

Where do all these words come from?

Evi Saluveer

Institute of Education, University of Tartu

EVÕL 2017



Real or fictitious?

Every year hundreds of new words are added to English dictionaries.

Look at the 10 words and expressions with explanations of their meaning. Some are genuine recent additions and some are made-up words.

Decide if the word is real (R) or fictitious (F), and then bet a minimum of **10 points** up to a maximum of **50** on your choice.

If you guess correctly, you win the points, and if you guess wrongly, you lose your points.

Your final total = subtract total points lost from total points won.



coulrophobia (noun):

- ▶ extreme or irrational fear of clowns
- ▶ R
- ▶ King's book may be famous for inciting a whole new wave of **coulrophobia** [...] (*Independent*. 06 September 2017).



Internetter (noun):

- ▶ internet user
- ▶ F

gender-fluid (adj):



- denoting or relating to a person who does not identify themselves as having a fixed gender
- R
- gender-fluidity (n)
- Edgy beauty brand Urban Decay has just announced **gender fluid** model Ruby Rose as the new face of its campaign (*Independent*. 2 March 2016).



- **Agender** – a person who does not identify as having a gender identity
- **Genderqueer** – a person whose gender identity is neither man nor woman, is between genders or is some combination of genders



Options given to 13-year-olds

- **GIRL**
- **BOY**
- **TOMBOY**
- **FEMALE**
- **MALE**
- **YOUNG WOMAN**
- **YOUNG MAN**
- **TRANS-GIRL:** Someone who has or is transitioning from male to female.
- **TRANS-BOY:** Someone who has or is transitioning from female to male.
- **GENDER FLUID:** Those who have different gender identities at different times.
- **AGENDER:** Those with no gender identity or a neutral identity.
- **ANDROGYNOUS:** Partly male and female; of indeterminate sex.
- **BI-GENDER:** Those who experience two gender identities, either at the same time or varying between the two. These can be male and female,



Non-binary: Jack Monroe or other gender identities.

- **NON-BINARY:** An umbrella term to describe those who do not feel exclusively male or female.
- **DEMI-BOY:** Someone whose identity is only partly male, regardless of their birth gender. They may or may not identify as another gender as well.
- **DEMI-GIRL:** The female version of 'demi-boy'.
- **GENDERQUEER:** Those who do not subscribe to

conventional gender distinctions.

- **GENDER NON-CONFORMING:** Those who do not follow traditional ideas about how they should look or act based on their birth-assigned gender.
- **TRI-GENDER:** Shifts between three genders, which could include male, female and genderless or be another combination.
- **ALL GENDERS:** Someone who identifies as all possible gender options.
- **IN THE MIDDLE OF BOY AND GIRL:** An individual who identifies somewhere in between the male and female genders.
- **INTERSEX:** Someone with genetic, hormonal and physical features that may be thought typical of both male and female.
- **NOT SURE**
- **RATHER NOT SAY**
- **OTHERS (PLEASE STATE)**



Daily Mail. 28 January 2016

Mx (title):

- a title used before a person's surname or full name by those who wish to avoid specifying their gender or by those who prefer not to identify themselves as male or female
- R
- A number of banks include **Mx** as an option for its customers, including the Royal Bank of Scotland, which introduced it last year (*Independent*. 3 May 2015).
- For those who don't feel Mr, Mrs, Miss or Ms apply to them, the gender-neutral **Mx** could soon be more widely recognized (*Guardian*. 17 November 2014).

Mx ¹

Syllabification: Mx


Pronunciation: /mæks/  /miks/ 

noun

A title used before a person's **surname** or full name by those who **wish** to avoid **specifying** their **gender** or by those who **prefer** not to identify themselves as male or female:

*'the bank is **planning** to introduce*





WORD OF THE YEAR
FINALIST

RUNNER-UP
FOR
Committee's Choice

enby

designating a person who does not identify as male or female.

macquariedictionary.com.au

The graphic features a red and orange background with a white brushstroke effect. A circular seal with a scalloped edge is positioned in the upper right, containing the text 'RUNNER-UP FOR Committee's Choice'. The word 'enby' is written in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font in the center. The background also includes a dark red arrow pointing right and some thin, grey, grass-like lines on the left side.



Dadvertising (noun):

- ▶ publicity targeted at fathers
- ▶ F

The graphic features a dark red arrow pointing right and some thin, grey, grass-like lines on the left side.



food rave (noun):

- ▶ a very large party where people eat, sell or share many different types of food, usually held outside or in a large public building
- ▶ R
- ▶ Beats and eats are on the menu at a new series of **food raves** coming to Manchester (*Manchester Evening*. 24 January 2014).



