

Aa–Zz

a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z

A

abbot of unreason *n* a lord of misrule or mock abbot in medieval revels.

absquatulate /*ab-skwoi'ū-lāi*/ (*facetious; US*) *vi* to decamp; to squat. ■ **absquatula'tion** *n*.

accloy /*ə-kloi'*/ (*obs*) *vt* to injure with a horseshoe nail; to clog, choke or encumber (*Spenser*); to sate or cloy (*Spenser*). [See **clroy**]

acronymā'nia *n* a craze for forming acronyms.

adespota /*a-des'pə-tə*/ *n pl* anonymous works. [Gr *a-* (privative), and *despotēs* master]

aes'tivate or (*US*) **es'tivate** /*-ti-vāt*/ *vi* to pass the summer, *esp* (*usu*) of animals and insects) in a state of torpor.

agelast /*aj'i-last*/ *n* a person who never laughs. [Gr *a-* (privative), and *gelaîn* to laugh] ■ **agelas'tic** *adj*.

alalagmos /*a-la-lag'mos*/ (*Gr*) *n* (*pl* **alalag'moi**) a war cry, cry of *alalai*.

all-chang'ing-word *n* a spell that transforms everything.

alveary /*al'vi-ə-ri*/ *n* a beehive; a name given to an early dictionary of English, French, Greek and Latin; a hollow of the external ear, where wax collects (*anat*). [L *alveārium* beehive, from *alveus* a hollow] ■ **al'veated** *adj* vaulted, like a beehive.

amorete /*am'ə-ret*/ *n* a sweetheart (*obs*); a love-glimpse; a love-knot; a love sonnet or song. [OFr *amorete*, dimin from L *amor* love] ■ **amore'to** *n* (*pl* **amore'ti** /*-tē*/) (*Ital*) a lover; a cupid. **amorino** /*-ē'nō*/ *n* (*pl* **amori'ni** /*-nē*/) (*Ital*) a cupid.

angels' share *n* the amount of a spirit lost in the cask through evaporation.

an mo /*an mo*/ *n* a Chinese remedial system in which massage of specific areas of the body affects corresponding internal organs. [Chin *an* press, and *mō* rub]

antigropeloes or **antigropelos** /*an-ti-grop'ə-lōz*/ (*old*) *n pl* waterproof leggings. [Said to be from Gr *anti* against, *hygros* wet, and *pēlos* mud]

apolaustic /*ap-ə-lō'stik*/ *adj* devoted to the search of enjoyment. ♦ *n* the philosophy of the pleasurable. [Gr *apolaustikos*, from *apolauein* to enjoy]

apricate /*ap'ri-kāt*/ (*rare*) *vi* to bask in the sun. ♦ *vt* to expose to sunlight. [L *apricārī* to bask in the sun, from *apricus* open to the sun] ■ **aprica'tion** *n*.

archimage /*ür'ki-māj*/ *n* a chief magician or enchanter. [Gr *pfx archi-* chief, and *magos* a magician; older than *Spenser's* Archimago]

aristology /*a-ri-stol'ə-ji*/ (*rare*) *n* the science or art of dining. [Gr *ariston* breakfast, luncheon, and *-logy*]

arpillera /*ar-pil-yā'rə*/ *n* a pictorial Peruvian wall decoration consisting of colourful threads and scraps stitched onto a sackcloth backing. [Sp, sackcloth]

asses' bridge *n* the *pons asinorum*, or fifth proposition in the first book of Euclid's *Elements* of geometry, as being for some an impassable barrier to further progress.

athanor /*ath'ə-nör*/ (*hist*) *n* an alchemist's self-feeding digesting furnace. [Ar *at-tannūr*, from *al* the, and *tannūr* furnace, from *nūr* fire]

Aubrey holes /*ö'bri hōlz*/ *n pl* the 56 circular pits surrounding the stone circle of Stonehenge in Wiltshire. [John *Aubrey* (1626–97), who discovered them]

autophoby /*ö-tof'ə-bi*/ (*n rare*) a shrinking from making any reference to oneself. [Gr *autos* self, and *phobos* fear] ■ **autophō'bia** *n* fear of (being by) oneself.

averruncate /*av'ə-rung-kāt*/ (*rare; archaic*) *vt* to ward off; (wrongly) to uproot. [L *āverruncāre* to avert, perh confused with *ēruncāre* to weed out]

averruncā'tion *n*. **av'erruncātor** *n* an instrument for cutting off branches of trees.

