wriggle or wallow. "A top spins nicely, until it begins to worble." OR "Weebles wobble but they don't fall down."

Wrest — To take by force, to seize, "Sal was able to wrest the knife from his attacker and stab him with it."

Disremembered Words

Words beginning with the letter "X"

Xanthippe — An ill-tempered woman. "Sally Ann is a real Xanthippe, she will lose her temper at the drop of a hat."

Xertz – or Zertz -To gulp down quickly and greedily. "Quit xertzizing your beer, there is plenty to go around."

Words beginning with the letter "Y"

Yammer — To wail, weep, or whine. To talk in a complaining or bad tempered manner, "Quit your yammering, I'll take out the garbage when I'm ready to."

Yonder — Meaning over there, "That road yonder is the one you need to take."

Yuck — A stupid or foolish person. The word also means to laugh, "Quit your yuckkin." Or it can be used as an interjection of disgust. "Yuck! That dog poop on your shoe smells disgusting!"

Words beginning with the letter "Z"

Zaftig — (1930's), Describes a full-bosomed woman or a woman having a full rounded figure. "Yolanda's zaftig figure was the focus of many a young pubescent boys' imagination."

Zamps — A circus or carnival term that refers to children's rides. "Frank, go over to where the Zamps are and fix the foot of the gray horse on the merry-go-round."

Ziff — A young thief, or a thief-in-training. "Orville was the best Ziff that the pickpocket had ever trained."

Zinger — Something that gets your attention; a sharp punch line. "Boy, what a zinger that was!"

Zoanthropy — (1850's) This is a mental disorder where one believes oneself to be an animal and acts like one. "My cousin Rudolf, you know who I mean, the drunk with the bulbous (bulging) red nose, suffers from zoanthropy and thinks he is a reindeer."

About the Author

Antaeus was born in Jersey City, New Jersey. He now lives near Sarasota, Florida, USA with his wife. Both are supervised by a cat named Barbie (who thinks she's a princess).

Antaeus has written three humorous science fiction action/adventure books, "Alternate Earth Tales," "More Alternate Earth Tales," and "Ultimate Alternate Earth Tales." All are original short story compilations. Antaeus' science fiction action novel "Rune - Laconia Lost," has won a 5-star award from "Readers' Favorite." His non-fiction book containing true stories about everyday people whose lives were saved by legally owned guns, is titled "Armed and Alive." It has also won a 5-star award.

Antaeus is a contributing member of a Sarasota authors' review group. These published and waiting-to-be-published authors meet every other week to exchange ideas, and gently critique each other's work-in-progress.

To read snippets from his books and what Antaeus' fans have said about his published work, go to www.Antaeus-Books.com.

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