FLOTUS (noun):

- ▶ The First Lady of the United States
- ▶ R
- ▶ Melania Trump wears hat that says '**FLOTUS**' while in Texas (*Washington Examiner*. 29 Aug. 2017).
- ▶ [FLOTUS](#)



Brexiteer (noun):

- a person who is in favour of the United Kingdom withdrawing from the European Union
- R
- An 82-year-old **Brexiteer** has travelled hundreds of miles taking down 'hated' EU metric road signs (*Daily Mail*. 26 November 2016).



fake foreigner (expression, informal):

- ▶ someone who looks foreign but isn't
- ▶ F



Breadcrumbing (noun):

- ▶ in online dating, sending messages which suggest that you're still interested in someone, when in fact you're very unlikely to want to meet or have a relationship with them
- ▶ R
- ▶ breadcrumb (n)
- ▶ Cushioning, **breadcrumbing** or benching: the language of modern dating (*Guardian*. 08 May 2017).



Oxford Dictionaries
WORD OF THE YEAR
post-truth

Don't call it [redacted]
There's a simpler word:
lies

Getting to grips with
[redacted] politics

We are not living in a
[redacted] world, we are
living the lies of others

Calling Trump and
Brexit voters [redacted]
fascists won't win the
Left any elections

In a [redacted] world, opinion
is as good as fact



'Post-truth'
ADJECTIVE

“
Relating to or denoting
circumstances in which
objective facts are less
influential in shaping public
opinion than appeals to
emotion and personal belief.

Maailma filoloogia koorekiht valis mõiste
„tõepõhjata ühiskond“ 2016. aasta
sõnaks. EE. 06 January 2017



Adulting –
the practice of behaving in a way characteristic of a responsible adult, especially the accomplishment of mundane but necessary tasks.

Adulting

- #Adulting tähistab sotsiaalmeedias oma täiskasvanulikkuse ilmingutest teada andmist – läbi eneseiroonia prisma [...]
- Instagramist:
- „Ma tegin endale ise süüa,“ hõiskab üks tüdruk (28), „ja see ei olnudki sai Nutellaga!“
- „Ma ei hilineud täna tööle – nii-nii *adulting*,“ kiitleb teine.

T. Jõgeda



FAKE NEWS

n(,ferk 'nju:z)
False, often sensational, information disseminated under the guise of news.

#collinsWOTY

[Watch](#)

How are words born?

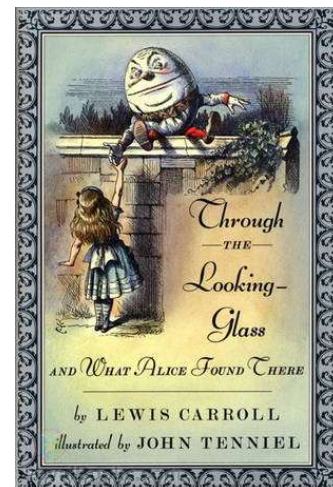
- ▀ Using already existing words
 - ▀ webrooming, Trumpism, text neck, YOLO
- ▀ Inventing new words (with no relation to any existing form)
 - ▀ scrumdiddlyumptious, pensieve, peng, bling

Using already existing words

- ▶ Blending (Portmanteaus)
- ▶ Affixation/ derivation
- ▶ Compounding
- ▶ Clipping
- ▶ Conversion
- ▶ Eponyms
- ▶ Abbreviations
- ▶ Borrowings

Blend or portmanteau words

Well, “slithy” means “lithe and slimy”. “Lithe” is the same as “active”. You see it’s like a portmanteau — there are two meanings packed up into one word.



Can you blend?

- ▶ glamorous + camping
 - ▶ burka + bikini
 - ▶ hamburger + hotdog
 - ▶ grey + beige
 - ▶ television + marathon
 - ▶ fan + magazine
 - ▶ Yoga + Pilates
 - ▶ share + parenting
 - ▶ Brexit + regret
- ▶ glamping
 - ▶ burkini
 - ▶ hamdog
 - ▶ greige
 - ▶ telethon
 - ▶ fanzine
 - ▶ Yogalates
 - ▶ sharenting
 - ▶ Bregret



**Proving even more useful and adaptable than
Watergate...**

Guardian. 03 November 2016



Brexit or Bremain? Readers share the one argument that made up their mind
Guardian. 07 June 2016