B

not know a B from a battledore, broomstick or bull's foot (*old sl*) to be very ignorant.

backfisch /*bäk'fish*/ (*obs*) *n* a young girl, a flapper. [Ger *Backfisch* fish for frying, perh in allusion to immaturity]

baff'legab *n* (*sl*) the professional logorrhoea of many politicians, officials and salespeople, characterized by prolix abstract circumlocution and/or a profusion of abstruse technical terminology, used as a means of persuasion, pacification or obfuscation.

balmorality /*bal-mər-al'i-ti*/ (*n joc*; also with *cap*) enthusiasm for the superficial trappings of Scottish culture.

Barmecide /*bür'mi-sid*/ *n* a person who offers an imaginary or pretend banquet or other benefit (also *adj*). [From an imaginary feast given to a beggar in the *Arabian Nights*, by one of the *Barmecide* family] ■ **Barmeci'dal** *adj*.

batology /*ba-tol'ə-ji*/ *n* the study of brambles. [Gr *batos* bramble] ■ **batological** /*-ləj'*/ *adj*. **batol'ogist** *n*.

beblubbered /*bi-blub'ərd*/ *adj* disfigured by weeping. [**be-** (1)]

beflum /*bi-flum'*/ (*Walter Scott*) *vt* (**beflumm'ing; beflummed'**) to befool, cajole. [Cf **flummery**]

beslobber /*bi-slob'ər*/ *vt* to besmear with the spittle running from one's mouth; to cover with drivelling kisses; to flatter fulsomely. [**be-** (1)]

bezzle /*bez'l*/ (*obs*) *vi* to drink hard. ♦ *vt* to squander; to despoil; to consume. [OFr *besiler*. See **embezzle**]

Birminghamize or **-ise** /*bür'ming-əm-iz*/ *vt* to make up artificially. [From *Birmingham* the industrial city in the English Midlands]

bleth'erskate or **bleth'eranskate** (*Scot*), or **blath'erskite** *n* (*dialect*) a garrulous talker of nonsense.

bluggy /*blug'i*/ (*joc*) *adj* bloody.

bonny-clabber /*bon'i-klab'ər*/ (*Anglo-Irish*) *n* milk naturally clotted on souring. [Ir *bainne* milk, and *claba* thick]

bourasque /*boo-rask'*/ *n* a tempest. [Fr *bourrasque*; Ital *borasco* a storm]

boyg /*boig*/ *n* an ogre; an obstacle or problem difficult to get to grips with. [Norw *boig*]

brain fag *n* (*obs*) extreme tiredness of the nerves or brain.

Bristol-milk *n* sherry (17c joke).

bruxism /*bruk'si-zm*/ *n* habitual grinding of the teeth. [Gr *brychein* to gnash]

bull'-beggar *n* (*dialect*) a hobgoblin, etc.

bummaree /*bu-mə-rē'*/ *n* orig a middleman in Billingsgate fishmarket; a porter at Smithfield meat-market. [Ety unknown]

burn the water (*Scot*) to spear salmon by torchlight.

butt'ock-mail *n* (*Scot*) the fine formerly exacted by the church in commutation of sitting on the stool of repentance.

buzz'-wig *n* a great bushy wig.

C

cacafogo /*kak-ə-fō'gō*/ or **cacafuego** /*-fū'gō*/ or (*Sp*) *kä-kä-fwä'gō*/ (*obs*) *n* (*pl* **cacafog'os** or **cacafue'gos**) a hothead, blusterer. [Sp and Port *caçar* to excrete, and Port *fogo*, Sp *fuego* fire]

callid /*kal'id*/ (*rare*) *adj* shrewd. [L *callidus* expert] ■ **callid'ity** *n* shrewdness.

canities /*ka-nish'i-ēz*/ *n* whiteness of the hair. [L]

capernoity, capernoitie or **cappernoity** /*ka-pər-noi'ti*/ (*Scot*) *n* the head, noddle. *adj* peevish; irritable; capricious; drunk, giddy. [Origin unknown] ■ **capernoit'ed** *adj* capernoity

cardophagus /kär-dəf'ə-gəs/ (*obs*) *n* a thistle-eater, a donkey. [Latinized from Gr *kardos* thistle, and *phagos* eater, glutton]

