mummer

an actor in a traditional masked mime, especially of a type associated with Christmas and popular in England in the 18th and early 19th centuries.

derogatory, archaic

an actor in the theater

mummery

a performance by mummers

a ridiculous ceremonial, especially of a religious nature

“By the end of the 1570s; whatever the instincts and nostalgia of their seniors, a generation was growing up which had known nothing else, which believed the Pope to be Antichrist, the Mass a mum­mery, which did not look back to the Catholic past as their own, but another country, another world.” - Eamon Duffy, The Stripping of the Altars: Traditional Religion in England c. 1400-c. 1580, Second Edition, pg. 593

catechetical

relating to religious instruction given to a person in preparation for Christian baptism or confirmation

relating to religious teaching by means of questions and answers

sati, suttee

suttee: a former practice in India whereby a widow threw herself on to her husband's funeral pyre

a widow who committed sati

“A cold fury possesses me and I could retch with horror and revulsion for these unctuous saviors, these odious swine [who] are actually proposing to erect a terrifying sepulcher in which I shall live without living and die without dying,” she wrote of the prospect of surviving without Julius.

The choices made by this outwardly strong, cold and “masculine” woman became in effect a form of SUTTEE. Ethel, who had been subordinated to her brothers as a child, now willingly immolated herself as a sign of ultimate devotion to Julius (and perhaps to Stalin), even if it meant leaving her two young sons behind.

-- “How Ethel Rosenberg Offered Her Own Life as a Sacrifice” (book review), By Joseph Dorman, The New York Times, June 8, 2021

suzerain

a sovereign or state having some control over another state that is internally autonomous

epitomize

1. be a perfect example of.

"their careers epitomized the problems faced by their generation"

2. ARCHAIC give a summary of (a written work).

"for the benefit of our readers, we will epitomize the pamphlet"

All the letters and dispatches from the Government of Bengal came to him, and were carefully epitomized. -- Strange Destiny a Biography of Warren Hastings, By A. Mervyn Davies, New York: G. P. Putnam’s Sons, 1935, pg. 173

thaumaturgic

1: performing miracles

2: of, relating to, or dependent on thaumaturgy

thaumaturgy

the supposed working of miracles; magic

The Frankish nobility had by no means forgotten that Charles himself was one of themselves, and that he lacked the aura of semi-mythical splendour and the thaumaturgic power which rendered the descendants of the German kings ... worthy subjects of worship. -- Heinrich Fichtenau, The Carolingian Empire: The Age of Charlemagne

heteronym

each of two or more words that are spelled identically but have different sounds and meanings, such as tear, meaning “rip”; and tear meaning “liquid from the eye.”

meretricious

apparently attractive but having in reality no value or integrity

meretricious souvenirs for the tourist trade

fosse

a long, narrow trench or excavation, especially in a fortification

lapidary

relating to stone and gems and the work involved in engraving, cutting, or polishing

(of language) engraved on or suitable for engraving on stone and therefore elegant and concise

"a lapidary statement"

preceptor

a teacher or instructor

“The situation of man is the preceptor of his duty.” -- Edmund Burke

primus (or a Primus stove)

a small cooker or stove that burns paraffin and is often used in camping

“The two tourists chatted about the sights in Moscow--the street peddlers with braziers dangling in the breeze, the beggars, the primus sputtering at apartment widows.” -- Ruth Epperson Kennell, Theodore Dreiser and the Soviet Union, 1927–1945: A First-Hand Chronicle

blazon, noun

1. armorial bearings; coat of arms

2: ostentatious display

blazon

verb

1: to publish widely, proclaim

2: display; deck, adorn

the town was blazoned with flags

foregrounding (noun)

foreground (verb)

make (something) the most prominent or important feature

“The foregrounding of the loyal Douglas’s Catholic background can be read as a tolerationist gesture. -- Stephen Bardle, The Literary Underground in the 1660s: Andrew Marvell, George Wither, Ralph Wallis, and the World of Restoration Satire and Pamphleteering (Oxford University Press, 2012)

featherman

a tradesman or hawker of former times who dealt in feathers or plumes

Leveller

a member of a group of radical dissenters in the English Civil War who called for the abolition of the monarchy, social and agrarian reforms, and religious freedom.

vestigial

adjective

forming a very small remnant of something that was once much larger or more noticeable.

BIOLOGY: (of an organ or part of the body) degenerate, rudimentary, or atrophied, having become functionless in the course of evolution.

"the vestigial wings of kiwis are entirely hidden"

taupe

gray with a tinge of brown

a taupe overcoat

“Less than 10 miles north, local sheriff’s deputies were moving in on a different house at the same time, with the same goal in mind.

But inside the taupe building in Sunrise, Huber spotted the agents — possibly through a doorbell camera that let him see outside, officials said. -- “Slaying of two FBI agents in Fla. raises questions about intelligence and tactics,” By Matt Zapotosky and Tom Jackman, The Washington Post, February 6, 2021

filiation

a filial relationship especially of a son to his father

descent or derivation especially from a culture or language

“I am sometimes impelled to say of a contemporary story ‘How Andersonian!’ without necessarily thinking in terms of influence or filiation. In order to explain what I mean by ‘Andersonian,’ I am going to take a fresh look at Anderson in conjunction with Raymond Carver to find out how each may throw light on the other.”

-- “Sherwood Anderson and Raymond Carver: Poets of the Losers,” by Claire Bruyère, The Winesburg Eagle, Winter 1997

praxis

practice, as distinguished from theory

"the gap between theory and praxis, text and world"

an accepted practice or custom

"patterns of Christian praxis in church and society"

“For those with the rage for reading and rereading, it is something of a feast; for others, it will be daunting. A not atypical, almost throwaway passage for you to test the waters on: ‘Tolstoy, as befits the writer since Shakespeare who most has the art of the actual, combines in his representational praxis the incompatible powers of Homer and the Yahwist.’ This is not Bloom showing off; it’s the way Bloom thinks and proceeds.”

-- “Harold Bloom Is Dead. But His ‘Rage for Reading’ Is Undiminished,” review of Harold Bloom, “The Bright Book of Life”; reviewed by Robert Gottlieb, The New York Times, January 23, 2021

avatar

1: the incarnation of a Hindu deity (such as Vishnu)

2a: an incarnation in human form

2b: an embodiment (as of a concept or philosophy) often in a person She was regarded as an avatar of charity and concern for the poor.

“[Ivanka Trump’s] increasingly unshaven brothers have … increasingly positioned themselves as the avatars of the hunter-gatherer set.”

-- “A Farewell to the Trump Aesthetic,” By Vanessa Friedman, The New York Times, January 16, 2021

ersatz

(of a product) made or used as a substitute, typically an inferior one, for something else.

“There was a reason the president complained, publicly, about Vogue never giving his wife Melania a cover (at least not after he entered politics). A reason he complained, too, about designers vociferously announcing early in his term that they would not dressthe first lady. (Who cares? The Trumps could always buy the stuff.) A reason he and his family built chunks of their empire on the wardrobe of ersatz aspiration. They understood the mythmaking power of appearance, and how it sends tendrils of connection to us all.”

“A Farewell to the Trump Aesthetic,” By Vanessa Friedman, The New York Times, January 16, 2021

scholasticism

the system of theology and philosophy taught in medieval European universities, based on Aristotelian logic and the writings of the early Church Fathers and having a strong emphasis on tradition and dogma

narrow-minded insistence on traditional doctrine.

"an absorption in the past without a hint of scholasticism"

“One of the scholasticists behind me said, ‘Let’s go. We’ve seen everything. I don’t want to spoil it.’ This seemed a sound aesthetic decision. Williams’ last word had been so exquisitely chosen, such a perfect fusion of expectation, intention, and execution, that already it felt a little unreal in my head, and I wanted to get out before the castle collapsed.

-- John Updike, “Hub Fans Bid Kid Adieu, The New Yorker, October 22 1960

swinge

verb, LITERARY

strike hard; beat.

"did she not swinge the dragon of ripsnorting inflation?"

With Powder, and with Pipes of Brandy fraught:

Yet Rupert, Sandwich, and of all, the Duke,

The Duke has made their Sea-sick courage puke.

Like the three Comers, sent from heaven down

With Fiery Flailes to swinge rh'ingratefull Clown.

-- Andrew Marvell, “The Character of Holland” (excerpt), 1665

As Hilton Als notes in his elegant and panoramic foreword, Didion is fifth-generation Californian; the language she speaks is, like every writer’s, regional. For her this means having a taste for the extreme and whatever strangeness escorts sunshine; the view from a highway and the perspective gained from passing -- not through, but alongside.

-- “Joan Didion Revisits the Past Once More,” review of Let Me Tell You What I Mean by Joan Didion, reviewed by Durga Chew-Bose, The New York Times, January 26, 2021

A RATHER UNUSUAL USE (?) OF *ESCORT* WITH THE MEANING OF *TO ACCOMPANY*

epiphanic

of or having the character of an epiphany

“From the outset Didion’s nonfiction has shown no obligation to the whopping epiphanic. Realizations occur, but she relates them without splendor, as if she’s extracting a tincture.”

selvage

1. an edge produced on woven fabric during manufacture that prevents it from unravelling.

2. Geology: a zone of altered rock, especially volcanic glass, at the edge of a rock mass.

Her “I’s” are less authoritative than exploratory, arranged for rhythm and for that vaguely keyed-up sensation she calls “the shimmer.” Hers is the “I” of an onlooker, migratory, ruled by the specific. She writes from the selvage edge, prose that does not unravel: “My attention was always on the periphery, on what I could see and taste and touch.”

-- “Joan Didion Revisits the Past Once More,” review of Let Me Tell You What I Mean by Joan Didion, reviewed by Durga Chew-Bose, The New York Times, January 26, 2021

epideictic

Epideictic rhetoric (or ceremonial oratory) is discourse: speech, or writing that praises or blames (someone or something). According to Aristotle, epideictic rhetoric (or epideictic oratory) is one of the three major branches of rhetoric.

Also known as demonstrative rhetoric and ceremonial discourse, epideictic rhetoric includes funeral orations, obituaries, graduation and retirement speeches, letters of recommendation, and nominating speeches at political conventions. Interpreted more broadly, epideictic rhetoric may also include works of literature.

enjambment

In verse, the continuation of a sentence without a pause beyond the end of a line, couplet, or stanza.

In poetry, enjambment [1] is incomplete syntax at the end of a line;[2] the meaning runs over from one poetic line to the next, without terminal punctuation. Lines without enjambment are end-stopped.

These lines from Shakespeare's *The Winter's Tale* are heavily enjambed:

I am not prone to weeping, as our sex

Commonly are; the want of which vain dew

Perchance shall dry your pities; but I have

That honourable grief lodged here which burns

Worse than tears drown.

conventicle

a secret or unlawful religious meeting, typically of people with nonconformist views

limpet

1 a marine gastropod mollusk that has a low conical shell broadly open beneath, browses over rocks or timbers in the littoral area, and clings very tightly when disturbed

2 one that clings tenaciously to someone or something

“Washington now teems with Democrats sporting their diversity and their masks, their Chuck Taylors and their selfies with Lady Gaga and J-Lo. That makes Florida a much friendlier place for Trumpist Republicans. Gov. Ron DeSantis is one of Trump’s more limpet-like supporters, an early adopter of hydroxychloroquine as a covid-19 miracle cure, hostile to lockdowns and social distancing, and an enabler of Trump’s claims of a ‘stolen’ election.”

-- “Trump made official what has always been obvious: He’s Florida Man,” by Diane Roberts, The Washington Post, January 22, 2021

prolusion

archaic, formal

1. a preliminary action or event; a prelude

2. a preliminary essay or article.

assonance

relatively close [juxtaposition](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/juxtaposition) of similar sounds especially of vowels (as in "rise high in the bright +sky")

repetition of vowels without repetition of consonants (as in stony and holy) used as an alternative to rhyme in verse

resemblance of sound in words or syllables

postposition

noun; grammar

a word or morpheme placed after the word it governs, for example *-ward* in homeward.

substantival

of, relating to, or serving as a substantive

substantive; linguistics

having the nature or function of a noun

a substantive phrase

plereme; linguistics

a unit of content that is the minimal meaningful unit

a word which has full lexical meaning on its own, as a noun, verb, adjective, etc., rather than a preposition, auxiliary, article, etc.

plerematic

relating to, concerned with, or consisting of pleremes; of the nature of a plereme; of or relating to plerematics

copula

a connecting word, in particular a form of the verb be connecting a subject and complement.

atomize

1. convert (a substance) into very fine particles or droplets.

"the CO2 depressurized, atomizing the paint into a mist of even-size particles"

2. reduce (something) to atoms or other small distinct units.

"by disrupting our ties with our neighbors, crime atomizes society"

Definitions

“In a Capitol bristling with heavily armed soldiers and newly installed metal detectors, with the physical wreckage of last week’s siege cleaned up but the emotional and political wreckage still on display, the president of the United States was impeached for trying to topple American democracy.

“Somehow, it felt like the preordained coda of a presidency that repeatedly pressed all limits and frayed the bonds of the body politic. With less than a week to go, President Trump’s term is climaxing in violence and recrimination at a time when the country has fractured deeply and lost a sense of itself. Notions of truth and reality have been atomized. Faith in the system has eroded. Anger is the one common ground.”

=- “Preordained Coda to a Presidency,” by Peter Baker, The New York Times, January 13, 2021

lickspittle

a fawning subordinate: toady

“Not only was a Capitol policeman killed after being hit by a fire extinguisher, the entire security apparatus meant to protect our democracy failed. Was the pathetic response to the anarchy engineered by Trump? It would not be the first time he sabotaged the government he was running. He was not even moved to protect his own lickspittle, the vice president, who was in the chamber when it was attacked.”

Maureen Dowd, “Trump’s Capitol Offense: The presidency melts down, as Trump becomes too vile even for Twitter.” The New York Times, January 9 2020

flagitious

marked by scandalous crime or vice; villainous

“Since I’m not polite, I’m starting this round of prognosticating with this: Soon after our forever troller in chief leaves office on Jan. 20, his account will be suspended by Twitter temporarily, and then, since he cannot stop breaking rules, he’ll get tossed off, just like his hideous pal, Alex Jones.

“I have never thought, as many have, that Mr. Trump should have been de-platformed during his term as president. As flagitious as he can be, Mr. Trump has been a legitimate news figure and, thus, what he had to say should be aired.”

-- “Goodbye, Twitter Trump! And Other Predictions for 2021: The coronavirus has forced the kind of work experimentation that would have taken a decade otherwise.” By Kara Swisher, The New York Times,

December 31 2020

paralipsis

the device of giving emphasis by professing to say little or nothing about a subject (as in *not to mention their unpaid debts of several million*)

Drawing attention to something while claiming to be passing over it.

Paralipsis is when a writer or speaker emphasizes something, while claiming to not say anything (or to say very little).

Example of Paralipsis: It looks like you spent a lot of money today, not to mention that you borrowed $40.00 from me yesterday.

virago

a domineering, violent, or bad-tempered woman

derogate

VERB

“Clark has divided her biography into three parts, each of which takes up a significant portion of Plath’s life and is in turn subdivided into chapters with titles that are picturesque (“O Icarus”) or thematic (“The Problem of Him”). Although Plath’s father is famous — or, perhaps, infamous — as the abandoning and tyrannical parent in what is her signature poem, “Daddy,” which the critic Helen Vendler once derogated as a “tantrum of style,” this is the first time he comes into view as something other than a blurry, demonized character in his daughter’s psychological and poetic landscape.”

-- review by Daphne Merkin of Red Comet: The Short Life and Blazing Art of Sylvia Plath by Heather Clark

The New York Times, October 27, 2020

flapdoodle

nonsense

“Inevitably for such a collection, there’s a bit of Emerson’s quasi-mystical flapdoodle, this time the essay “Experience” (“I clap my hands in infantine joy and amazement, ... old with the love and homage of innumerable ages, young with the life of life, the sunbright Mecca of the desert,” etc.). -- Steve Donoghue, review of The Glorious American Essay; One Hundred Essays from Colonial Times to the Present, edited ty Philip Lopate, The Christian Science Monitor, December 23, 2020

rapporteur

a person appointed by an organization to report on the proceedings of its meetings

"the UN rapporteur"

expostulation

an exclamation of protest, opposition, or criticism

an abrupt excited utterance

epos

a number of poems that treat an epic theme but are not formally united

“Human beings use words and symbols to give meaning to the world. We routinely work wonders on the strength of agreed fictions that mobilize millions of otherwise isolated individuals for common undertakings. This is the very core of the human epos.” -- William H. McNeill, Arnold J. Toynbee: A Life

panopticon

a circular prison with cells arranged around a central well, from which prisoners can at all times be observed

chrysalis

a quiescent insect pupa, especially of a butterfly or moth

"the transformation from egg to caterpillar to chrysalis and, finally, adult"

the hard outer case enclosing a chrysalis

"the splitting of the chrysalis and the slow unfolding of the wings"

a transitional state.