The spectre of Scoxit.
Economist. 22 October 2016



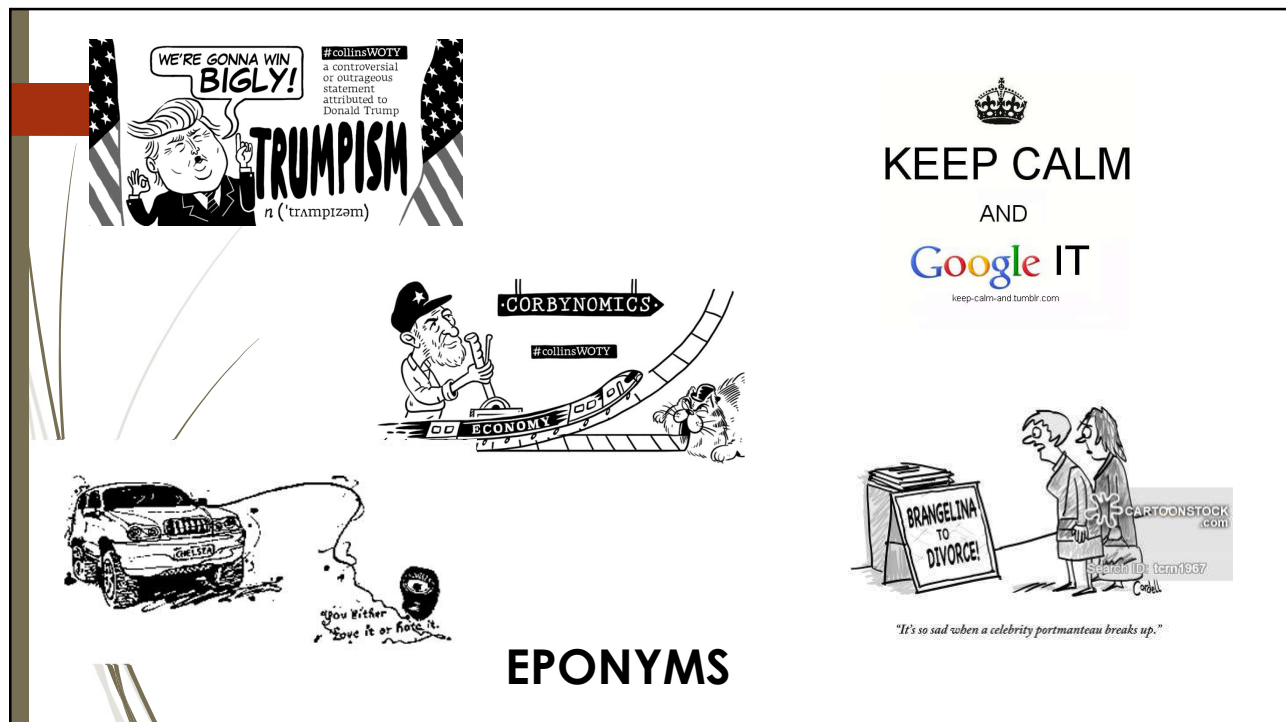
First Brexit, then Bremorse... is Bretturn possible?

Daily Sabah. 02 July 2016.

How many compound nouns can you make?

- binge
- bird
- cot
- couch
- drinking
- ego
- flu
- man
- mouse
- potato
- spreading
- surfing
- watching

binge drinking binge watching
 bird watching birdman
 bird flu man flu manspreading
 cot potato mouse potato
 couch potato couch surfing
 egosurfing

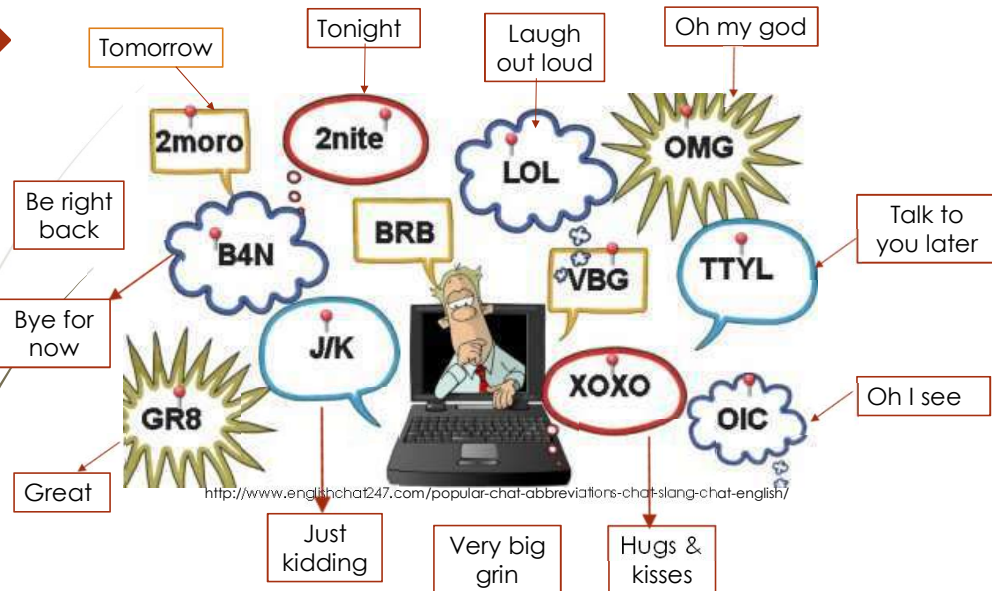


Inventing new words

- ▀ Writers' innovations
- ▀ Teenspeak
- ▀ Nonce words
- ▀ Necessity for new words (technology, ICT)

Can you speak teen? Good or bad?