Cartesian devil, **diver** or **bottle-imp** *n* a scientific toy named after Descartes, a glass container with a floating figure that sinks when the top of the container is pressed.

cataphysical /ka-tə-fiz'ɪ-kl/ (*rare*) *adj* unnatural. [Gr *kata* down, against, and *physis* nature]

cecils /ses'ɪlz or se'e'sɪlz/ *n pl* minced meat, breadcrumbs, onions, etc made into balls and fried. [Ety doubtful]

cerge /sürj/ *n* a large wax candle burned before the altar (also **cierge** or **serge**). [OFr, from L *cēreus*, from *cēra* wax]

Chandler(s) wobble /chan'dlær(z) wob'l/ *n* the very small displacement of the earth's axis of rotation which causes variation in latitude and longitude. [SC *Chandler* (1846–1913), American astronomer]

cheilitis /ki-lī'tis/ (*med*) *n* inflammation, dryness and cracking of the lips or the corners of the mouth.

chewink /chē- or chə-wɪŋk'/ *n* the rufous-sided towhee (now generally considered two separate species, the eastern towhee and the spotted towhee). [Imit]

chinchinchee or **chinkerinchee** /ching'kə-rin-chē or ching-kə-rin'chē/ *n* a S African plant (*Ornithogalum thyrsoides*), with dense, conical spikes of cup-shaped white flowers (also (*inf*) **chinks**). [Said to be imit of the flower-stalks rubbing together in the wind]

choosers of the slain the Valkyries.

chump change *n* (*chiefly N Am inf*) an insignificant or insultingly small amount of money.

cimelia /si- or si-mē'lī-ə/ *n pl* treasures in storage. [Gr *keimēlia*]

clappy-doo /klap'ɪ-doo/ or **clabby-doo** /klab'ɪ-/ (*Scot*) *n* a type of large black mussel. [Gaelic *clab* large mouth, and *dubh* black]

clish-clash /klish'klash/ or **clishmaclaver** /klish-mə-klā'vər/ (*Scot*) *n* gossip. [See **clash** and **claver**]

coca-coloniza'tion or **-s-** *n* (*facetious*) the invasion of other parts of the world by American culture and values as typified by the availability of the drink.

the Cockney School an old nickname for a supposed school of writers belonging to London.

coke /kōks/ (*obs*) *n* a simpleton. [Ety uncertain]

comeddle /kō-med'l/ *vt* to mix (*obs*); to temper (*Shakesp*).

compluvium /kom-plū'vi-əm/ *n* a quadrangular open space in the middle of a Roman house. [L, from *compluere* to flow together (being the space into which rain flowed from the surrounding roofs)]

confetti money *n* paper money which is virtually worthless, esp as a result of acute inflation.

outrun the constable to go too fast; to get into debt.

contesseration /kon-te-sə-rā'shan/ (*rare*) *n* (the act of) forming friendship or union orig, in ancient Rome, by dividing a square tablet as a token. [From L *contesserāre*, from *con-* and *tessera* square stone, token (in full *tessera hospitalis* given by guest to host)]

contline /kont'lin/ *n* the space between stowed casks; a spiral interval between the strands of a rope. [Prob **cant**², and **line**²]

coppy /kop'ɪ/ (*dialect*) *n* a small stool (also **copp'y-stool**). [Origin uncertain]

cose /kōz/ (*rare*) *vi* to make oneself cosy. [See **cosy**]

Cotswold lion *n* (*joc*) a sheep.

crachach /krahh'ahh/ (*inf, derog*) *n pl* the members of an exclusive cultural elite in Welsh society. [Welsh, little scabs]

crinkum-crank'um *n* a whimsical term for something that is full of intricate twists and turns.

croch'eteer *n* (*rare*) a crochety person.

cry stinking fish to decry one's own goods.

curmurring /kər-mūr'ɪŋ/ *n* a rumbling sound, esp that made in the bowels by flatulence. [Imit]

D

daddock /dad'ək/ (*dialect*) *n* the heart of a rotten tree. [Perh connected with **dotter**¹]

day'-peep *n* (*literary; Milton*) dawn.