"she emerged from the chrysalis of self-conscious adolescence"

In 1920 religion served civilizations by acting as a chrysalis, passing on knowledge and skills from one civilization to its successor. In 1940 civilizations served reli­gion, since the suffering involved in their breakdowns provoked spiritual prog­ress.

-- William H. McNeill, Arnold J. Toynbee: A Life

charabanc

A

type of horse-drawn vehicle or early motor coach, usually open-topped, common in Britain during the early part of the 20th century. It has "benched seats arranged in rows, looking forward, commonly used for large parties, whether as public conveyances or for excursions". It was especially popular for sight-seeing or "works outings" to the country or the seaside.

epigraphy

the study and interpretation of ancient inscriptions

“The heroine’s husband, a professor of ancient epigraphy, works too hard at the Admiralty, is prickly about money and tried to enlist but was found unfit.”

William H. McNeill, Arnold J. Toynbee: A Life

coruscating

1. flashing; sparkling.

2. severely critical; scathing.

“Then again, those extra years allow Lopate to include Ralph Ellison, Vivian Gornick and David Foster Wallace, to name just three. It’s hard to begrudge him that. What does rankle is his decision to order the essays rigidly by year, which sometimes lends an unguided, survey-like feel to the material. One example will suffice: Right between a terrifically coruscating letter from Frederick Douglass to a man who had enslaved him.” -- John Williams, “ ‘The Glorious American Essay,’ From Benjamin Franklin to David Foster Wallace,” New York Times, November 25 2020 (review of The Glorious American Essay: One Hundred Essays From Colonial Times to the Present, edited by Phillip Lopate)

coruscation - noun

1: glitter, sparkle

2: a flash of wit

caudal

adjective

of or like a tail

at or near the tail or the posterior part of the body ("the caudal vertebrae")

“To date the breakdown of classical civilization to 431-404 B.C., long before Greek philosophy and science had fully emerged, and to treat Rome as a mere caudal appendage to Greece, was surely extraordinary.” -- William H. McNeill, Arnold J. Toynbee: A Life

operose

adjective

involving or displaying much industry or effort

late 17th century: from Latin *operosus,* from *opus* “work”

“All these operose proceedings were adopted by one of the most decided tyrants in the rolls of history, as necessary preliminaries. …” -- Edmund Burke, Reflections on the Revolution in France

fescue

any of a number of narrow-leaved grasses.

“Who among us hasn’t been right where Tiger was? Who among us hasn’t sunk a few into the creek, the pond, the river, the bay, the wastewater treatment plant? Who hasn’t found the trees on a course that has no trees? … Who hasn’t taken 15 minutes to hack and flail at the sand, mud, pine cones, fescue, concrete, or the carpet under the sale rack of the pro shop--then had to grimly scribble an ugly double digit into the scorecard?”

-- “Tiger Woods Can Make Golf Look Easy. Sunday at the Masters, He Did Not.” By Jason Gay, The Wall Street Journal, November, 16, 2020

mewl

verb

(especially of a baby) cry feebly or querulously; whimper

“the mainstream press has given Trump’s mewling a lot of attention without giving it much credence” -- “How to cover a coup -- or whatever it is Trump is attempting,” by Margaret Sullivan, The Washington Post, November 12, 2020

fungible

1. something (such as money or a commodity) of such a nature that one part or quantity may be replaced by another equal part or quantity in paying a debt or settling an account Oil, wheat, and lumber are fungible commodities.

2. capable of mutual substitution: interchangeable

3. readily changeable to adapt to new situations

“Indeed, the very idea of truth is increasingly a fungible commodity in a political environment that seems to reward the loudest voices, not the most honest.”

-- “Dishonesty Has Defined the Trump Presidency. The Consequences Could Be Lasting.” by Peter Baker, The New York Times, November 1, 2020

torque

verb (used with object), torqued, torquing.

machinery. to apply torque to (a nut, bolt, etc.).

to cause to rotate or twist.

verb (used without object), torqued, torquing.

to rotate or twist.

“For years now, image has replaced substance and achievement as a path to power. But Trump -- aided by a soulless, rapacious Silicon Valley that keeps torquing up the algorithm for conflict and conspiracy -- has relentlessly tried to obscure our ability to tell the true from the false.”

-- “Sharknado Goes to Washington,” by Maureen Dowd, The New York Times, October 30 2020

dissuasive

tending to dissuade

a dissuasive effect

THE ARGUMENT: The subject proposed. … The Season is described as it affects the various parts of nature, ascending from the lower to the higher; and mixed with digressions arising from the subject. Its influence on inanimate matter, on vegetables, on brute animals, and last on Man; concluding with a DISSUASIVE from the wild and irregular passion of Love, opposed to that of a pure and happy kind. - James Thomson, The Seasons

normative

establishing, relating to, or deriving from a standard or norm, especially of behavior.

"negative sanctions to enforce normative behavior"

Mandeville found no certainty in morality, and Hume saw the need for establishing new principles, discussed in his *Of the Standard of Taste* )1756), after realizing the discordant ethical and aesthetic values of mankind. No longer could any position possess quite the same absolute validity of reason as before, nor could Europe so easily boast a cultural superiority over other countries. The excellence of customs and conduct depended upon less normative common sense standards of virtue obtained by weighing the cumulative evidence of a diversified world.

-- Thomas M. Curley, Samuel Johnson and the Age of Travel

stratigraphy

1. the arrangement of rocks in layers or strata

2. the branch of geology dealing with the study of the nature, distribution, and relations of the stratified rocks of the earth's crust

“Sorokin's mind returned to the helplessness he had felt in the Bolsheviks’ jail. … А new beginning awaited, but he was still coming to grips with the past. The fortress of Peter and Paul had been а human stratigraphy of the revolution. Officers of the czar were followed by leaders of the provisional government, members of soviets, the Constituent Assembly, and а variety of political parties. They all were losers in the struggle for power.”

-- Barry V. Johnston, Pitirim A. Sorokin: An Intellectual Biography

morpheme

a meaningful morphological unit of a language that cannot be further divided (e.g. in, come, -ing, forming incoming)

morphological

linguistics: relating to the forms of words, in particular inflected forms

phoneme

any of the perceptually distinct units of sound in a specified language that distinguish one word from another, for example p, b, d, and t in the English words pad, pat, bad, and bat.

phonemics the study of the sound system of a given language and the analysis and classification of its phonemes

accidence

the part of grammar that deals with the inflections of words

olla podrida

a highly spiced Spanish-style stew containing a mixture of meat and vegetables.

any miscellaneous assortment or collection.

"an olla podrida of romance, comedy, and tragedy"

Spanish, literally ‘rotten pot’, from Latin olla ‘jar’ + putridus ‘rotten’

mirepoix

a mixture of sautéed chopped vegetables used in various sauces.

Her free verse is exacting and taut and rhetorically organized. Thematically, the mirepoix is composed of family, childhood, love, sex, death, nature, animals.

-- “Louise Glück, a Nobel Laureate Whose Poems Have Abundant Intellect and Deep Feeling,” by Dwight Garner, The New York Times, October 8, 2020

jacquerie

a communal uprising or revolt

early 16th century (referring to the 1357 peasants' revolt against the nobles in northern France): from Old French, literally ‘villeins’, from Jacques, a given name used in the sense “peasant.”

plangent

(of a sound) loud, reverberating, and often melancholy

“Mr. President, I’m the moderator of this debate, and I would like you to let me ask my question,” Wallace said early on, trying in vain to contain one of Trump’s tantrums and wrestle him into submission. I’d seen debate moderators get perturbed. Wallace bordered on plangent.

-- “After That Fiasco, Biden Should Refuse to Debate Trump Again,” By Frank Bruni, The New York Times, September 30, 2020

peripeteia; plural, peripeteias

a sudden reversal of fortune or change in circumstances, especially in reference to fictional narrative

"the peripeteias of the drama"

late 16th century: from Greek peripeteia ‘sudden change’, from peri- “around” + the stem of piptein “to fall”

patrimony

property inherited from one's father or male ancestor.

heritage

“the patrimony of knowledge which was left by our forefathers”

-- Edmund Burke, Reflections on the Revolution in France

oblation

1. a thing presented or offered to God or a god

2. the presentation of bread and wine to God in the Eucharist.

pelf

noun; archaic

money, especially when gained in a dishonest or dishonorable way.

late Middle English (in the sense ‘booty, pilfered property’): from a variant of Old French pelfre ‘spoils’, of unknown origin. Compare with pilfer.

“This consecration is made, that all who administer in the government of men, in which they stand in the person of God himself, should have high and worthy notions of] their function and destination; that their hope should be full of immortality; that they should not look to the paltry pelf of the moment, nor to the temporary and transient praise of the vulgar, but to a solid, permanent existence, in the permanent part of their nature, and to a permanent fame and glory, in the example they leave as a rich inheritance to the world.”

-- Edmund Burke, Reflections on the Revolution in France

exuviae

plural noun

sloughed off natural animal coverings (such as the skins of snakes)

exuvial - adjective

“Cultivated men often attain a good degree of skill in writing verses; but it is easy to read, through their poems, their personal history; any one acquainted with parties can name every figure: this is Andrew, and that is Rachel. The sense thus remains prosaic. It is a caterpillar with wings, and not yet a butterfly. In the poet's mind, the fact has gone quite over into the new element of thought, and has lost all that is exuvial. This generosity abides with Shakespeare. We say, from the truth and closeness of his pictures, that he knows the lesson by heart. Yet there is not a trace of egotism.”

-- Ralph Waldo Emerson, “Shakespeare, or, The Poet”

phalanstery

a group of people living together in community, free of external regulation and holding property in common.

agential nouns

Suffixes -or, -er, -ant are chiefly formal and form agential nouns. They denote a person who performs the action expressed by the verb.

polysemous

also, polysemic

having multiple meanings

Example: Dust (v.) can mean to clean up small particles (dust the furniture) or to apply small particles (dust a cake with powdered sugar).

figural

1. another term for figurative

2. (in postmodernist writing) relating to or denoting a form of signification which relies on imagery and association rather than on rational and linguistic concepts.

The idea of "real literature" represents a sig­nificant transformation of the poet's earlier calls for a "Real Gram­mar" and a "Real Dictionary." Only through writing literature itself will the "real" language of the future take form. And this means that, as in the poetry of 1855-56, only the rhetorical performance of the poem can offer "suggestions, comparisons, circuits, and it can offer these figural deferments only to a perpetually deferred reader of the future.

-- James Perrin Warren, Walt Whitman's Language Experiment

appulse

noun

1: a driving or running toward something (such as a place): act of striking against something (such as a point) the days have passed when national differences could be settled by the appulse of small professional armies-- R. S. Ellery

2: the apparent very near approach of one celestial body to another: a coming into conjunction -- see lunar appulse

“Too feeble fall the impressions of nature on us to make us artists. Every touch should thrill. Every man should be so much an artist, that he could report in conversation what had befallen him. Yet, in our experience, the rays or appulses have sufficient force to arrive at the senses, but not enough to reach the quick, and compel the reproduction of themselves in speech.”

-- Ralph Waldo Emerson, The Poet

cantation

(obsolete) a singing

“The sea, the mountain-ridge, Niagara, and every flower-bed, pre-exist, or super-exist, in pre-cantations, which sail like odors in the air, and when any man goes by with an ear sufficiently fine, he overhears them, and endeavors to write down the notes, without diluting or depraving them.”

-- Ralph Waldo Emerson, The Poet

repetend

1. MATHEMATICS --the repeating figure or figures of a recurring decimal fraction.

2. recurring word or phrase; a refrain.

ostent

NOUN archaic an appearance or manifestation

James Perrin Warren

pg. 115

ontogeny, phylogeny

Ontogeny is the developmental history of an organism within its own lifetime, as distinct from phylogeny, which refers to the evolutionary history of a species.

lumbering

moving in a slow, heavy, awkward way; to move ponderously

FIGURATIVE USE: “… both Hugh of Saint-Cher and Humbert of Romans stressed that a preacher needed genuine enthusiasm to arouse a lumbering and often resistant congregation. Moderate the voice to create desired effects, they coun­seled, and change facial expressions for emotional impact.”

-- Joel F. Harrington, Dangerous Mystic: Meister Eckhart's Path to the God Within

James Perrin Warren, pg. 94

syntagmatic

of or denoting the relationship between two or more linguistic units used sequentially to make well-formed structures.

paradigmatic

1. serving as a typical example of something.

"his biography is paradigmatic of the experiences of this generation"

2. of or denoting the relationship between a set of linguistic items that form mutually exclusive choices in particular syntactic roles.

prosody

1. the patterns of rhythm and sound used in poetry

2. the patterns of stress and intonation in a language

simulacrum

1. an image or representation of someone or something

2. an unsatisfactory imitation or substitute

"Online learning is a simulacrum." (email to me from a friend)

lenity

kindness; gentleness

Against these there can be no prescription; against these no agreement is binding; these admit no temperament, and no compromise: any thing withheld from their full demand is so much of fraud and injustice. Against these their rights of men let no government look for security in the length of its continuance, or in the justice and lenity of its administration. The objections

-- Edmund Burke, Reflections on the Revolution in France

valetudinarian

noun: a person who is unduly anxious about their health

adjective: showing undue concern about one's health.

valetudinary -- of or relating to or characteristic of a person who is a valetudinarian

The kind of anniversary sermons, to which a great part of what I write refers, if men are not shamed out of their present course, in commemorating the fact, will cheat many out of the principles, and deprive them of the benefits of the Revolution they commemorate. I confess to you, Sir, I never liked this continual talk of resistance and revolution, or the practice of making the extreme medicine of the constitution its daily bread. It renders the habit of society dangerously valetudinary: it is taking periodical doses of mercury sublimate, and swallowing down repeated provocatives of cantharides to our love of liberty.

-- Edmund Burke, Reflections on the Revolution in France

indefeasible

not able to be lost, annulled, or overturned.

"an indefeasible right”

“The old prerogative enthusiasts, it is true, did speculate foolishly, and perhaps impiously too, as if monarchy had more of a divine sanction than any other mode of government; and as if a right to govern by inheritance were in strictness *indefeasible* in every person, who should be found in the succession to a throne, and under every circumstance, which no civil or political right can be.”

-- Edmund Burke, Reflections on the Revolution in France

peccant

having committed a fault or sin; offending.

"the peccant officials fell on their knees"

“It is far from impossible to reconcile, if we do not suffer ourselves to be entangled in the mazes of metaphysic sophistry, the use both of a fixed rule and an occasional deviation; the sacredness of an hereditary principle of succession in our government, with a power of change in its application in cases of extreme emergency. Even in that extremity (if we take the measure of our rights by our exercise of them at the Revolution) the change is to be confined to the peccant part only; to the part which produced the necessary deviation; and even then it is to be effected without a decomposition of the whole civil and political mass, for the purpose of originating a new civil order out of the first elements of society.”

-- Edmund Burke, Reflections on the Revolution in France

quadrate

roughly square or rectangular.

verb, archaic: (1) make square; (2) conform or cause to conform.

"he had to make a creed which would quadrate with his immorality"

The objections of these speculatists, if its forms do not quadrate with their theories, are as valid against such an old and beneficent government as against the most violent tyranny, or the greenest usurpation.

-- Edmund Burke, Reflections on the Revolution in France

frippery

showy or unnecessary ornament in architecture, dress, or language

a tawdry or frivolous thing

… among the revolutions in France, must be reckoned a considerable revolution in their ideas of politeness. In England we are said to learn manners at second­hand from your side of the water, and that we dress our behaviour in the frippery of France.