► peng	🤔
► peak	🤔
► rare	🤔
► goat	🤔
► bad	🤔
► savage	🤔
► thot	🤔
► buff	🤔
► fudge	🤔



Will these words stand the test of time?

gate lice
 mansplaining YOLO
 whitesplaining phablet
 marriage equality fiscal cliff
 beardruff
 hate-watching
 Obamageddon
 geeksplaining
 alpacalypse
 hashtag
 Romnesia

<http://www.macmillandictionaryblog.com/mansplaining-the-new-word-pocalypse>

What counts?

- **Completion probability/understandability**
 - recognisable source and origin
- **Association**
 - root words that have some prior relation
- **Applicability**
 - wider use and meaning
- **Naturalness**
 - sounding English
- **Fun factor**
 - humorous words will be remembered
- **Uniqueness**
 - not too close to the existing word



Some of the words chosen by the Collins dictionary to define the past 40 years
Telegraph 2 November 2017

Whatever a
 language
 was like
 yesterday, it
 is different
 today, and
 will be
 different
 again
 tomorrow.





Thank you!

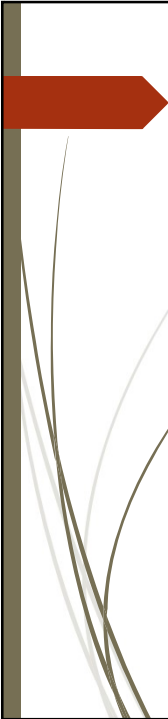
20 WAYS TO SHOW YOUR GRATITUDE

1 Cheers	11 All right
2 Ta	12 Fab
3 That's great	13 Awesome
4 Cool	14 Wicked
5 Okay	15 Merci
6 Brilliant	16 Danke
7 Lovely	17 Gracias
8 Nice one	18 Super
9 Much appreciated	19 Ace
10 You star	20 Thank you



References and further reading

- Bodle, A. Frankenwords: they're alive! But for how long? *The Guardian*. 5 Feb 2016.
- Bodle, A. How new words are born ? *The Guardian*. 4 Feb 2016.
- BuzzWord - <http://www.macmillandictionary.com/buzzword/recent.html>
- Carey, S. 2013. Mansplaining the new-word pocalypse - <http://www.macmillandictionaryblog.com/mansplaining-the-new-word-pocalypse>
- Crystal, D. 2016. Who would have thought it? The English language 1966-2066. Plenary talk to IATEFL Annual Conference.
- Dent, J. New words notes September 2016. OED.
- Doughty, S. Children as young as 13 to be asked whether they are 'gender fluid', 'demi-girl' or 'intersex': Official survey asks pupils to pick from a list of TWENTY-FIVE genders. *The Daily Mail*. 28 January 2016.
- Freemann, M. S. 1997. *A New Dictionary of Eponyms*. OUP.
- Jargon Buster - <http://www.familylives.org.uk/advice/teenagers/you-and-your-teen/jargon-buster/>
- Macquarie Dictionary Word of the Year - <https://www.macquariedictionary.com.au/resources/view/word/of/the/year/>

- 
- ▶ Marsh, S. The gender-fluid generation: young people on being male, female or non-binary. *The Guardian*. 23 March 2016.
 - ▶ Maxwell, K. 2006. A new word is born: How are new words formed?
 - ▶ Melania Trump wears hat that says 'FLOTUS' while in Texas. *The Washington Post*. 29 August 2017.
 - ▶ Mimsy, chortle, and galumph: Alice in Wonderland and the portmanteau - <https://blog.oxforddictionaries.com/2012/07/06/mimsy-chortle-and-galumph-alice-in-wonderland-and-the-portmanteau/>
 - ▶ 'Post-truth' named word of the year by Oxford Dictionaries. *The Guardian*. 15 November 2016.
 - ▶ Roald Dahl: the best gobblefunk words . *The Guardian*. 14 June 2016.
 - ▶ The spectre of Scoxit. *The Economist*. 22 October 2016.
 - ▶ The Collins Word of the Year is ... - <https://www.collinsdictionary.com/woty>
 - ▶ Why clowns are creepy: Researchers reveal the psychology that makes many terrified of psychotic attacks. *The Daily Mail*, 29 September 2016
 - ▶ Word of the Year 2016 is... <https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/word-of-the-year/word-of-the-year-2016>.