decrassify /dē-kras'ɪ-fɪ/ (*rare*) *vt* (**decrass'ifying**; **decrass'ified**) to make less crass. [**de-** (2), and **crass**]

deipnosophist /dīp-nos'ə-fɪst/ *n* a person who converses learnedly at dinner, a table philosopher. [From *Deipnosophistai*, the title of a work by Athenaeus (fl 200AD), from Gr *deipnon* dinner, and *sophos* wise]

delope /dī-lōp'/ (*hist*) *vi* in a duel, to fire one's gun into the air. [Orig uncertain]

Derby dog *n* a dog straying on a racecourse; an intruder or an interruption (*fig*).

dev'il-dodger *n* (*sl*) a preacher, esp of the ranting kind; someone who attends churches of various kinds, to be on the safe side.

diaskueast /dī-ə-skū'ast/ *n* a reviser; an interpolator. [Gr *diaskueazein* to make ready, from *dia* through, and *skeuos* a tool]

dinic /dīn'ik/ (*rare*) *adj* relating to vertigo or dizziness. ♦ *n* a remedy for dizziness. [Gr *dinos* whirling]

discandy or **discandie** /dis-kan'di/ (*Shakesp*) *vi* to dissolve or melt from a state of being candied. [**dis-** (2)]

■ **discan'dering** *n*. (*Shakesp*) supposed to be for **discandying**.

disjaskit /dis-jas'kit/ (*Scot*) *adj* jaded; worn-out. [Prob **dejected**]

dital /dī'tal/ *n* a thumb key for sharpening a lute or guitar string by a semitone. [Ital *dito* finger, with *-al* after **pedal**, **manual**]

doddypoll or **doddipoll** /dod'ɪ-pōl/ (*obs*) *n* a blockhead (also **dottipoll**). [Appar **dote** and **poll**¹]

dor¹ /dör/ (*obs*) *n* a scoff, mockery, as in to *give* (any one) *the dor*. ♦ *vt* (**dorr'ing**; **dorred**) to mock, put out of countenance. [Prob ON *dār* scoff]

doubletree /dub'l-trē/ *n* the horizontal bar on a vehicle to which the whippletree (with harnessed animals) is attached.

doxographer /dok-sog'rə-fər/ *n* a compiler of opinions of philosophers. [Gr *doxa* opinion, reputation, glory, and *graphein* to write]

■ **doxog'raphy** *n*.

Drawcansir /drō-kan'sər/ (*literary*) *n* a blustering bully. [Drawcansir (parodying Dryden's *Almanzor*), who 'kills 'em all on both sides' in Buckingham's play *The Rehearsal* (performed 1671)]

dreikanter /drī-kan'tər/ *n* (*pl* **drei'kanter** or **drei'kanters**) a pebble faceted by windblown sand, properly having three faces. [Ger *Dreikant* solid angle, from *drei* three, and *Kante* edge]

druxy /druk'si/ *adj* (of timber) having decayed spots concealed by healthy wood (also **drick'sie**). [Origin unknown]

dump'le *vt* (*rare*) to make or cook, as a dumpling; to round into a dumpy shape.

E

Eatanswill /ē'tən-swil/ *n* a corrupt election or selection, from the name of the pocket borough in Charles Dickens' novel *Pickwick Papers* at which an election takes place.

edenburgen *abbrev: edenburgensis* (L), of Edinburgh.

eleven and twenty long (*Shakesp*) exactly right (the score aimed at in the game of one-and-thirty).

emerods /em'ə-rodz/ (*Bible*) *n pl* haemorrhoids; representations of them in gold, used as charms.

emuncatory /i- or ē-mungk'ə-rɪ/ (*rare*) *adj* conveying waste; relating to nose-blowing. ♦ *n* any organ or passage of the body that discharges waste; an excretory duct. [L *emunc'torium* a pair of snuffers, a means of cleansing, from *emungere, emunctum* to blow the nose, to cleanse] **emunc'tion** *n* (*rare*). **emunge** /i-mun'ɪ/ *vt* (*obs*) to clean.

presentment of Englishry (*hist*) the offering of proof that a person murdered belonged to the English race, to escape the fine levied on the hundred or township for the murder of a Norman.

enwallow /en-wol'ə/ (*Spenser*) *vt* to roll about wallowingly. [**en-** (1c)]

epulation /ep-ū-lā'shən/ (*rare*) *n* feasting. [L noun *epulātio*, *adj* *epulāris*, from *epulāri, -ātus* to feast]