-- Edmund Burke, Reflections on the Revolution in France

derogate

verb

1. detract from

"this does not derogate from his duty to act honestly and faithfully"

2. deviate from (a set of rules or agreed form of behavior)

"one country has derogated from the Rome Convention"

I hear that the august person, who was the principal object of our preacher's triumph, though he supported himself, felt much on that shameful occasion. As a man, it became him to feel for his wife and his children, and the faithful guards of his person, that were massacred in cold blood about him; as a prince, it became him to feel for the strange and frightful transformation of his civilized subjects, and to be more grieved for them, than solicitous for himself. It derogates little from his fortitude, while it adds infinitely to the honour of his humanity.

-- Edmund Burke, Reflections on the Revolution in France

antiobscurant

a person who strives to prevent the increase and spread of knowledge.

“If Meister Eckhart was a mystic in the modern sense of the word, he was a profoundly antiobscurant egalitarian, and down-to-earth one.”

-- Joel F. Harrington, Dangerous Mystic: Meister Eckhart's Path to the God Within

valorisation

valorize

1. to enhance or try to enhance the price, value, or status of by organized and usually governmental action

2. to assign value or merit to, validate

What spiritual advice did the master provide to the many nuns and beguines he encountered in Strasbourg? Rather than proscribe these communities' common valorization of suffering, Eckhart applauded these female audiences' desire for divine union while offering them an alternate vision of jt-one based not on mortification, but on contemplation, not on self­isolation and competition, but on a communal project of spiritual progress.

-- Joel F. Harrington, Dangerous Mystic: Meister Eckhart's Path to the God Within

instrumentalism

a pragmatic philosophical approach which regards an activity (such as science, law, or education) chiefly as an instrument or tool for some practical purpose, rather than in more absolute or ideal terms.

The just person-unlike the scholastic-had learned to stop questioning everything: Why life? Why God? Why me? The just person no longer thought of the world in instrumentalist terms, doing something in order to achieve or receive something. Like God, he or she acted without thinking of justification.

-- Joel F. Harrington, Dangerous Mystic: Meister Eckhart's Path to the God Within

pantheist versus panentheist

pantheism

a doctrine that equates God with the forces and laws of the universe

“Panentheism” is a constructed word composed of the English equivalents of the Greek terms “pan”, meaning all, “en”, meaning in, and “theism”, derived from the Greek ‘theos’ meaning God. Panentheism considers God and the world to be inter-related with the world being in God and God being in the world.

Yet the master could not refrain from incautiously adding, I say all creatures are one being-a statement that, when he was later confronted with accusations of pantheism, Eckhart admitted sounds bad and is wrong in this sense.\

-- Joel F. Harrington, Dangerous Mystic: Meister Eckhart's Path to the God Within

quietism (adjective, quietist)

1. (in the Christian faith) devotional contemplation and abandonment of the will as a form of religious mysticism.

2. calm acceptance of things as they are without attempts to resist or change them.

Pelagianism

a heterodox Christian theological position which holds that the original sin did not taint human nature and that humans have the free will to achieve human perfection without divine grace.

Antinomianism (Ancient Greek: "against," and "law") is any view which rejects laws or legalism and argues against moral, religious or social norms, or is at least considered to do so.

In some Christian belief systems, an antinomian is one who takes the principle of salvation by faith and divine grace to the point of asserting that the saved are not bound to follow the moral law contained in the Ten Commandments.

prorogue

discontinue a session of (a parliament or other legislative assembly) without dissolving it.

"James prorogued Parliament in 1685 and ruled without it"

(of a legislative assembly) be discontinued without being dissolved.

"the House was all set to prorogue"

passel

a large group of people or things of indeterminate number; a pack

"a passel of journalists"

anagogical

a method of mystical or spiritual interpretation of statements or events, especially scriptural exegesis

anagoge, noun

Interpretation of a word, passage, or text (as of Scripture or poetry) that finds beyond the literal, allegorical, and moral senses a fourth and ultimate spiritual or mystical sense. Certain medieval theologians describe four methods of interpreting the scriptures: literal/historical, tropological, allegorical, and anagogical.

votive

offered or consecrated in fulfillment of a vow

an object offered in fulfillment of a vow, such as a candle used as a vigil light

millrace

the channel carrying the swift current of water that drives a mill wheel.

“On the West Side Highway, approaching the city, the motorist is swept along in a trance--a sort of fever of inescapable motion, goaded from behind, hemmed in on either side, a mere chip in a millrace.”

-- E. B. White, Here is New York

canton

to assign quarters to (troops, etc.); quarter

“The King's forests were being enlarged by the arbitrary annexation of privately-owned ones. Indubitable claims upon property were claimed by the King. Judges and adminis­tration were corrupt. The population was being oppressed by the cantoning of troops among them.”

-- Sorokin, The Sociology of Revolution

dreadnought

a type of battleship introduced in the early 20th century, larger and faster than its predecessors and equipped entirely with large-caliber guns.

archaic: a heavy overcoat for stormy weather.

“they will assemble in catacombs, in churches, in medieval town-halls, or in modern parliaments; whether they will disseminate their views by means of parchments and manuscripts, or by means of a printing press; whether the murders will be accomplished with a club, an axe, an arch, a sword or with howitzers, dynamite, tanks and dreadnoughts.

-- Sorokin, The Sociology of Revolution

rounder

noun, informal

a person who frequents bars and is often drunk

distrait

a favorite Dreiser word

distracted or absentminded.

"he seemed oddly distrait"

pantaloon

1. women's baggy trousers gathered at the ankles.

2. a Venetian character in Italian commedia dell'arte represented as a foolish old man wearing pantaloons.

can be used figuratively, as does Theodore Dreiser in his “My Brother Paul” (in Twelve Men) to refer to an aged actor

ghoula (crude slang)

an unattractive girl who is likely promiscuous due to her unattractiveness

tendril

verb

‘His lips were tendrilled with smiles.”

-- Theodore Dreiser, “My Brother Paul,” Twelve Men

spoliate

to rob, plunder, or despoil

“The only difference between these two groups was that social groups spoliated by them were difference in each case. …”

-- Sorokin, The Sociology of Revolution

congeries

aggregation, collection

a collection into one mass or aggregate

1610s, from Latin congeries "heap, pile, collected mass," from congerere "to bring together, pile up," from assimilated form of com "with, together"

Man should have some sense of responsibility to the human congeries. As a matter of observation, very few men have any such sense. No social order can exist very long unless a few, at least a few, men have such a sense. -- Ezra Pound, "ABC of Economics," 1933

used often by the sociologist Pitirim A. Sorokin

pinchbeck

an alloy of copper and zinc resembling gold, used in watchmaking and costume jewelry

appearing valuable, but actually cheap or tawdry

Approximately twenty-seven or twenty-eight years of age, he was possessed of considerable knowledge and aplomb. … his generally tolerant attitude toward all commended him almost instantly to our good will. On the other hand, Mark, although considerably more of the dandy and social favorite locally, was more pinchbeck and conventional in his views. At times he appeared to be positively obsessed by a desire to remain on calling or at least speaking terms with the "best people."

-- Theodore Dreiser, Dawn

anthropoid

1: any of a suborder (Anthropoidea) of higher primates (such as macaques and marmosets) especially, an ape

2: a person resembling an ape the howling anthropoids of the Hookworm Belt-- H. L. Mencken

“Such is the state of moral consciousness at times of revolution. Such are specimens of the morality dictated by anthropoids in human shape who have lost all the restraining ethical reflexes.

-- Pitirim, A. Sorokin, The Sociology of Revolution

anthropophagy

the eating of human flesh by human beings.

cannibalism

the practice of eating the flesh of one's own species.

1: the usually ritualistic eating of human flesh by a human being

2: the eating of the flesh of an animal by another animal of the same kind

spectatorial

British English

ADJECTIVE

relating to a spectator

being part of a spectacle

uprighteousness

the state or quality of being morally correct: uprightness

[Vanzetti’s] uprighteously Catholic father countered ‘that religion was necessary in order to hold in check human passion and to console the human being in tribulation.’ ”

-- Ralph Colp, Jr., “Bitter Christmas: A Biographical Inquiry into the Life of Bartolomeo Vanzetti,” The Nation, December 27, 1958

sclerotic

medicine: of or having sclerosis.

becoming rigid and unresponsive; losing the ability to adapt

"sclerotic management"

“I would leave it up to the governors,” Trump said Friday, when asked about his government’s sclerotic response. Trouble is, when you leave it to the governors, you have scenes like we did in Florida with the open beaches -- not to mention a swath in the middle of the country that, as of Friday night, still had not ordered residents to stay home.

- “He Went to Jared: Heaven help us, we’re at the mercy of the Slim Suit crowd.,” by Maureen Dowd, The New York Times, April 4, 2020

costive

1. constipated

2. slow or reluctant in speech or action; unforthcoming.

“During the course of the disease, in some the tongue was moist, in others black and furred; some had an unquenchable thirst, at irregular intervals, others refused liquors. Some were lax, others costive, but most had the natural evacuation; the urine was uncertain, but commonly yellowish, and without sediment. A few had hæmorrhages, which, otherwise than in other pestilential cases, were commonly forerunners of a critical sweat.” -- Samuel Johnson, review of Alexander Russell, The Natural History of Aleppo

irrefragable

not able to be refuted or disproved; indisputable. … impossible to refute: irrefragable arguments

impossible to break or alter: irrefragable rules

from late Latin *irrefragabilis*, from in- ‘not’ + refragari ‘oppose’.

from re- + -*fragari* (as in *suffragari* to vote for); akin to Latin *suffragium* suffrage

“The author has irrefragably shown.”

Samuel Johnson, book review.

trimmer

an implement used for trimming off the unwanted or untidy parts of something

a hedge trimmer

a person who adapts their views to the prevailing political trends for personal advancement

a person who has no firm position, opinion, or policy, especially in politics

a person who is committed to no particular political party, adapting to one side or another as expediency may dictate.

chthonic

concerning, belonging to, or inhabiting the underworld

"a chthonic deity"

Chthonic, of or relating to earth, particularly the Underworld. Chthonic figures in Greek mythology included Hades and Persephone, the rulers of the Underworld, and the various heroes venerated after death; even Zeus, the king of the sky, had earthly associations and was venerated as Zeus Chthonius.

[Elaine] Chao, the secretary of transportation and McConnell’s wife, takes a roasting in this book as well. Together they are portrayed as chthonic ringmasters, the Steve Lawrence and Eydie Gormé of contemptuous partisanship and thoroughgoing bad faith.

Mitch, Please!’ Tours Kentucky and Roasts a Senator

By Dwight Garner

review of “Mitch, Please!: How Mitch McConnell Sold Out Kentucky (and America, Too)” by Matt Jones

The New York Times

March 23, 2020

lactescent

milky

used by Samuel Johnson in a review of Experiments on Bleaching by Francis Home; The Literary Magazine, 1756

appendectiform?

The Great American Novel has not yet been written. Herman Melville did several chapters of it, Walt Whitman some chapter headings, Henry James an appendectiform footnote. Mark Twain roughed out the comic bits, Theodore Dreiser made a prehistoric-skeleton outline, Sinclair Lewis, John Dos Passos, Ernest Hemingway all contributed suggestions. Last week it began to look as if Thomas Wolfe might also be at work on this hypothetical volume. His first installment (Look Homeward, Angel) appeared five years ago, his second (Of Time and the River) last week. In the interval Author Wolfe had written some 2,000,000 words, now has ready two more volumes of his projected six. Great in conception and scope, Author Wolfe's big book occasionally falters in execution, but his second volume is written with a surer hand than the first. If installments to come improve at such a rate there will no longer be any question about Wolfe's great and lasting contribution to U. S. letters.

-- “the great American novel hasn’t been written yet,” review of Of Time and the River by Thomas Wolfe, TIME Magazine, March 11, 1935

galumph

verb

INFORMAL

move in a clumsy, ponderous, or noisy manner.

“Theodore Dreiser, author of the galumphing American Tragedy.”

Time, May 29 1944

bemist

transitive verb

to envelop, involve, or obscure in or as if in mist: a bemisted mind

In winter, when night's shade

possesses longer half the world,

and longer in the idle stillness,

by the bemisted moon,

the lazy orient sleeps,

-- Eugene Onegin: A Novel in Verse, by Aleksandr Pushkin; translated by Vladimir Nabokov

darb

noun

slang

something superlative

a darb of a black eye

darb is slang for an excellent person or thing. An example of a darb is a student who receives the grade of A in every class all through the school years.

“a regular little darb” -- The Sun Also Rises

diablerie

reckless mischief; charismatic wildness

description of orchestral diablerie in Beethoven’s Eroica symphony -- Carnegie Hall program notes

Balkanize

divide (a region or body) into smaller mutually hostile states or groups

"ambitious neighbors would snatch pieces of territory, Balkanizing the country"

prematurity

He comes next to the Essay on Criticism, the stupendous performance of a youth not yet twenty years old, and after having detailed the felicities of condition, to which he imagines Pope to have owed his wonderful prematurity of mind, he tells us that …

Samuel Johnson, review of Arthur Murphy, *The Gray’s-Inn Journal* (1756)

morse

an ornamented metal clasp or brooch for fastening a cope in front

“The elegance of her dress, and the judicious disposition of her ornaments, had such an effect upon Anningait, that he could no longer be restrained from a declaration of his love. He therefore composed a poem in her praise, in which, among other heroick and tender sentiments, he protested, that "She was beautiful as the vernal willow, andd fragrant as thyme upon the mountains; that her fingers were white as the teeth of the morse, and her smile grateful as the dissolution of the ice; that he would pursue her, though she should pass the snows of the midland cliffs …”

Samuel Johnson

Rambler 186, “Annigait and Ajut concluded.”

chaplet

a garland or wreath for a person's head

not a chapel or a little chapel

lilt

a characteristic rising and falling of the voice when speaking; a pleasant gentle accent

Nowhere is there anything like it. My City. Not London. Not Paris. Not Moscow. Not any city I have ever seen. So strong. So immense. So elate.

Its lilt! Its power to hurry the blood in one's veins, to make one sing, to weep, to make one hate or sigh and die. Yet in the face of defeat, loneliness, despair, the dragging of feet in sheer weariness, perhaps, what strong, good days! Winey, electric! What beauty! What impressiveness! Neither hungry days nor yet lonely nor hopeless ones have ever broken his impressiveness--this spell for me.

-- Theodore Dreiser, “My City,” New York Herald Tribune, December 23, 1928

Parsee

an adherent of Zoroastrianism, especially a descendant of those Zoroastrians who fled to India from Muslim persecution in Persia during the 7th–8th centuries.

from the Persian

See. here it is. Miles and miles. You shall not be rid of it in any direction under hours of rapid riding. And the millions and millions tramping to and fro within it! A veritable stream: them; as at Times Square at the theater hour--a Niagara of them, as in Wall Street or Fifty-seventh Street or Fifth Avenue at the opening or closing hours of each day. And each so small. A Parsee of dust: Yet each with its hunger, thirst, hope.

-- Theodore Dreiser, “My City,” New York Herald Tribune, December 23, 1928

pother

a commotion or fuss.

"don't make such a pother!"

Each with that something--call it mind, soul, mood; electrons in electro-physical combination, ions in electro-chemical union or libido or what you will But each with the power to stir the other--to hate, to love, to longing, to dream, to aches, to death. And all gathered here in this endless pother of dreaming and seeking, seeking among canyons of stone, beneath tall towers of matter that stand foursquare to all the winds.

-- Theodore Dreiser, “My City,” New York Herald Tribune, December 23, 1928

orrery

a mechanical model of the solar system, or of just the sun, earth, and moon, used to represent their relative positions and motions.

epistemic

relating to knowledge or to the degree of its validation

of or relating to knowledge or knowing: cognitive

Epistemology is the study or philosophy of the acquisition of proper knowledge. Epistemological is an adjective that refers to epistemology. Epistemic is an adjective that talks about the act of acquiring knowledge itself (not its study or philosophy).

“It seemed as if the world would never be the same. In a lot of respects, that has proved true, though not necessarily in the ways I imagined at the time. Many of the roots of our current political environment can be traced back to that day. Politicians and government officials exploited 9/11, transforming it into an all-purpose justification for all sorts of actions that it didn’t in fact justify. Dazed by the spectacle, disoriented by fear -- and, maybe above all, wanting to trust the people who were supposed to protect us -- we were fed distortions of truth, like the misrepresentation of intelligence on Iraq’s weapons of mass destruction or the assertion that we needed to torture suspected terrorists in order to keep the country safe. We had, of course, been spun before, but never on this order of magnitude: Disinformation led us into years of war. Two decades later, those distortions have brought us to the full-blown epistemic crisis of our anything-goes, nothing-matters era.