■ **ep'ulary** *adj*.

esclandre /es-klā'dr'/ *n* notoriety; any unpleasantness. [Fr, from L *scandalum*]

estrangelo or **estranghelo** /e-strang'gə-lō/ *n* a cursive form of the old Syriac alphabet (also *adj*). [Syriac, perh from Gr *strongylos* round]

eutrapelia /ū-trə-pē'lī-ə/ (*obs*) and **eutrapely** /ū-trap'ə-lī/ *n* wit, ease and urbanity of conversation. [Gr *eutrapelia*, from *eutrapelos* pleasant in conversation]

evoe, evhoe, evohé /ē-vē' or ē-vō'i/ or **euoi** /ū-oi'/ *interj* expressing Bacchic frenzy. [L *eu(h)oe*, from Gr *euoi, eu hoi*]

exomis /ek-sō'mis/ *n* a one-sleeved or (in Rome) sleeveless garment (also Browning *exo'mion*). [Gr *exōmis*, from *ex-* out, and *ōmos* shoulder]

exsufflicate /ik-suf'li-kāt/ *adj* (*Shakesp*) puffed out. [L *ex-* out, and *sufflare* to blow out, from *sub* under, and *flāre* to blow]

■ **exsuff'late** *vt* to blow away; to exorcize by blowing away. **exsufflā'tion** *n* expiration; forced expiration; exorcism by blowing.

F

facinorous /fá- or fá-sín'ə-rəs/ (archaic) *adj* atrociously wicked (also (Shakesp) **facin'orious**). [L *facinorōsus*, from *facinus* a crime, from *facere* to do]

■ **facin'orousness** *n*.

falsidical /fəl-sid'í-kəl/ (rare) *adj* conveying a meaning that is false. [L *falsus*, and *dicere* to say]

fastuous /fás-tū-əs/ (archaic) *adj* haughty; ostentatious. [L *fastuosus*, from *fastus* arrogance]

fern'tickle or **fern'ticle** *n* (*obs* or *dialect*), also **fair'nitckle**, **fair'nitckle**, **fair'nytickle**, **fair'nytickle**, **fer'nitckle**, **fer'nitckle**, **fer'nytickle** or **fer'nytickle** (Scot) a freckle.

fidibus /fid'í-bəs/ (*obs*) *n* a paper spill for lighting a pipe, etc. [Ger]

filipen'dulous /fil-/ *adj* hanging by or strung on a thread.

fish'yback *n* (US) transportation of freight containers and trailers by ship or barge.

flap doodle *n* (*inf*) an imaginary food said to be eaten by fools; gross flattery, etc; nonsense.

flimp /flimp/ (*sl*) *vt* to rob (someone) while a partner hustles. [Cf W Flem *flimpe* to knock or rob]

floc'cinau'cini hilipil'ificā'tion *n* (*facetious*) setting at little or no value (from the Latin genitives *flocī* and *nauci* at a trifle, *nihilī* at nothing, *pili* at a hair, and *facere* to make).

fogle /fō'gəl/ (*sl*) *n* a silk handkerchief. [Origin obscure]

forgett'ery *n* (*inf*; *facetious*) a capacity for forgetting; a bad memory.

frab /frab/ (*dialect*) *vt* to worry.

■ **frabb'it** *adj* peevish.

Friday (afternoon) car *n* (*inf*) a new car with many faults in it, supposedly built on a Friday (afternoon) when workers' concentration is poor.

fundoplication /fun-dō-plí-kā'shan or -plí-/ (*med*) *n* a surgical procedure in which the fundus of the stomach is gathered, wrapped and sutured around the lower end of the oesophagus in order to alleviate reflux oesophagitis. [**fundus** and **plication** (see under **plica**)]

G

galimatias /gal-í-mā'shí-əs, -shəs or -mat'í-ās/ (*rare*) *n* nonsense; any confused mixture of unrelated things. [Fr]

gandy dancer /gan'dí dān'sər/ *n* (US *inf*) a railway labourer; any manual labourer; an itinerant or seasonal labourer. [Prob from the Gandy Manufacturing Company, which made tools used by railway workmen]

gardyloo /gār'dí-loo/ *interj* the old warning cry in Edinburgh before throwing slops out of the window into the street. ♦ *n* the slops so thrown, or the act of throwing. [Recorded in this form by Smollett; supposed to be would-be Fr *gare de l'eau* for *gare l'eau* beware of the water; Sterne records *garde d'eau* in Paris (*Sentimental Journey*)]

gelastic /je-las'tík/ (*rare*) *adj* relating to or provoking laughter. [Gr *gelastikos*, from *gelaîn* to laugh]

genethliac /ji-neth'li-ək/ *adj* (*obs*) relating to a birthday or to the casting of horoscopes. ♦ *n* (*obs*) a caster of horoscopes; a genethliaco *n*. [Gr *genethlê* birth]

■ **genethliacal** /jen-ith'li-əkəl/ *adj* genethliac. **genethlī'acally** *adv*. **genethlī'acon** *n* (L, from Gr) a birthday ode. **genethliolog'ic** or **genethliolog'ical** *adj*. **genethlial'ogy** *n* (Gr *genethliālogiā*) the art of casting horoscopes.

ger'und-grinder *n* a pedantic teacher.

giglet or **giglot** /gíg'lit or -lət/ (*obs*) *n* a giddy girl; a wanton person. ♦ *adj* (Shakesp) inconstant. [Perh connected with **gig**¹; later associated with **giggle**]

glimm'er-gowk (*n dialect*; Tennyson) an owl.

goluptious /go-lup'shəs/ or **goloptious** /-lɒp'/ (*sl*; *joc*) *adj* delicious; voluptuous

gor-belly /gōr'be-li/ (*obs*) *n* a big belly; a big-bellied person. [Perh OE *gor* filth, and *belly*]
■ **gor'-bellied** *adj* (Shakesp)

grammat'icaster *n* (archaic; see **-aster**) a piddling grammarian.

gregā'rian *adj* (*rare*) (of a soldier) belonging to the common rank.

grooly /groo'li/ (*sl*) *adj* gruesome. [gruesome and grisly]

grum /grum/ *adj* morose; surly; (of a sound) deep in the throat (*obs*). [Cf Dan *grum*]

■ **grum'ly** *adv*. **grum'ness** *n*.

gup² /gup/ (*sl*; orig Anglo-Ind *inf*) *n* gossip; prattle. [Urdu *gap*]

gytrash /gī'trash/ (*dialect*) *n* a ghost or apparition.

H

had-I-wist /had-í-wíst/ (*obs*) *n* vain regret; remorse. [had I wíst]

hamfatter /ham'fá-tər/ *n* a third-rate minstrel, variety artist or actor. ♦ *vt* and *vi* to act badly or ineffectively. [Perh from an old African-American minstrel song, *The Hamfat Man*]

hand of glory /handəv glō'ri/ *n* a charm made originally of mandrake root, afterwards of a murderer's hand from the gallows. [A translation of Fr *main de gloire*, from OFr *mandegloire* mandrake, from *mandragore*]

harman /hār'mən/ (old criminal *sl*) *n* a constable; (*in pl*) the stocks. [Origin obscure; see **beak**]

■ **har'man-beck** *n* a constable.

haussmannize or **-ise** /hows'm en-tz/ *vt* to open out, generally to rebuild, as Baron *Haussmann* did in Paris as prefect of the Seine (1853–70).

■ **haussmannizā'tion** or **-s-** *n*.

heckelphone /hek'l-fōn/ *n* an instrument of the oboe family, between the cor anglais and the bassoon in pitch. [Invented by W *Heckel* (1856–1909)]

hen'-hussy *n* a man who meddles with women's affairs.

hierophobia /hī-ə-rō-fō'bi-ə/ *n* fear of sacred objects. [Gr *hieros* sacred, and *phobos* fear]

■ **hierophō'bic** *adj*.

hippocrepian /hip-ō-krē'pi-ən/ *adj* horseshoe-shaped. [**hippo-** and Gr *krēpis* a shoe]

hogen-mogen /hō'gən-mō'gən/ (*obs*) *n* haughtiness; (*usu* *in pl*) the Dutch States General. ♦ *adj* high and mighty; Dutch; (of liquor) strong. [*Du hoog en mogend* high and mighty]

■ **ho'gan** or **ho'gen** *n* strong liquor.