-- “The Fog of Rudy: Did he change--or did America?” by Jonathan Mahler, The New York Times Magazine, January 19, 2020

elision

the omission of a sound or syllable when speaking (as in I'm, let's, e ' en [for even]).

an omission of a passage in a book, speech, or film.

the process of joining together or merging things, especially abstract ideas.

whinge

informal; British

to complain persistently and in a peevish or irritating way

I’ve covered the men who run the world my whole life. And there have been a lot of screw-ups, from Vietnam to Watergate to Afghanistan to Iraq to pushing the economy off a cliff. There has also been plenty of creepy behavior, culminating in the news that Donald Trump, Ken Starr and Alan Dershowitz have joined together in a pervy, hypocritical cabal to argue that Trump did not smirch the Constitution.

So please, Elizabeth Warren and Amy Klobuchar, stop whingeing about sexism and just show how you could wield power like a boss. Ibid: Nancy Pelosi.

-- “Starr Chamber: The Sequel; President Trump reaches deep into the perv barrel for his defense team,” by Maureen Dowd, The New York Times, January 18. 2020

jury-rigged

“To keep tens of thousands of dollars in monthly rent money rolling in, Maria Hrynenko, a landlord in the East Village, rolled the dice and decided to cut corners at her tenants’ expense, installing a jury-rigged gas system. That gamble was illegal, perilous and, ultimately, deadly.”

-- “Landlord in Deadly East Village Explosion Sentenced to at Least 4 Years,” by Aaron Randle, The New York Times, January 17, 2020

“Jury-rigged” vs. “Jerry-rigged”

Jury-rigged means something was assembled quickly with the materials on hand. Jerry-built means it was cheaply or poorly built. Jerry-rigged is a variant of jury-rigged, and it may have been influenced by jerry-built. While some people consider it to be an incorrect version of jury-rigged, it’s widely used, especially in everyday speech.

What does jury-rigged mean?

The word jury has a few different meanings. It can be a group of people that decides the verdict in a legal case or a group of people who judge a contest. Via French, this jury goes back to a Latin verb meaning “to swear (an oath),” also seen in words like perjury.

But, in the nautical world, jury means “makeshift” or “temporary.” The origin of this jury isn’t exactly known.

The word rig is also a nautical term. As a verb, it means “to fit a ship or mast with the necessary elements (such as shrouds and sails).” More generally, it means “to assemble.” Together, these words become jury-rigged by the late 18th century.

A jury-rig, as a noun, is a temporary solution that’s built to replace something that’s been broken or lost overboard. The word can also be used as a verb. For example: “She jury-rigged a new topmast after hers broke in the wind.” Although this expression is rooted in the nautical world, it can refer to any makeshift, MacGyver-like fix: “He jury-rigged a raincoat from garbage bag in the garage.”

What does jerry-built mean?

Jerry-built is an adjective. It describes something that’s cheaply or flimsily built. It can also mean “developed in a haphazard way.” The word can also be used as a verb (present form, jerry-build): “He jerry-built the house, and now, the roof is leaking.”

Here’s where jerry-built differs slightly from jury-rigged: A jury-rig is a temporary solution created with the materials at hand. In some cases, a jury-rig may be poorly put together, but that sense isn’t part of the definition. Jury-rigs can be clever, innovative, and impressive. If something is jerry-built, however, it’s poorly constructed by definition.

What does jerry-rigged mean?

The word jerry-rigged may be a blend of jury-rigged and jerry-built, or it may be a variant pronunciation or spelling of jury-rigged. (Jerry and jury do sound very close.) Jerry-rigged is found by the late 19th-century.

In everyday speech, the word jerry-rig is widely used, though some sticklers insist that it’s incorrect. It’s sometimes used in journalism as well. Its definition is the same as jury-rigged. For example: “She didn’t know how she was going to get home with all of those groceries, but then, using a few old scraps she found, she jerry-rigged a trailer for the back of her bicycle.”Jerry-built, jerry-build, and jerry-builder are all found in the 19th century.

legendarium (plural legendaria)

1. A literary collection of legends, particularly those detailing the life of a saint.

2. The collected high fantasy writings of J. R. R. Tolkien relating to the fictional realm of Middle-earth and the universe in which it is set.

“Without Christopher,” Thomas Shippey, a British professor who has been writing and lecturing on Tolkien for 50 years, said in an interview, “we would have very little knowledge of how Tolkien created his mythology and his own legendarium.”

-- Christopher Tolkien, Keeper of His Father’s Legacy, Dies at 95

By Katharine Q. Seelye and Alan Yuhas

The New York Times, January 16, 2020

larky

adjective

1: given to or ready for larking: sportive

2: resulting from a lark

given to good-natured joking or teasing

synonyms: antic, frolicsome, sportive

Dissonances creep in, but nothing too troubling, especially in a passage of serene chords that’s the prettiest part of the sonata. For all the work’s switches of mood -- between major and minor, churning and calm -- the stakes feel low, though not unagreeably. Even when it’s headlong, as in the chugga-chugga perpetual motion of the third movement, the work is light, even superficial, a revue of Glassian riffs that’s pleasant and passing. While it’s imposing, at nearly 30 minutes, the sonata feels larky.

-- “Philip Glass, at 82, Unveils His First Piano Sonata,” by Zachary Woolfe, The New York Times, November 20, 2019

dox

verb, informal

search for and publish private or identifying information about a particular individual on the Internet, typically with malicious intent.

"hackers and online vigilantes routinely dox both public and private figures"

“Instead, GirlsDoPorn swiftly uploaded the videos to its website and Pornhub, one of the world’s leading adult-video sites, where they amassed millions of views. The women were doxed and harassed relentlessly, and the videos were sent to their parents, siblings, boyfriends, coaches and pastors”

-- “Judge awards $13 million to women who say they were tricked into pornography,” by Brittany Shammas, The Washington Post, January 3, 2020

shambolic

adjective, informal, British

chaotic, disorganized, or mismanaged

"the department's shambolic accounting"

“… Trump is a know-it-all who is almost impossible to disabuse of boneheaded ideas: Climate change is a hoax; China pays his tariffs; the coronavirus will magically go away. Trump is also racist, and on some level it may be impossible for him to accept that a black man had a successful, scandal-free eight years as president while he has presided over a shambolic mess and faces the likelihood of a humiliating defeat.”

-- “Trump’s attempts to smear Obama could backfire spectacularly,” by Eugene Robinson, The Washington Post, May 18, 2020

“Huge, sometimes violent protests began erupting across Iraq in October, as people angry about unemployment, corruption and shambolic public services poured into the streets.”

-- “Why the U.S. Became the Focus of Iraqis’ Anger,” by Alan Yuhas, The New York Times, January 1, 2020

“[T]his taut and terrifying book is among the most closely observed accounts of Donald J. Trump’s shambolic tenure in office to date.”

-- “A Meticulous Account of Trump’s Tenure Reads Like a Comic Horror Story,” by Dwight Garner, The New York Times, January 16, 2020

Start with his re-election messaging, to the extent that you can discern such a thing. In 2016, Trump’s campaign was shambolic and punctuated by self-inflicted disasters, but his message against Hillary Clinton, like his message against the Republican establishment in the primaries, had a simplicity and consistency. …

-- “Trump Is Giving Up: Against both the coronavirus and Joe Biden, the president’s strategy increasingly accepts defeat.,” By Ross Douthat, The New York Times, October 20, 2020

“the shambolic conduct of the depicted English navel commanders” -- Stephen Bardle, The Literary Underground in the 1660s: Andrew Marvell, George Wither, Ralph Wallis, and the World of Restoration Satire and Pamphleteering (Oxford University Press, 2012)

ruction

INFORMAL

a disturbance or quarrel

rapacity

aggressive greed.

"the rapacity of landowners seeking greater profit from their property"

I was mistaken about the meaning when I encountered this word today (December 12, 2019), and thought I could infer the meaning from context.

I thought it might have a root suggesting similar origins with the word rape; and that it meant something like violence, or acting out violently.

There is the idea of aggressiveness, but not violence.

epitome

secondary meaning: a summary of a written work; an abstract

marmoreal

adjective

LITERARY

made of or likened to marble.

“[T]heir close partnership helps to correct the Boswellian portrait of Johnson as the marmoreally changeless and self-sufficient intellect.

-- “Editor’s Introduction,” A Course of Lectures on the English Law: Delivered at the University of Oxford, 1767-1773, by Sir Robert Chambers, Second Vinerian Professor of English Law; And Composed in Association with Samuel Johnson, Volume I, edited by Thomas M. Curley

minoritarian

A member or supporter of a minority group, especially in politics; a person who holds a minority view.

Of a view, belief, etc.: held by a minority of people. Of a person or group: holding a minority view.

“Had public life in America not been completely deformed by blizzards of official lies, right-wing propaganda and the immovable wall of Republican bad faith, the Mueller report would have ended Trump’s minoritarian presidency.” -- “Republicans’ Big Lie About Trump and Russia,” by Michelle Goldberg, The New York Times, November 25, 2019

remit

noun

British

the task or area of activity officially assigned to an individual or organization.

"the committee was becoming caught up in issues that did not fall within its remit"

Sondland, a wealthy Republican hotelier from the Pacific Northwest who became Trump’s ambassador to the European Union after donating $1 million to the president’s inauguration committee, handled a number of situations for Trump that would normally be considered outside the remit of his position in Brussels. He swooped in to take over the Ukraine portfolio after Trump’s personal attorney, Rudolph W. Giuliani, helped engineer the ouster of U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Marie Yovanovitch. -- “Sondland discussed sensitive matters with Trump on phone from Kyiv restaurant as waiters circled,” by Paul Sonne and Josh Dawsey, The Washington Post, November 16 2019

recreant

can be used as a noun or adjective; archaic

1. cowardly, coward

2. unfaithful to a belief; apostate.

But G.O.P. pols go along publicly because they are recreants, slavishly trying to hold onto voters who are more intensely aligned with Trump than old-style Republicans.

-- “Republicans, the Real Chickens of Kiev.” by Maureen Dowd, The New York Times, November 16 2019

recension

a revised edition of a text; an act of making a revised edition of a text

"Under the Carolingians new recensions of the code were made."

arrogate

“arrogating to himself”

take or claim (something) without justification.

fusty

1. smelling stale, damp, or stuffy.

"the fusty odor of decay"

2. old-fashioned in attitude or style

transmogrify

transform in a surprising or magical manner

"the cucumbers that were ultimately transmogrified into pickles"

varietal

adjective

1. (of a wine or grape) made from or belonging to a single specified variety of grape.

2. botany/zoology

relating to, characteristic of, or forming a variety

“varietal names"

alembic

1: a distilling apparatus, now obsolete, consisting of a rounded, necked flask and a cap with a long beak for condensing and conveying the products to a receiver

2: something that refines or transmutes as if by distillation; philosophy … filtered through the alembic of Plato's mind

“the alembic of hell”-- Edmund Burke, Reflections on the Revolution in France, Burke

repine

verb

LITERARY

feel or express discontent; fret

inure

accustom (someone) to something, especially something unpleasant

"these children have been inured to violence"

synonyms: harden, toughen, season, temper, condition

pendant

an artistic, literary, or musical composition intended to match or complement another.

"the triptych's pendant will occupy the corresponding wall in the south transept"

limpsy

adjective

limp especially from lack of physical strength: WEAK

suddenly the half-frozen and lifeless body fell limpsy in their hands -- Walt Whitman

(runaway slave; Song of Myself)

immiserate

verb

cause to become poor or impoverished.

"the colonial policy immiserated the populace

rakehell

noun

libertine; a licentious or dissolute man; rake

quell

verb

put an end to (a rebellion or other disorder), typically by the use of force.

"extra police were called to quell the disturbance"

subdue or silence someone.

"he quelled him with a look"

suppress (a feeling, especially an unpleasant one)

"he spoke up again to quell any panic among the assembled youngsters"

pansophy

universal wisdom or encyclopedic knowledge also: a system of universal knowledge

pansophic

1: of or relating to pansophy

2: omniscient

griot

noun

a member of a class of traveling poets, musicians, and storytellers who maintain a tradition of oral history in parts of West Africa

jape

noun: a practical joke.

verb: to say or do something in jest or mockery.

“… it was as a columnist that Mr. Baker made his name. Based at first in Washington, he recalled that he had to feel his way in the new genre of spoof and jape. “Nobody knew what the column was going to be,” he told the writer Nora Ephron. “I didn’t. The Times didn’t.”

-- “Russell Baker, Pulitzer-Winning Times Columnist and Humorist, Dies at 93,” By Robert D. McFadden, The New York Times, January 22, 2019

facticity

the quality or condition of being fact

"the facticity of death"

whilom

adverb; archaic

formerly

pericope

an extract from a text, especially a passage from the Bible

magisterium

the teaching authority of the Roman Catholic Church, especially as exercised by bishops or the Pope

the official and authoritative teaching of the Roman Catholic Church.

periphrasis

the use of indirect and circumlocutory speech or writing

an indirect and circumlocutory phrase.

plural noun: periphrases

GRAMMAR

the use of separate words to express a grammatical relationship that is otherwise expressed by inflection, e.g., did go as opposed to went and more intelligent as opposed to smarter.

amphibology

a phrase or sentence that is grammatically ambiguous, such as she *sees more of her children than her husband*.

obtrusion

1: an act of obtruding

2: something that is obtruded

obtrude

1. become noticeable in an unwelcome or intrusive way.

"a sound from the reception hall obtruded into his thoughts"

2. impose or force (something) on someone in an intrusive way.

"I felt unable to obtrude my private sorrow upon anyone"

“The generality of my scheme does not admit the frequent notice of verbal inaccuracies which Bentley, perhaps better skilled in grammar than in poetry, has often found, though he sometimes made them, and which he imputed to the obtrusions of a reviser whom the author's blindness obliged him to employ.”

-- Samuel Johnson, Lives of the Poets, “Milton”

sublunary

adjective; literary

belonging to this world as contrasted with a better or more spiritual one.

"the concept was irrational to sublunary minds"

pravity

Moral perversion or corruption; wickedness, depravity; an instance of this. Now archaic.

Origin: Early 16th century; earliest use found in John Irland (c 1440-1495), theologian. From Middle French pravité and its etymon classical Latin prāvitās crookedness, distortion, perverseness, depravity from prāvus + -tās. Compare Catalan pravitat, Spanish pravedad, Italian pravità.

Samuel Johnson, Lives of the Poets (“Milton”): “Ariosto’s pravity is generally known.”

pawky

adjective

BRITISH

having or showing a sly sense of humor.

"a gentle man with a pawky wit"

shrewd.

"she shakes her head with a look of pawky, knowing skepticism"

antimony

noun

a trivalent and pentavalent metalloid element with atomic number 51 that commonly occurs in a brittle, metallic, silvery white crystalline form and that is used especially in alloys, semiconductors, and flame-retardant substances

a silvery-white, brittle, nonmetallic chemical element of crystalline structure, found only in combination: used in alloys with metals to harden them and increase their resistance to chemical action; compounds of antimony are used in medicines, pigments, and matches, and for fireproofing: symbol, Sb; at. no., 51

At the intellectual heart of this most controversial of his political tracts is both a primary text supportive of empire in four parts and a subversive subtext scornfully meditating the end of empire with little regret. First, he began with a defense of government's authority to tax subjects (Yale Works, 10:411-19); second, he differentiated ancient and modern empire to demon­strate Great Britain's prerogatives (10:419-28); then thirdly, he attacked the self-righteous demands of the First Continental Congress (10:428-45); and lastly, be sarcastically called for the imposition of armed peace even while he could imagine the rise of an independent America indifferent to England (10:445-55). Paradoxically, for all this opening insistence on the unequivocal truth of parliamentary sovereignty, the pamphlet positively seethes with un­resolved dualities and dichotomies symptomatic of an underlying ideological impasse soon to sweep antagonists into unavoidable civil war. Oppositions abound: order/chaos, civilization/savagery, loyalty/rebellion, obedience/free­dom, sovereignty/autonomy, coercion/conciliation, and love/hatred for one's country. The entire dispute, like the Johnsonian logic of disputation, rested on stark ANTINOMIES, beyond peaceful reconciliation. Concerning the conceptual contrarieties dividing belligerents, a climactic statement says it all: "Liberty is the birthright of man, and where obedience is compelled, there is no liberty. The answer is equally simple. Government is necessary to man, and where obedience is not compelled, there is no government" (10:448). Here was a di­lemma without apparent solution: "Nothing remains but to conquer or to yield; to allow their claim of independence, or to reduce them by force to submission and allegiance" (10:444). War was inevitable.

-- Thomas M. Curley, “Samuel Johnson and *Taxation No Tyranny*,” in in *New Essays on Samuel Johnson: Revaluation*, edited by Anthony W. Lee

skulk

verb

keep out of sight, typically with a sinister or cowardly motive.

"don't skulk outside the door like a spy!"

noun

a group of foxes.

“he sculked from the approach of his king:

-- Samuel Johnson, “Milton,” The Lives of the Poets

concatenate

verb

link (things) together in a chain or series

"some words may be concatenated, such that certain sounds are omitted"

deciduous

(of a tree or shrub) shedding its leaves annually.

galoot

a clumsy or oafish person (often as a term of abuse).

synonyms: oaf, lug, lummox, knuckle-dragger, ape, klutz

"I was expecting the big galoot to trip over his own feet"

Ms. Leavy is generous with examples of entertainingly mawkish media coverage of Ruth, much of it supplied to reporters by Walsh, though it seems everyone participated in painting the man they knew to be a boozer, womanizer and midnight rambler as a clean-living, uxorious, adorable GALOOT.

-- review of “The Big Fella: Babe Ruth and the World He Created” by Jane Leavy; reviewed by Katherine A. Powers, The Wall Street Journal, October 5, 2018

“Administration lawyers came up with a nickname for Matthew Whitaker, the former acting attorney general. They called him Mongo, after the illiterate galoot played by Alex Karras in the Mel Brooks movie ‘Blazing Saddles’ ”

-- A Meticulous Account of Trump’s Tenure Reads Like a Comic Horror Story

By Dwight Garner, The New York Times

January 16, 2020

expletion

1. The action of filling something; the state of being filled to the full, satisfaction, fulfilment.

2. A word, expression, or passage that merely fills out a sentence, line, or text, without adding anything to the sense; = "expletive".

3. An exclamation, an oath, a swear word; = "expletive". Also as a mass noun: such expletives collectively.

pusillanimous

showing a lack of courage or determination; timid

synonyms: timid, timorous, cowardly, fearful, faint-hearted, lily-livered, spineless, craven, shrinking

natter

verb

gerund or present participle: nattering

talk casually, especially about unimportant matters; chatter

"they nattered away for hours"

Spiro Agnew used "pusillanimous pussyfoooters" and "nattering nabobs" in a speech to criticize antiwar protesters

perspicuous

(of an account or representation) clearly expressed and easily understood; lucid

"it provides simpler and more perspicuous explanations than its rivals"

(of a person) able to give an account or express an idea clearly

perspicacious

having a ready insight into and understanding of things

"it offers quite a few facts to the perspicacious reporter"

synonyms: discerning, shrewd, perceptive, astute, penetrating, observant, percipient, sharp-witted, sharp, smart, alert, clear-sighted, farsighted, acute, clever, canny, intelligent, insightful, wise, sage, sensitive, intuitive, understanding, aware, discriminating

emulous

adjective; formal

seeking to emulate or imitate someone or something

motivated by a spirit of rivalry.

"emulous young writers"

“emulous waves”

Walt Whitman, “The Ship Starting”

appanage

noun; archaic

1. a gift of land, an official position, or money given to the younger children of kings and princes to provide for their maintenance

2. a necessary accompaniment

"there is a tendency to make microbiology an appanage of organic chemistry"

gibbosity

plural gibbosities

protuberance, swelling

“his veinous cheeks resembled the kind of vine-leaf which is swollen with violet, purple, and often multi-coloured gibbosities.”

-- Balzac, Lost Illusions

nettle

1. a herbaceous plant that has jagged leaves covered with stinging hairs.

verb

1. irritate or annoy (someone).

"I was nettled by Alene's tone of superiority"

synonyms: irritate, annoy, irk, gall, vex, anger, exasperate, infuriate, provoke

2. (archaic) beat or sting (someone) with nettles.

'Tis dangerous to take a cold, to sleep, to drink; but I tell you, my lord fool, out of this nettle, danger, we pluck this flower, safety. The purpose you undertake is dangerous, the friends you have named uncertain, the time itself unsorted, and your whole plot too light for the counterpoise of so great an opposition.

-- Shakespeare: Henry IV Part 1: Act 2

zeugma

a figure of speech in which a word applies to two others in different senses

e.g., John and his license expired last week

or to two others of which it semantically suits only one

e.g., with weeping eyes and hearts

litotes

ironic understatement in which an affirmative is expressed by the negative of its contrary

e.g., you won't be sorry, meaning you'll be glad

anaphora

GRAMMAR: the use of a word referring to or replacing a word used earlier in a sentence, to avoid repetition, such as do in I like it and so do they.

RHETORIC: the repetition of a word or phrase at the beginning of successive clauses.

a rhetorical term for when a writer or speaker repeats the same beginning of a sentence several times. Writers and speakers use anaphora to add emphasis to the repeated element, but also to add rhythm, cadence, and style to the text or speech.

example: “The wrong person was selected for the wrong job, at the wrong time, for the wrong purpose.”

an anaphoric usage; especially: being a word or phrase that takes its reference from another word or phrase and especially from a preceding word or phrase -- compare cataphoric

In linguistics, anaphora is the use of an expression whose interpretation depends upon another expression in context (its antecedent or postcedent). In a narrower sense, anaphora is the use of an expression that depends specifically upon an antecedent expression and thus is contrasted with cataphora, which is the use of an expression that depends upon a postcedent expression. The anaphoric (referring) term is called an anaphor. For example, in the sentence Sally arrived, but nobody saw her, the pronoun her is an anaphor, referring back to the antecedent Sally. In the sentence Before her arrival, nobody saw Sally, the pronoun her refers forward to the postcedent Sally, so her is now a cataphor (and an anaphor in the broader, but not the narrower, sense). Usually, an anaphoric expression is a proform or some other kind of deictic (contextually-dependent) expression. Both anaphora and cataphora are species of endophora, referring to something mentioned elsewhere in a dialog or text.

Anaphora is an important concept for different reasons and on different levels: first, anaphora indicates how discourse is constructed and maintained; second, anaphora binds different syntactical elements together at the level of the sentence; third, anaphora presents a challenge to natural language processing in computational linguistics, since the identification of the reference can be difficult; and fourth, anaphora tells some things about how language is understood and processed, which is relevant to fields of linguistics interested in cognitive psychology.

anaphora

noun

1. GRAMMAR

the use of a word referring to or replacing a word used earlier in a sentence, to avoid repetition, such as do in I like it and so do they.

2. RHETORIC

the repetition of a word or phrase at the beginning of successive clauses.

anaphora

the repetition of opening words

asyndeton

the omission or absence of a conjunction between parts of a sentence

polysyndeton

a stylistic device in which several coordinating conjunctions are used in succession in order to achieve an artistic effect

In case any of you have been living under a rock for the past week (or aren’t from the US), the Denver Broncos are going to the Super Bowl. This is a Very Big Deal for the city of Denver, and people are going nuts. We’re all trying to make plans for Sunday so that we make sure that we have a couch to sit on and a TV to yell at. The guys who hosted the AFC Championship watch party are also hosting a Super Bowl party, and we’re getting the same crew together for beer and chips and wings and pizza and football and popcorn and probably some weird commercials.

Also, in case you were wondering, that last sentence was a textbook example of polysyndeton.

What Is Polysyndeton?

Polysyndeton is a literary technique in which conjunctions (e.g. and, but, or) are used repeatedly in quick succession, often with no commas, even when the conjunctions could be removed.

It is often used to change the rhythm of the text, either faster or slower, and can convey either a sense of gravity or excitement. It can also be used to intentionally overwhelm the reader, giving them very little room for mentally or visually breathing with the lack of commas.

Below are a few more examples now that you know what to look for.

Example from Charles Dickens’ A Tale of Two Cities:

… Jerry stood: aiming at the prisoner the beery breath of a whet he had taken as he came1along, and discharging it to mingle with the waves of other beer, and gin, and tea, and coffee, and what not, that flowed at him, and already broke upon the great windows behind him in an impure mist and rain.

Example from Mark Twain’s The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn:

I got into my old rags and my sugar-hogshead again, and was free and satisfied. But Tom Sawyer he hunted me up and said he was going to start a band of robbers, and I might join if I would go back to the widow and be respectable. So I went back.

Example from Jane Austen’s Pride and Prejudice:

Mrs. Hurst and her sister allowed it to be so--but still they admired her and liked her, and pronounced her to be a sweet girl, and one whom they would not object to know more of.

Austen uses polysyndeton frequently to convey a sense of enthusiasm and breathlessness.

Example from Herman Melville’s Moby Dick:

There was a low rumbling of heavy sea-boots among the benches, and a still slighter shuffling of women’s shoes, and all was quiet again, and every eye on the preacher.

The Opposite of Polysyndeton: Asyndeton

Asyndeton is what would result if you replaced all the conjunctions in the sample sentence above with commas, as in the famous Julius Caesar quote, “Veni, vidi, vici.”

It is important to note that polysyndeton and asyndeton are not necessarily indicative of a run-on sentence. A run-on sentence has no conjunctions or commas to indicate transition of ideas or phrases, but barrels on as if it were two sentences properly separated by a period. Polysyndeton and asyndeton maintain the elements of transition or connection, and are grammatically functional techniques.

… a parallel construction can be made to stand out by, for example, beginning each part of the parallelism with the same word or phrase. This device is called anaphora.

“asyndeton and polysyndeton … are actually quite uncomplicated matters of connectives. The former means the absence of connectives, generally and' s, and the latter is just the opposite, the repetitive use of connectives.

-- Mary P. Hiatt, Artful Balance: The Parallel Structures of Style (Teachers College Press, 1975)

epistrophe

RHETORIC

the repetition of a word at the end of successive clauses or sentences

symploce

the simultaneous use of anaphora and epistrophe.

In rhetoric, symploce is a figure of speech in which a word or phrase is used successively at the beginning of two or more clauses or sentences and another word or phrase with a similar wording is used successively at the end of them. It is the combination of anaphora and epistrophe.

tmesis

the separation of parts of a compound word by an intervening word or words, heard mainly in informal speech

e.g., shove it back any-old-where in the pile

illocutionary act

The concept of illocutionary acts was introduced into linguistics by the philosopher J. L. Austin in his investigation of the various aspects of speech acts.

In Austin's framework, locution is what was said, illocution is what was meant, and perlocution is what happened as a result.

When somebody says "Is there any salt?" at the dinner table, the illocutionary act (the meaning) is effectively "please give me some salt" even though the locutionary act (the literal sentence) was to ask a question about the presence of salt.

The perlocutionary act (the actual effect), was to cause somebody to offer salt.

mimesis

noun

imitation, in particular:

representation or imitation of the real world in art and literature.

the deliberate imitation of the behavior of one group of people by another as a factor in social change.

cursus

movement or flow of style; specifically: a pattern of cadence at the end of a sentence or phrase in medieval Latin prose which aimed by varying rhythm to avoid stressing the ultimate syllable

coxcomb

a vain and conceited man; a dandy

cully

British; archaic

a man; a friend

used by Daniel Defoe

+

remit

noun

1. the task or area of activity officially assigned to an individual or organization.

"the committee was becoming caught up in issues that did not fall within its remit"

2. an item referred to someone for consideration.

foregrounding

Foregrounding, in poetry is a way to make it stand out from ordinary writing. Foregrounding is when you manipulate words or sentences to be put in such a way that may seem to be grammatically incorrect but it attracts attention.

Foregrounding is the mother of literature and it sets apart literature from the norms of the ordinary language.

There are two kinds of foregrounding:

1. Parallelism is the repetition of a sound, word, idea etc. For instance, “I kissed thee ere, I killed thee...” --Othello, Shakespeare.

2. Deviation is to deviate from the said norm of the language. Example -“Ten thousands saw I at a glance.” (Wordsworth)

Foregrounding is the practice of making something stand out from the surrounding words or images. It is "the 'throwing into relief' of the linguistic sign against the background of the norms of ordinary language."

There are two main types of foregrounding: parallelism and deviation. Parallelism can be described as unexpected regularity, while deviation can be seen as unexpected irregularity.

When a poem deviates from “normal” language, this is called primary deviation. In addition, there is secondary deviation in that a line is unexpectedly different from the rest of the poem. Nursery rhymes, adverts and slogans often exhibit parallelism in the form of repetition and rhyme, but parallelism can also occur over longer texts. For example, jokes are often built on a mixture of parallelism and deviation. They often consist of three parts or characters. The first two are very similar (parallelism) and the third one starts out as similar, but our expectations are thwarted when it turns out different in end (deviation).

Foregrounding can occur on all levels of language (phonology, graphology, morphology, lexis, syntax, semantics and pragmatics). It is generally used to highlight important parts of a text, to aid memorability and/or to invite interpretation.

"in poetic language foregrounding achieves maximum intensity to the extent of pushing communication into the background as the objective of expression and of being used for its own sake; it is not used in the services of communication, but in order to place in the foreground the act of expression, the act of speech itself." (Jan Mukařovsky)

-- C. Carroll Hollis, Language and Style in Leaves of Grass

[F]foregrounding is ''the aesthetically intentional distortion of linguistic components" by which the message draws attention to itself. In conventional referential writing, the purpose of which is to convey information only, language becomes so habitual that we do not even notice it; it becomes what Mukařovsky) calls "automatized." This "automatized" language must be present as a background; in the literal sense, foregrounding brings language out of its background by whatever devices the writer chooses to use. In the previous sentence, if I had made every word, or even every major word, begin with the same letter, or the same syllable, or had them all rhyme, it would have drawn attention away from what the words were symbolizing to the words themselves. To have accidental alliteration or rhyming is actually a real blunder in serious expository prose, for it is a distraction that interrupts the developing flow of information.

*Background* can also apply to any type or form of writing against which the writer wishes his creation to be placed. For Wordsworth, in his Preface to and earlier practice in Lyrical Ballads, the background was eighteenth-century poetry. Whitman was not. quite so clear and forthright in his preface and practice in 1855, partly because his preface belonged to the act itself, and partly because he was working out his "foregrounding" as he went along and was still experimenting. The two, three, and four dots to indicate the length of pauses between word groups in speaking the lines, the occasional lack of punctuation or its use for rhetorical rather than grammatical reasons, the near-complete lack of parentheses even though parenthetical remarks are present, the failure to signify (by either italics or quotation marks) what is quoted material, all such reminders of the original oratorical impulse are still found in the 1855 edition, but most were gone in 1856, and all had vanished by the 1860 edition.

In Wordsworth, the "foregrounding" devices sharply differentiated his writing from that of his traditional eighteenth-century predecessors and contemporaries, but it was still recognized as poetry.

Whitman's foregrounding was even more drastic, so much so that many readers rejected *Leaves* as poetry altogether. Verse and verse forms might un­dergo various internal changes, but to reject verse altogether was to challenge not just one generation's literary fashion but what many considered the nature of poetry itself.

-- C. Carroll Hollis, Language and Style in Leaves of Grass (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1983)

orotund

1: marked by fullness, strength, and clarity of sound: sonorous

an orotund voice

2: pompous, bombastic

an orotund speech

orotundity

noun

late 18th century: from Latin ore rotundo ‘with rounded mouth.’

orotund

1. (of the voice or phrasing) full, round, and imposing.

synonyms: deep, sonorous, strong, powerful, full, rich, resonant, loud, booming

"an orotund singing voice"

(of writing, style, or expression) pompous; pretentious

synonyms: pompous, pretentious, affected, fulsome, grandiose, ornate, overblown, flowery, florid, high-flown, magniloquent, grandiloquent, rhetorical, oratorical

adventitious

adjective

1. happening or carried on according to chance rather than design or inherent nature.

"my adventures were always adventitious, always thrust on me"

synonyms: unplanned, unpremeditated, accidental, chance, fortuitous, serendipitous, coincidental, casual, random

"he felt that the conversation was not entirely adventitious"

2. coming from outside; not native.

"the adventitious population"

etui

noun; dated

a small ornamental case for holding needles, cosmetics, and other articles.

used by Walt Whitman

see Hollis pg. 230

prosody

1. the patterns of rhythm and sound used in poetry

"the translator is not obliged to reproduce the prosody of the original"

2. the theory or study of prosody

3. the patterns of stress and intonation in a language

erethism

1. excessive sensitivity or rapid reaction to stimulation of a part of the body, especially the sexual organs.

2. a state of abnormal mental excitement or irritation.

adjective: erethistic

excessively and inordinately responsive to sensory stimuli

epideictic

adjective; formal

characterized by or designed to display rhetorical or oratorical skill

stative

adjective; linguistics

(of a verb) expressing a state or condition rather than an activity or event, such as be or know, as opposed to run or grow

syntagma

a linguistic unit consisting of a set of linguistic forms (phonemes, words, or phrases) that are in a sequential relationship to one another

crackle

verb

gerund or present participle: crackling

1. make a rapid succession of slight cracking noises

"the fire suddenly crackled and spat sparks"

synonyms: sizzle, fizz, hiss, crack, snap, sputter, crepitate

"bits of dried mosses crackled in the fire"

2. give a sense of great tension or animation.

"attraction and antagonism were crackling between them"

gaggery

British

noun

the practice of telling jokes

oneiric

adjective

relating to dreams or dreaming

hobble

noun

a rope or strap used for hobbling a horse or other animal

variant: hopple

used by Walt Whitman

“the hopples fall from your ankles”

conation

an inclination (such as an instinct, a drive, a wish, or a craving) to act purposefully: impulse

conative: adjective

antinomian

relating to the view that Christians are released by grace from the obligation of observing the moral law.

a person holding antinomian beliefs.

vernal

of, in, or appropriate to spring

glossology

The science of language; linguistics.

llocutionary

relating to or being the communicative effect (such as commanding or requesting) of an utterance

"There's a snake under you" may have the illocutionary force of a warning

axil

BOTANY

the upper angle between a leaf stalk or branch and the stem or trunk from which it is growing.

horology

1. the study and measurement of time

2. the art of making clocks and watches

cimeter

or scimitar

a large, curved butcher's knife

tumultuary

adjective

tumultuous; turbulent

philology

the branch of knowledge that deals with the structure, historical development, and relationships of a language or languages

minacious

menacing; threatening

I had dinner with Vladimir Putin once. He made me lose my appetite.

The then-fledgling president of Russia was polite and smiling at first with me and the other journalists present at the 21 Club.

But then Katie Couric asked about his bloodless behavior in the wake of the Kursk submarine disaster in the summer of 2000, when the boat sank and all 118 on board were killed. She pressed him on why he didn’t come back from vacation when all those Russian sailors were suffering and dying in the submarine at the bottom of the sea.

His face completely changed, almost as though he had ripped off a “Mission Impossible” mask. Suddenly, he stared coldly at Katie, every inch the minacious K.G.B. agent. He looked like Richard Widmark playing a psychotic thug in a ’50s film noir.

Maureen Dowd

“Trump, Having a Bawl in Europe”

op-ed

New York Times

July 14, 2018

carding (British)

the process of preparing the fibres of cotton, wool, etc.

homiletics

the art of preaching or writing sermons

chiasmus

noun

a rhetorical or literary figure in which words, grammatical constructions, or concepts are repeated in reverse order, in the same or a modified form; e.g. “Poetry is the record of the best and happiest moments of the happiest and best minds.”

repetend

a recurring word or phrase; a refrain

paratactic

of or relating to parataxis

parataxis

the placing of clauses or phrases one after another, without words to indicate coordination or subordination, as in Tell me, how are you?

parataxis

Real speech comes, on average, in packets of 10 or so words at a time, rather sloppily juxtaposed. Rapid, spontaneous talk makes more use of parataxis -- the stringing of simple clauses together, such as in this segment:

Look, having nuclear – my uncle was a great professor and scientist and engineer, Dr. John Trump at M.I.T.; good genes, very good genes, O.K., very smart, the Wharton School of finance, very good, very smart – you know, if you're a conservative Republican, if I were a liberal, if, like, okay, if I ran as a liberal Democrat, they would say I'm one of the smartest people anywhere in the world – it’s true! – but when you're a conservative Republican they try – oh, they do a number – that’s why I always start off: "Went to Wharton, was a good student, went there, went there, did this, built a fortune”– you know I have to give my life credentials all the time, because we're a little disadvantaged – but you look at the nuclear deal, the thing that really bothers me …

In writing, this would likely be rendered using hypotaxis, which entails clearer subordinate clauses. The same sentence would be written as: “My uncle Dr. John Trump, who was a professor at M.I.T., had very good genes, which lent him considerable intelligence.”

hypotaxis

GRAMMAR

the subordination of one clause to another.

dependent relation or construction, as of clauses; syntactic subordination.

Hypotaxis is the grammatical arrangement of functionally similar but "unequal" constructs (from Greekhypo- "beneath", and taxis" arrangement"), i.e., certain constructs have more importance than others inside a sentence.

A common example of syntactic expression of hypotaxis is the subordination of one syntactic unit to another in a complex sentence.[1]Another example is observed in premodification. In the phrase "inexpensive composite materials", "composite" modifies "materials" while "inexpensive" modifies the complex head "composite materials", rather than "composite" or "materials". In this example the phrase units are hierarchically structured, rather than being on the same level, as compared to the example "Cockroaches love warm, damp, dark places." Notice the syntactic difference; hypotactic modifiers cannot be separated by commas.

A classical example of verbalhypotaxis is the blandly mocking Greek response King Leonidas Ireportedly made to the Persian messengers at Thermopylae, Molon labe (i.e., "Having come, take!").

Keats's "Ode to a Nightingale" has an example of hypotaxis in the second stanza: "O, for a draught of vintage! That hath been/ Cool'd a long age in the deep-delved earth, / Tasting of Flora and the country green" (1. 11–13). The "draught of vintage" is modified by the clauses in the successive lines.[2]

In Blake's poem "The Clod and the Pebble", the phrase "So sang a little Clod of Clay,/ Trodden with the cattle's feet" (l. 5–6) is an example of hypotaxis; line 6 modifies the "Clod of Clay" in line 5.[2]

proem

a preface or preamble to a book or speech.

polysemy

polysemous

adjective

definition of polysemous

having multiple meanings

1

polysemy

In one of the more extreme polysemous developments, a word can take on an opposite meaning, as dust (v.) can mean to clean up small particles (dust the furniture) or to apply small particles (dust the Bundt cake with powdered sugar).

Polysemy is an aspect of semantic ambiguity that concerns the multiplicity of word meanings. For a commonplace example, consider the meaning of the adjective good in the following sentences:

1. We had a good time yesterday.

2. Bring me a good banana.

3. That ticket is good for travel on any flight.

4. It’s a good ten miles to the next gas station.

In each case, good carries a different meaning:

1. Pleasurable, enjoyable, or satisfying.

2. Suitable for an intended purpose.

3. Generally valid and acceptable.

4. Emphatically full or complete.

Notice the range of meanings available for interpretation of good in these few sentences.

metalepsis

plural metalepses

a figure of speech consisting in the substitution by metonymy of one figurative sense for another

Metalepsis (from the Greek) is a figure of speech in which a word or a phrase from figurative speech is used in a new context.

"I've got to catch the worm tomorrow."

"The early bird catches the worm" is a common maxim, advocating getting an early start on the day to achieve success. The subject, by referring to this maxim, is compared to the bird; tomorrow, the speaker will awaken early in order to achieve success.

sequacious

adjective

1. following with smooth or logical regularity

2. Archaic. following, imitating, or serving another person, especially unreasoningly

1. (of a person) lacking independence or originality of thought.

1. archaic: subservient, tractable

2. intellectually servile

noumenon

plural noumena

a posited object or event as it appears in itself independent of perception by the senses

adjective, noumenal

In metaphysics, the noumenon (from Greek) is a posited object or event that exists independently of human sense and/or perception. The term noumenon is generally used when contrasted with, or in relation to, the term phenomenon, which refers to anything that can be apprehended by or is an object of the senses.

midge

a small two-winged fly that is often seen in swarms near water or marshy areas where it breeds.

informal: a small person.

Alcott

Moods, pg. 18

risible

capable of laughing; disposed to laugh

arousing or provoking laughter; especially: laughable

associated with, relating to, or used in laughter … risible muscles

Alcott

Moods, pg. 18

swivet

a fluster or panic.

“the incomprehensible did not throw him into a swivet"

shammery

(Alcott, Moods, pg. 8)

shammer

1. someone shirking their duty by feigning illness or incapacity.

malingerer, skulker. shirker, slacker - a person who shirks his work or duty (especially one who tries to evade military service in wartime)

2. shammer - a person who makes deceitful pretenses.

pleonasm

noun

the use of more words than are necessary to convey meaning (e.g., see with one's eyes), either as a fault of style or for emphasis

emulous

adjective; formal

seeking to emulate or imitate someone or something.

motivated by a spirit of rivalry.

"emulous young writers"

Whitman -- “emulous waves” (“Song of Myself”)

eidolon

noun

an idealized person or thing.

a specter or phantom

In ancient Greek literature, an eidolon (plural: eidolaor eidolons) (Greek εἴδωλον: "image, idol, double, apparition, phantom, ghost") is a spirit-image of a living or dead person; a shade or phantom look-alike of the human form. The concept of Helen of Troy's eidolon was explored both by Homer and Euripides. However, where Homer uses the concept as a free-standing idea that gives Helen life after death, Euripides entangles it with the idea of kleos, one being the product of the other. Both Euripides and Stesichorus, in their respective works concerning the Trojan Horse, claim that Helen was never physically present in the city at all.

isochronous

adjective

occurring at the same time

occupying equal time.

<https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isochrony>

chaffer

verb

haggle about the terms of an agreement or price of something

irrupt

intransitive verb

1: to rush in forcibly or violently

2 of a natural population: to undergo a sudden upsurge in numbers especially when natural ecological balances and checks are disturbed

3: erupt

the crowd irrupted in a fervor of patriotism

used by Louisa May Alcott in her novel Work, pg. 221

swash

verb

gerund or present participle: swashing

1. (of water or an object in water) move with a splashing sound.

"the water swashed and rippled around the car wheels"

2. archaic

(of a person) flamboyantly swagger about or wield a sword.

"he swashed about self-confidently"

“swashing sound”

-- Louisa May Alcott

Work: A Story of Experience

pg. 129

motley

adjective

incongruously varied in appearance or character; disparate

"a motley crew of discontents and zealots"

noun

1. an incongruous mixture

"a motley of interacting interest groups"

2. historical

the particolored costume of a jester.

"life-size mannequins in full motley"

used in Louisa May Alcott, Work, pg. 47

“wear warm, true hearts under their motely”

jorum

(historical) a large bowl or jug used for serving drinks such as tea or punch

retiracy

1: retirement, seclusion

2: sufficient means or property to make possible retirement from business

saleratus

sodium bicarbonate (or sometimes potassium bicarbonate) as the main ingredient of baking powder.

rusk

a hard, dry biscuit or a twice-baked bread

anathemize

curse or declare to be evil or anathema or threaten with divine punishment

deplore; express strong disapproval of.

recreant

archaic

adjective

1. cowardly.

"what a recreant figure must he make"

2. unfaithful to a belief; apostate.

noun

1. a coward.

2. a person who is unfaithful to a belief; an apostate.

defalcation

1: (archaic) deduction

2: the act or an instance of embezzling

3: a failure to meet a promise or an expectation

Defalcation is misappropriation of funds by a person trusted with its charge; also, the act of misappropriation, or an instance thereof. The term is more specifically used by the United States Bankruptcy Code to describe a category of acts that taint a particular debt such that it cannot be discharged in bankruptcy.

dubersome

(archaic) doubtful

used by Louisa May Alcott

tatty

adjective, informal

1. worn and shabby; in poor condition.

"the room was furnished in slightly tatty upholstered furniture"

2. of poor quality

"his gap-toothed smile and tatty haircut"

early 16th century (originally Scots, in the sense ‘tangled, matted, shaggy’): apparently ultimately related to Old English tættec ‘rag,’ of Germanic origin; compare with tattered.

used in NY Times article

“Police’s Shifting Account of Black Man’s Death Raises Questions in Savannah”

The New York Times

April 28, 2018

Its restaurants are more sophisticated, its airport has expanded to accommodate more visitors -- “The numbers are just exploding,” Mayor Eddie DeLoach says -- and its historic downtown, which once evinced a tatty charm, has been burnished to a high gloss.

settle

noun

a long seat or bench, usually wooden, with arms and a high back

dyscrasy

noun; countable and uncountable

1. (countable, literally) A bodily disorder; an imbalance of the humors; distemper; morbid diathesis.

2. (uncountable, figuratively) Disharmony; discord; disorder; dissonance.

albescent

becoming [white](https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/white) or [whitish](https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/whitish); moderately white

see “albescent honey”

Walt Whitman and the Body Beautiful

pg. 222

rachitic

rachitic poets

Walt Whitman and the Body Beautiful

pg. 241

1. (medicine) Pertaining to or affected by rickets

2. Feeble, in a weak or precarious condition.

esculent

adjective

fit to be eaten; edible.

noun

a thing, especially a vegetable, which is fit to be eaten

used by Walt Whitman

Walt Whitman and the Body Beautiful

pg. 132

pathognomy

Pathognomy is the study of passions and emotions. It refers to the expression of emotions indicated by the voice, gestures and facial expression. While physiognomy is used to predict the overall, long-term character of an individual, pathognomy is used to ascertain clues about one's current character.

used in Walt Whitman and the Body Beautiful

pg. 133

adumbrate

1: to foreshadow vaguely: intimate

the social unrest that adumbrated the French Revolution

2: to suggest, disclose, or outline partially

adumbrate a plan

3: overshadow, obscure

bubbling optimism, not at all adumbrated by difficulties

adumbration; noun

Antinomianism is any view which rejects laws or legalism and is against moral, religious, or social norms (Latin: mores), or is at least considered to do so.

In Christianity, an antinomian is one who takes the principle of salvation by faith and divine grace to the point of asserting that the saved are not bound to follow the Law of Moses. The distinction between antinomian and other Christian views on moral law is that antinomians believe that obedience to the law is motivated by an internal principle flowing from belief rather than from any external compulsion.

doughty

archaic; humorous

brave and persistent.

"his doughty spirit kept him going"

synonyms: fearless, dauntless, determined, resolute, indomitable, intrepid, plucky, spirited, bold, valiant, brave, stouthearted, courageous

cocotte

noun

1. a covered, heatproof dish or casserole in which food can be both cooked and served; a Dutch oven.

2. dated; a fashionable prostitute.

gallipot

noun

historical

a small pot made from glazed earthenware or metal, used by pharmacists to hold medicines or ointments.

crinoline

1. historical; a stiffened or hooped petticoat worn to make a long skirt stand out.

2. a stiff fabric made of horsehair and cotton or linen thread, typically used for stiffening petticoats or as a lining.

chivvy

verb

tell someone repeatedly to do something

an association that chivvies government into action"

limerence

noun

PSYCHOLOGY

the state of being infatuated or obsessed with another person, typically experienced involuntarily and characterized by a strong desire for reciprocation of one's feelings but not primarily for a sexual relationship

polyvalent

ADJECTIVE

Chemistry -- Having a valency of three or more.

Medicine -- Active against several toxins or strains of pathogen.

‘a polyvalent antivenin’

Having many different functions, forms, or facets.

‘the polyvalent character of his thought’

synoptic

adjective

1. of or forming a general summary or synopsis; taking or involving a comprehensive mental view

“a synoptic model of higher education"

2. relating to the Synoptic Gospels.

The gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke are referred to as the synoptic Gospels because they include many of the same stories, often in a similar sequence and in similar or sometimes identical wording. They stand in contrast to John, whose content is largely distinct.

essentialism

1: an educational theory that ideas and skills basic to a culture should be taught to all alike by time-tested methods -- compare progressivism

2: a philosophical theory ascribing ultimate reality to essence embodied in a thing perceptible to the senses -- compare nominalism

3: the practice of regarding something (such as a presumed human trait) as having innate existence or universal validity rather than as being a social, ideological, or intellectual construct

essentialist

essentialism

noun -- education

1. a doctrine that certain traditional concepts, ideals, and skills are essential to society and should be taught methodically to all students, regardless of individual ability, need, etc.

swinge

verb

literary

strike hard; beat.

swinged; swingeing

transitive verb

chiefly dialectal

beat, scourge

swingeing

adjective

BRITISH

severe or otherwise extreme

"swingeing cuts in public expenditure"

anomie

lack of the usual social or ethical standards in an individual or group

"the theory that high-rise architecture leads to anomie in the residents"

immiserate

1. to make miserable.

2. to cause to become impoverished.

ostent

NOUN

rare, archaic

a portent or sign; a wonder, a prodigy

1: a significant sign; portent

the night waxed wan, as though with an awed sense of such ostent

-- Thomas Hardy

2: the act of showing or displaying; appearance, manifestation

be merry and employ your chiefest thoughts to courtship and such fair ostents of love

-- Shakespeare

3: excessive display; ostentation

the city of glorious ostent and vanity

-- Christopher Morley

dryad

(in folklore and Greek mythology) a nymph inhabiting a forest or a tree, especially an oak tree

apophatic

adjective

THEOLOGY

(of knowledge of God) obtained through negation

supernal

literary

relating to the sky or the heavens; celestial

of exceptional quality or extent

“he is the supernal poet of our age"

exercitant

one engaged in spiritual exercises

hyperbaton

RHETORIC

an inversion of the normal order of words, especially for the sake of emphasis, as in the sentence “this I must see.”

But the Democrats in the House aren’t all enthusiastic. Some have been saying they want a leader who’s younger, more open to new ideas, less likely to become a political meme for the opposition. “I do think it’s time to pass the torch to a new generation,” said Representative Linda Sánchez in a recent TV interview.

-- “And Now, the Nancy Pelosi Drama,” By Gail Collins, The New York Times, March 16, 2018

Upsetting as it is to see the president and first lady facing a mortal threat -- and the glee and memes from some on the left were vulgar -- it was undeniable that reality was crashing in on the former reality star.

-- “Reality Bursts the Trumpworld Bubble,” By Maureen Dowd, The New York Times, October 3, 2020

definition of meme

1. an idea, behavior, style, or usage that spreads from person to person within a culture (often through imitation)

“Memes (discrete units of knowledge, gossip, jokes and so on) are to culture what genes are to life. Just as biological evolution is driven by the survival of the fittest genes in the gene pool, cultural evolution may be driven by the most successful memes.” -- Richard Dawkins

2. an amusing or interesting item (such as a captioned picture or video) or genre of items that is spread widely online especially through social media

frowzy

adjective

1. scruffy and neglected in appearance.

synonyms: scruffy, unkempt, untidy, messy, disheveled, slovenly, slatternly, bedraggled, down-at-the-heels, badly dressed, dowdy, raggedy

"a frowzy old biddy"

2. dingy and stuffy

a frowzy nightclub"

synonyms:

dingy, gloomy, dull, drab, dark, dim

lucubration

study; meditation.

"after sixteen years' lucubration he produced this account"

a piece of writing, typically a pedantic or overelaborate one

plural noun: lucubrations

lucubrate

verb; archaic

produce scholarly written material

Origin

early 17th century: from Latin lucubrat- ‘(having) worked by lamplight,’ from the verb lucubrare.

apostrophize

rhetoric

address an exclamatory passage in a speech or poem to (someone or something)

irrefragable

not able to be refuted or disproved; indisputable

lugubrious

looking or sounding sad and dismal

synonyms:

mournful, gloomy, sad, unhappy, doleful, glum, melancholy, woeful, miserable, woebegone, forlorn, somber, solemn, serious, sorrowful, morose, dour, cheerless, joyless, dismal

filiation

the fact of being or of being designated the child of a particular parent or parents.

"relationships based on ties of filiation as opposed to marriage"

the manner in which a thing is related to another from which it is derived or descended in some respect.

"the filiation of Old Norse manuscripts"

a branch of a society or language

gelid

adjective

icy; extremely cold

"the gelid pond"

synonyms: icy, very cold, icy cold, ice cold, frosty; frozen

"a gelid winter morning"

James Thomson: “I sing of winter and her gelid reign.” (The Seasons)

pleasaunce

A pleasure-garden; a region of garden with the sole purpose of giving pleasure to the senses, but not offering fruit or sustenance.

agonistic

combative; polemical

ZOOLOGY: of animal behavior associated with conflict

BIOCHEMISTRY: relating to or acting as an agonist.

glebe

archaic: land, specifically, a plot of cultivated land

a piece of land serving as part of a clergyman's benefice and providing income

supplejack

either of two New World twining plants

flange

a projecting flat rim, collar, or rib on an object, serving to strengthen or attach or (on a wheel) to maintain position on a rail

"the flanges that held the tailpipe to the aircraft"

chary

cautiously or suspiciously reluctant to do something.

"most people are chary of allowing themselves to be photographed"

synonyms: wary, cautious, circumspect, heedful, careful, on one's guard

umbrageous

1a: affording shade; 1b: spotted with shadows

2: inclined to take offense easily

prelusive

constituting or having the form of a prelude: introductory

georgic

a poem or book dealing with agriculture or rural topics

(adjective; literary) rustic; pastoral

early 16th century: via Latin from Greek gergikos, “farmer”

salvific

(theology)

adjective; leading to salvation

gammon

ham that has been cured or smoked like bacon; the lower or hind part of a side of bacon

informal, dated: nonsense; rubbish

verb: hoax or deceive someone

early 18th century: origin uncertain; the term was first used as criminals' slang in give gammon to “give cover to (a pickpocket)” and keep in gammon “distract (a victim) for a pickpocket”

prosy

adjective (especially of speech or writing)

showing no imagination; commonplace or dull

demotic

denoting or relating to the kind of language used by ordinary people; popular or colloquial.

synonyms: popular, vernacular, colloquial, idiomatic, vulgar, common

revenant

noun

a person who has returned, especially supposedly from the dead

midden

a dunghill or refuse heap.

A midden (also kitchen midden or shell heap; from early Scandinavian; Danish: mødding, Swedish regional: mödding) is an old dump for domestic waste which may consist of animal bone, human excrement, botanical material, mollusc shells, sherds, lithics (especially debitage), and other artifacts and ecofacts associated with past human occupation.

miry

adjective

very muddy or boggy.

"the roads were miry in winter"

used by Charles Dickens

Brummagem

cheap, showy, or counterfeit

"a vile Brummagem substitute for the genuine article"

Brummagem (and historically also Bromichan, Bremicham and many similar variants, all essentially "Bromwich-ham") is the local name for the city of Birmingham, England, and the dialect associated with it. It gave rise to the terms Brum (a shortened version of Brummagem) and Brummie (applied to inhabitants of the city, their accent and dialect, and frequently West Midlanders and their accents in general).

Brummagem and Brummagem ware are also terms for cheap and shoddy imitations, in particular when referring to mass-produced goods. This use is archaic in the UK, but persists in some specialist areas in the USA and Australia.

deictic

linguistics; adjective

relating to or denoting a word or expression whose meaning is dependent on the context in which it is used, e.g., here, you, me, that one there, or next Tuesday.

In linguistics, deixis refers to words and phrases, such as “me” or “here,” that cannot be fully understood without additional contextual information -- in this case, the identity of the speaker (“me”) and the speaker's location (“here”).

pule

verb; literary

gerund or present participle: puling

cry querulously or weakly

periphrasis

the use of indirect and circumlocutory speech or writing

an indirect and circumlocutory phrase

GRAMMAR

the use of separate words to express a grammatical relationship that is otherwise expressed by inflection, e.g., did go as opposed to went and more intelligent as opposed to smarter.

use of a longer phrasing in place of a possible shorter form

example: not a shadow of a shade of doubt

fellmonger

a dealer in hides or skins, particularly sheepskins, who might also prepare skins for tanning. The name is derived from the Old English “fell,” meaning skins and “monger” meaning dealer.

stodge

noun

British; informal

1. food that is heavy, filling, and high in carbohydrates.

"she ate her way through a plateful of stodge"

2. dull and uninspired material or work.

+

protraction

1. the action of prolonging something or the state of being prolonged.

"the protraction of the war"

2. the action of extending a part of the body.

projector

1. an object that is used to project rays of light, especially an apparatus with a system of lenses for projecting slides or film onto a screen.

2. archaic

a person who plans and sets up a project or enterprise.

a promoter of a dubious or fraudulent enterprise.

see Frankenstein, pg. 267

exordium

the beginning or introductory part, especially of a discourse or treatise

endue

verb

literary

endow or provide with a quality or ability

repine

verb; literary

to feel or express discontent; fret

used by Mary Shelly in Frankenstein

slough

1. a swamp.

2. a situation characterized by lack of progress or activity

chamois

1. an agile goat-antelope with short hooked horns, found in mountainous areas of Europe from Spain to the Caucasus.

2. a type of soft pliable leather now made from sheepskin or lambskin.

repine

verb, literary

to feel or express discontent; fret

“It is true that I have thought more and that my daydreams are more extended and magnificent, but they want (as painters call it) keeping ...”

Mary Shelley, Frankenstein

pg. 18

Keeping, in painting, signifies the representation of objects in the same manner that they appear to the eye at different distances from it, which is only to be done with accuracy by attending to the rules of perspective.

ungenial

rather than uncongenial

used by Mary Shelley

“a wet, ungenial summer”

author’s introduction to Frankenstein (1831)

lubricity

the property or state of being lubricious; also: the capacity for reducing friction

1. formal or literary lewdness or salaciousness

2. rare smoothness or slipperiness

3. capacity to lubricate

(lewdness), (slipperiness): from Old French lubricité, from Medieval Latin lubricit?s, from Latin, from l?bricus slippery]

1. oily smoothness; slipperiness.

1. oily smoothness, as of a surface; slipperiness.

2. ability to lubricate; capacity for lubrication: the wonderful lubricity of this new oil.

3. instability; shiftiness; fleeting nature: the lubricity of fame and fortune.

4. lewdness; lustfulness: lasciviousness; salaciousness.

5. something that arouses lasciviousness, especially pornography.

Origin of lubricity

1485–95; earlier lubrycyte lewdness

Medieval Latin lubricit?s lechery, Late Latin: slipperiness.

flapdoodle

noun, informal

nonsense

"people who are prey to dogmatic flapdoodle"

a fool

mumblespeak

The attempt to cover something up by giving information that says absolutely nothing.

Devin Nunes used mumblespeak to try and divert the public's attention from the investigation into Trump's ties with Russia.

John Stuart Mill

Autobiography

pg. 27

vocables

John Stuart Mill

Autobiography

pg. 32

synoptic

dottle

noun

a remnant of tobacco left in a pipe after smoking

fetor

a strong, foul smell

"the fetor of decay"

Whitman

“infused fetor”

“This Compost”

tarn

noun

a small mountain lake

used by Theodore Dreiser in Dawn

pinchbeck

an alloy of copper and zinc resembling gold, used in watchmaking and costume jewelry.

adjective: appearing valuable, but actually cheap or tawdry.

lowery; also spelled (more commonly) loury

adjective: ““A lowery sky, and from it flecks of silvery light dropping lightly, like mirrored feathers.”

lour (English word) is a verb; it has the meaning of look angry or sullen; scowl (“The lofty statue lours at patients in the infirmary”).

or: (of sky or landscape), look dark and threatening.

I thought it meant a CLOUDY sky. It sort of does, but more precisely, it means a sky looking dark and threatening (the pathetic fallacy?).

Used as a noun, lour can mean a dark and gloomy appearance of the sky or landscape.

Lour comes from the Middle English lour (“sad or frowning countenance”), louren (“to frown or scowl; to be dark or overcast; look askant, mistrust; wither, fade, droop; lurk, skulk”); and from the Old English lowren, luren. Compare Dutch loeren, German lauern (“lurk, be on the watch”), and English leer and lurk.

synesthesia

the production of a sense impression relating to one sense or part of the body by stimulation of another sense or part of the body

afflatus

a divine creative impulse or inspiration

×

noisome

adjective

literary

1. having an extremely offensive smell

"noisome vapors from the smoldering waste"

2. disagreeable; unpleasant

"noisome scandals"

GREAT WORD

metonymy

a figure of speech consisting of the use of the name of one thing for that of another of which it is an attribute or with which it is associated (such as "crown" in "lands belonging to the crown")

the substitution of the name of an attribute or adjunct for that of the thing meant, for example suit for business executive, or the track for horse racing.

metonymic

adjective

Metonymy is a figure of speech in which a thing or concept is referred to by the name of something closely associated with that thing or concept.

A place is often used as a metonym for a government or other official institutions, for example, Brussels for the institutions of the European Union, The Hague for the International Court of Justice or International Criminal Court, Nairobi for the government of Kenya, or the White House and Capitol Hill for the executive and legislative branches, respectively, of the United States federal government. A place can represent an entire industry: for instance, Wall Street is often used metonymically to describe the entire U.S. financial and corporate banking sector. Common nouns and phrases can also be metonyms: red tape can stand for bureaucracy, whether or not that bureaucracy actually uses red tape to bind documents. In Commonwealth realms, The Crown is a metonym for the state in all its aspects.

Metonymy and related figures of speech are common in everyday speech and writing.

synecdoche

a figure of speech in which a part is used for to represent the whole, or vice versa (the whole for a part), the special for the general or the general for the special

as in ten sail for ten ships or a Croesus for a rich man.

or Cleveland won by six runs (meaning “Cleveland's baseball team”)

"Metonymy may be defined as a linguistic substitution in which a thing is named not directly but by way of something adjacent to it either temporally or spatially. Synecdoche, substituting part for whole, container for thing contained, attribute for substance, and so on, is an important subdivision of metonymy" (Hollis)

pathetic fallacy

the attribution of human feelings and responses to inanimate things or animals, especially in art and literature.

ingenuous

(of a person or action) innocent and unsuspecting

synonyms: naive, innocent, simple, childlike, trusting, unwary

“At times, Brown seems capable of writing in only two registers: Brag and humblebrag. I prefer the straightforward brag -- at least all the brass horns are playing in the same key -- though I do admire how she twice manages to reveal, by Page 10, that she was quite shapely in her youth, both times under the guise of a complaint.”

-- review by Jennifer Senior of “The Vanity Fair Diaries: 1983-1992” by Tina Brown, The New York Times, November 13, 2017

humblebrag

noun

an ostensibly modest or self-deprecating statement whose actual purpose is to draw attention to something of which one is proud.

verb

make an ostensibly modest or self-deprecating statement with the actual intention of drawing attention to something of which one is proud.

"She humblebragged about how “awful” she looks without any makeup."

asyndeton

noun

the omission or absence of a conjunction between parts of a sentence

I know I am deathless,

I know this orbit of mine cannot be swept by a carpenter's

compass,

I know I shall not pass like a child's carlacue cut with a burnt

stick at night.

- Walt Whitman, Leaves of Grass

carlacue: Variant of curlicue

curlicue

a fancifully curved or spiral figure

habiliment

Aspiz, So Long! Walt Whitman’s Poetry of Death 9

ediolon

soul image

Aspiz, So Long! Walt Whitman’s Poetry of Death 12

ostent evanescent

Aspiz, So Long! Walt Whitman’s Poetry of Death 12

Schlesinger kept writing books he hoped would “serve the liberal cause,” as he had intended for his past works. But they were jeremiads about America’s declension rather than heralds of its rendezvous with a destiny of progress.

Michael Kazin review of Schlesinger: The Imperial Historian by Richard Aldous

definition of declension

1: noun, adjective, or pronoun inflection especially in some prescribed order of the forms; a class of nouns or adjectives having the same type of inflectional forms

2: a falling off or away; deterioration

3: descent, slope

metrics

noun

1. the use or study of poetic meters; prosody.

2. a method of measuring something, or the results obtained from this.

"the report provides various metrics at the class and method level"

metrics

Standards of measurement by which efficiency, performance, progress, or quality of a plan, process, or product can be assessed.

something set up as an example against which others of the same type are compared according to the usual metrics by which we judge fiction, this novel is an utter failure Synonyms of metric bar, barometer, benchmark, criterion, gold standard, grade, mark, measure, standard, par, touchstone, yardstick

ferity

Thoreau, Natural History Essays, pg. 122

definition of ferity

plural ferities

archaic

the quality or state of being feral; also, barbarity

Cerulean

Cerulean is a range of colors from deep blue, sky-blue, bright blue, or azure to deep cyan. The word cerulean comes from the Latin word caeruleum, which means "sky" or "heavens". This was in turn from Latin caeruleus deep blue: resembling the blue of the sky.

He would talk to me by the hour ... of the French Revolution and the great figures in it, of Napoleon, Wellington, Tsar Alexander, Also of Peter the Great and Catharine of Russia, Frederick the Great and Voltaire, whom he admired enormously. But not the silly, glossed, emasculated data of the school histories with which I had been made familiar, but with the harsh, jagged realities and savageries of the too real world in which all of them moved.

Theodore Dreiser, Dawn, Chapter 61

gloss

verb

glossed (past tense) · glossed (past participle)

1. apply a cosmetic gloss to.

synonyms: make glossy · shine · glaze · polish · burnish

2. try to conceal or disguise (something embarrassing or unfavorable) by treating it briefly or representing it misleadingly

"the social costs of this growth are glossed over"

synonyms: conceal · cover up · hide · disguise · mask · veil · shrug off

wain

noun

archaic

a wagon or cart

tussock

1. a small area of grass that is thicker or longer than the grass growing around it.

2. a woodland moth whose adults and brightly colored caterpillars both bear tufts of irritant hairs. The caterpillars can be a pest of trees, damaging fruit and stripping leaves.

compeer

a person of equal rank, status, or ability

"he was better versed in his profession than his compeers"

emprise

an adventurous, daring, or chivalric enterprise

he always seems to be having the sort of high emprise that most of us experience only in our dreams

origin and etymology:

Middle English, undertaking, from Anglo-French, from emprendre to undertake, from Vulgar Latin imprehendere, from Latin in- + prehendere to seize

synonyms: adventure, experience, exploit, gest (or geste), happening, time

dank

disagreeably damp, musty, and typically cold

synonyms: damp, musty, chilly, clammy, moist, wet, unaired, humid

"the dank basement"

the gadding town

Thoreau, Natural History Essays, pg. 56

gad

verb

gadding (present participle)

go around from one place to another, in the pursuit of pleasure or entertainment:

"help out around the house and not be gadding about the countryside"

synonyms: gallivant about · traipse around · flit around · run around · travel around · roam (about/around)

traditionary

intro - Thoreau, Natural History Essays, pg. vii

“addled search”

intro - Thoreau, Natural History Essays

pg. vii

addled

adjective

1. unable to think clearly; confused

"this might just be my addled brain playing tricks"

2. (of an egg) rotten

He armored himself with simplicity. Grant’s style is strikingly modern in its economy. It stood out in that age of clambering, winding prose, with shameless sentences like lines of thieves in a marketplace, grabbing everything in reach and stuffing it all into their sacks.

ESSAY

The Ghost That Haunts Grant’s Memoirs

by T. J. STILES

The New York Times

OCTOBER 13, 2017

clamber

clambering (present participle)

climb, move, or get in or out of something in an awkward and laborious way, typically using both hands and feet

"I clambered out of the trench"

synonyms: scramble, climb, scrabble, claw one's way

perspicacious

having a ready insight into and understanding of things.

"it offers quite a few facts to the perspicacious reporter"

synonyms:

discerning, shrewd, perceptive, astute, penetrating, observant, percipient, sharp-witted, sharp, smart, alert, clear-sighted, farsighted, acute, clever, canny, intelligent, insightful, wise, sage, sensitive, intuitive, understanding, aware, discriminating

perspicuous

plain to the understanding especially because of clarity and precision of presentation

a perspicuous argument

perspicuity, noun

skirl

verb

gerund or present participle: skirling

(of bagpipes) make a shrill, wailing sound

phatic

adjective

denoting or relating to language used for general purposes of social interaction, rather than to convey information or ask questions. Utterances such as hello, how are you? and nice morning, isn't it? are phatic.

granular

“More Corruption Trials? Possible Reprise Makes Albany Groan”, The New York Times, October 4, 2017

ALBANY -- If there was a single upside to the double-barreled corruption convictions of two of New York’s most powerful men, it was the fact that they had occurred in December 2015. That sordid time is past, Albany’s insiders could argue, and we’ve moved on.

But with the recent reversals of those verdicts -- of Sheldon Silver, the former Assembly speaker, and Dean G. Skelos, the former Senate majority leader -- it seems inevitable that Albany’s dirty laundry, and the actions of some of its powerful participants, will once again be hung out for examination.

All of this has veteran observers of the Capitol’s venality searching for new metaphors. “The aircraft carrier named Corruption is lined up with a lot of planes,” said Blair Horner, executive director of the New York Public Interest Research Group. “They’re all ready to go.”

On a political level, Mr. Horner added, the trials of ex-leaders and ex-friends of the governor could cast a shadow over the 2018 legislative session, as well as the re-election campaign of Mr. Cuomo, a Democrat with purported national ambitions.

On a human level, the prospect of another set of Silver and Skelos trials probably resulted in a cri de coeur among Albany’s professional class -- staff members, lobbyists and aides who normally ply their trade from deep in the woodwork -- who had been forced to appear on the stand or were name-checked in various ways.

That includes two high-level aides of Mr. Skelos’s who now work for Mr. Cuomo: Robert F. Mujica, the governor’s budget director, and Kelly Cummings, Mr. Cuomo’s deputy chief of staff and senior adviser. Neither was accused of any wrongdoing, but both were working with Mr. Skelos at the time of his arrest in 2015: Mr. Mujica was the chief of staff for Senate Republicans, while Ms. Cummings was the Senate Republicans’ top spokeswoman.

Mr. Mujica was mentioned during the trial as having been in contact with Adam Skelos, Mr. Skelos’s son and co-defendant, about possible state business deals involving an environmental technology company, AbTech, which federal authorities found suspicious. Ms. Cummings was called to testify for two days during the trial, speaking in sometimes GRANULAR detail about her work for Mr. Skelos, as well as the inner workings of Senate campaigns and the Republican conference.

granular

1. consisting of or appearing to consist of granules; grainy

2. finely detailed

granular reports

keen

"crying for the dead"

Synge, Aran Islands play

monads

eidolons

excrescences

Stovall, pg. 158

vervain

Stovall, pg. 183

vervain

noun

a widely distributed herbaceous plant with small blue, white, or purple flowers and a long history of use as a magical and medicinal herb.

Feedback

lustrous

Stovall, 189

"a sense of lustrous confusion, slowly subsiding into directness"

cumbrous

Stovall, pg. 179

definition of cumbrous

1. cumbersome

cumbrously - adverb

cumbrousness- noun

aromal

Stovall, pg. 156

definition of aromal

1: aromatic

French

Adjective

aromal (feminine singular aromale, masculine plural aromaux, feminine plural aromales)

1. aromatic (fragrant)

aromal

Main Entry: fragrant

Part of Speech: adjective

Definition: smelling pleasant

Synonyms: ambrosial, aromal, aromatic, balmy, delectable, delicious, delightful, odoriferous, odorous, perfumed, perfumy, redolent, savory, spicy, sweet, sweet-scented, sweet-smelling

Antonyms: noxious, putrid, stale, stinking

Part of Speech: adjective

Definition: fragrant

locofoco

Stovall, pg. 141

cosseted

cladding

type of building material

a covering or coating on a structure or material

"a range of roofing and cladding products"

used in article about the 2017 about Grenfell fire in London: “London High-Rise Fire: Cladding May Have Helped Spread Blaze,” The Associated Press, June 15, 2017

rive

verb

past tense: rived

1. split or tear apart violently.

"the party was riven by disagreements over Europe"

synonyms:

torn apart, split, rent, severed

archaic

split or crack (wood or stone).

"the wood was riven with deep cracks"

\*

archaic

(of wood or stone) split or crack.

"I started to chop furiously, the dry wood riving and splintering under the ax"

Feedback

Edward Dahlberg’s vocabulary is impressive, to put it mildly

Words more or less unfamiliar to me that were used in the article:

Edward Dahlberg (1900 –1977): American novelist, essayist and autobiographer

mulligrubs

ill temper; colic; grumpiness

slubbered

performed in a slipshod fashion

scatophagous (Rabelais)

habitually feeding on dung (scatophagous beetle)

musky

of or like musk, as an odor (a musky perfume)

connotation: pungent

exsanguinous

adjective: destitute of blood or apparently so

Synonyms: bloodless, exsanguine

“the sherds in the Mount Sinai Desert”

A sherd, or more precisely, potsherd, is commonly a historic or prehistoric fragment of pottery, although the term is occasionally used to refer to fragments of stone and glass vessels, as well. Occasionally, a piece of broken pottery may be referred to as a shard.

“scribble addle words”

addle: adjective; archaic

(of an egg) rotten.

"scullion reviewers”

noun; archaic: a servant assigned the most menial kitchen tasks.

“Shakespeare scholiasts”

scholiast

a commentator on ancient or classical literature

cully

noun: British; archaic; informal

a man; a friend.

“our wormy, desiccated subway”

\*wormy: adjective

(of organic tissue) infested with or eaten into by worms

(of wood or a wooden object) full of holes made by woodworm

(of a person) weak, abject, or revolting

vitiation

flagitious

adjective

said of a person or their actions) criminal; villainous

used by Samuel Johnson

he was known for using words one would not know, in the same way William F. Buckley, Jr. did

esurience

used by Walt Whitman

noun

the quality or state of being esurient

esurient

adjective

hungry or greedy

an archaic word, derived from Latin

hobbledehoy

used by Walt Whitman

noun

1. a clumsy or awkward youth.

adjective

1. awkward or clumsy.

"his hobbledehoy hands"

liminal

adjective

1. relating to a transitional or initial stage of a process

2. occupying a position at, or on both sides of, a boundary or threshold

tergiversation

noun

1. evasion of straightforward action or clear-cut statement; equivocation

2. desertion of a cause, position, party, or faith

Example; like most politicians, he has the gift of tergiversation.

minatory

adjective

Of a menacing or threatening nature; minacious; expressing or conveying a threat ("he is unlikely to be deterred by minatory finger-wagging")

French minatoire, from late Latin minatorius, from minat- ‘threatened,’ from the verb minari.

frenemy

noun

informal

noun: frenemy; plural noun: frenemies

a person with whom one is friendly despite a fundamental dislike or rivalry.

Origin: 1950’s: blend of friend and enemy.

supererogation

the performance of more work than duty requires

Stovall 274

scantlings

a small or scanty portion or amount

also, a small beam or piece of wood

Stovall 277

marmoreal

Stovall 278

excogitation

Stovall 283

brag

used as a noun

Synge, The Aran Islands, pg. 14

madder

a kind of cloth?

madder

noun: madder; plural noun: madders

a scrambling or prostrate Eurasian plant of the bedstraw family, with whorls of four to six leaves.

a red dye or pigment obtained from the root of the madder plant, or a synthetic dye resembling it.

Origin

Old English mædere, of Germanic origin; obscurely related to Dutch mede, in the same sense.

clamber

Aran Islands 49

a word I already know, but like its descriptiveness

jurats

Montaigne's essays, pg. xi

biblocation

Aran Islands

pg. 148

footnote 48

immiserated

Aran Islands xiv

(also, immiserating)

nucleate

Aran Islands xv

“relict state”

Aran Islands, xv

impercipient

The Aran Islands, pg. xxxii

immiscible

Aran Islands, xxxviii

detrital

Aran Islands, xxxix

excursus

Aran Islands, pg. xl

extramundane

Aran Islands, xliii

"inanimate vastitude"

Aran Islands, pg. xlvi

theurgy

hydroponic

spatulate (adjective)

"spatulate fingers"

Wolfe, You Can't Go Home Again, Chapter 1, pg. 11

"spatulate fingers"

volutes

Wolfe, You Can't Go Home Again, Chapter 1, pg. 12

vaporings

noun

Wolfe, You Can't Go Home Again, Chapter 1, pg. 14

indurated

Thomas Wolfe

You can't go home again, 33

indurate

verb

harden

"a bed of indurated clay"

"throning traffic"

Thomas Wolfe

You Can’t Go Home Again, pg. 37

spicule

Dreiser, This Madness, Elizabeth

May 1929

pg. 154

opaline

word used by Henry James

moted

adjective

Thomas Wolfe, You Can’t Go Home Again, pg. 43

murmurous

adjective

Thomas Wolfe, You Can’t Go Home Again, pg. 46

bohunk

noun

North American

informal, derogatory

an immigrant from central or southeastern Europe, especially a laborer

a rough or uncivilized person

Thomas Wolfe, You Can’t Go Home Again, pg. 59

hermeneutics

noun

the branch of knowledge that deals with interpretation, especially of the Bible or literary texts

parabolic

adjective

of, relating to, or involving a parable

noun: parabolicalism

adverb: parabolically

parabola

math term

but also the word parabolic

adjective

meaning off, relating to, or involving a parable

can be used to refer to religious teachings

it occurred in a book I was reading about Meister Eckhart

hypostasis ([Greek](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ancient_Greek): ὑπόστασις): the underlying state or underlying substance and is the fundamental reality that supports all else.

In Neoplatonism the hypostasis of the soul, the intellect (nous) and the One was addressed by Plotinus.

In Christian theology, a hypostasis or person

tachygrapher

one skilled in tachygraphy, stenographer; especially an ancient Greek or Roman notary

corpus

noun

a collection of written texts, especially the entire works of a particular author or a body of writing on a particular subject.

"the Darwinian corpus"

comparatist

A person who employs the comparative method, as in studying literature.

A person who carries out comparative studies, especially a student of comparative literature or comparative linguistics.

ascesis

plural asceses

self-discipline, asceticism

indefectible

adjective; rare

not liable to fail, end, or decay

perfect; faultless.

fractious

adjective

1. (typically of children) irritable and quarrelsome:

"they fight and squabble like fractious children"

synonyms: grumpy · bad-tempered · irascible · irritable · crotchety · grouchy · cantankerous · short-tempered · tetchy · testy · curmudgeonly · ill-tempered · ill-humored · peevish · cross ·

of a group or organization) difficult to control; unruly: "the fractious coalition of Social Democrats"

synonyms: wayward · unruly · uncontrollable · unmanageable · out of hand · obstreperous · difficult · headstrong · recalcitrant · intractable · disobedient · insubordinate · disruptive

+

apophatic

adjective

THEOLOGY

(of knowledge of God) obtained through negation

plangeant

used NY Times review of Ken Burns's Vietnam War documentary

plangeant

adjective

literary

(of a sound) loud, reverberating, and often melancholy.

synonyms: melancholy, mournful, plaintive; sonorous, resonant

obtuse

1. annoyingly insensitive or slow to understand

also: difficult to understand.

"some of the lyrics are a bit obtuse"

2. of an angle) more than 90° and less than 180°

not sharp-pointed or sharp-edged; blunt.

acute

1. of a bad, difficult, or unwelcome situation or phenomenon) present or experienced to a severe or intense degree.

"an acute housing shortage"

2. having or showing a perceptive understanding or insight: shrewd

diegetic sound

Sound whose source is visible on the screen or whose source is implied to be present by the action of the film: voices of characters. sounds made by objects in the story. music represented as coming from instruments in the story space.

agglutination

1. a mass or group formed by the union of separate elements

2. the formation of derivational or inflectional words by putting together constituents of which each expresses a single definite meaning

3. a reaction in which particles (such as red blood cells or bacteria) suspended in a liquid collect into clumps and which occurs especially as a serologic response to a specific antibody

diachronic

of, relating to, or dealing with phenomena (as of language or culture) as they occur or change over a period of time

synchronic

concerned with something, especially a language, as it exists at one point in time: Often contrasted with diachronic.

"synchronic linguistics"

mingy

adjective

informal

mean and stingy.

"you've been too mingy with the sunscreen"

unexpectedly or undesirably small

"a mingy kitchenette tucked in the corner"

scabrous

Stefan Zweig, Montaigne, pg. 123

adjective

1. rough and covered with, or as if with, scabs.

2. indecent; salacious

"scabrous publications"

fusty

adjective

smelling stale, damp, or stuffy

"the fusty odor of decay"

old-fashioned, out of date, outdated, behind the times, antediluvian, backward-looking

rhodomontade

noun

1. a bragging speech

2. vain boasting or bluster; rant

etymology

From French rodomontade, a reference to Rodomonte, a character in Italian Renaissance epic poems Orlando innamorato and its sequel Orlando furioso.