honorificabilitudinity /hon-ər-íf-ik-əb-íl-í-tū-dín'í-tí/ *n* honourableness. [LL *honōriificābilitūdinitās*, preserved in the ablative *pl* *honōriificābilitūdinitātibus* as a superlatively long word, in Shakespeare, *Love's Labours Lost* V.1.37 and elsewhere]

horrisonant /ho-ris'ə-nənt/ *adj* dreadful-sounding (also (archaic) **horris'onous**). [From root of L *horrēre* to bristle, and *sonāns*, *-antis* sounding]

humgruffin /hum-gruf'ín/ or **humgruffian** /-i- en/ *n* a terrible person. [Appar **hum**¹ and **griffin**]

hy'dra-headed *adj* difficult to root out, springing up vigorously again and again.

hyleg /hī'leg/ *n* the ruling planet at the hour of birth. [Origin obscure; cf Pers *hailāj* nativity]

I

iddy-umpty /id'í-ump'tí or -um'tí/ (*milit sl*) *n* Morse code. [From a phrase used in India to teach Morse to the native troops]

impavid /im-pav'íd/ (*rare*) *adj* fearless, undaunted. [L *impavidus*, from *im-* (*in-*) not, and *pavidus* fearing]

■ **impav'idly** *adv*.

inchpin /inçh' or insh'pin/ (*obs*) *n* a deer's sweetbread. [Perh **inch**¹ and **pin**]

impossible /in-kəm-pos'í-bl/ (*rare*) *adj* incapable of coexisting. [in- (2)]

■ **impossibil'ity** *n*.

inenarrable /in-en'ə-rə-bl or in-ē-nar'ə-bl/ *adj* incapable of being narrated or told, indescribable. [L *inenarrābilis*, from *in-* not, *ē-* out, and *narrāre* to tell]

inficete /in-fi-sēt/ (*rare*) *adj* not *facetious*; rudely jesting. [L *inficē* *tus*, from *in-* not, and *facētus* courteous, witty]

injelly /in-jel'í/ (Tennyson) *vt* to place as if in jelly. [in- (1)]

instar² /in-stār'/ (*poetic*; *archaic*) *vt* to adorn with stars; to place as a star. [in- (1)]

interdine /in-tər-dīn'/ (*rare*) *vi* to eat together. [inter-]

iracund /í-rə-kund/ *adj* inclined to become angry, easily angered. [L *irācundus*, from *ira* anger]

■ **iracund'ity** *n*. **iracund'ulous** *adj* somewhat iracund

irrision /ír-izh'ən/ *n* the act of laughing at another. [L *irrisiō*, *-ōnis*, from *in* on, at, and *ridēre*, *rīsum* to laugh]

■ **irrisory** /ír-í-sər-í/ *adj* mocking, derisive.

J

Jack-go-to-bed-at-noon *n* the plant goat's-beard.

jell'ygraph *n* a former device for copying that used a plate of jelly. ♦ *vt* to copy by this means.

Jonahword *n* a word with which a chronic stutterer has difficulty.

jumbo or **jumbie** /jum'bi/ (W *Indies*) *n* a ghost or evil spirit. [Kongo *zumbi*; cf **zombie**]

K

- kakistocracy** /*kak-i-stok' rə-si*/ *n* government by the worst. [Gr *kakistos*, superl of *kakos* bad, and *kratos* power]
- kenspeckle** /*ken'spe-kl*/, also **kenspeck** /*ken'spek*/ (Scot and N Eng) *adj* easily recognized; conspicuous. [Appar ult from ON *kennispeki* power of recognition]
- kilfud-yoking** /*kil-fud-yō'king*/ (Scot) *n* a fireside disputation. [Scot *kilfuddie* the aperture for feeding a kiln, and **yoking**]
- kitchen physic** *n* (Milton) feeding up.
- kreng** /*kreng*/ or **krang** /*krang*/ *n* the carcass of a whale after the blubber has been removed. [Du]

L

- lag'erphone** *n* a percussion instrument using the tops of beer bottles to make a jingling noise when struck or shaken.
- lammy** or **lammie** /*lam'i*/ *n* a thick quilted jumper or coat of blanket-like material worn in cold weather by sailors. [Perh **lamb**]
- latration** /*l e-trā'shən*/ (*usu facetious*) *n* barking. [L *lātāre*, -*ātum* to bark]
 ■ **latrant** /*lā' trənt*/ *adj*.
- leading business** *n* (rare) the acting of the principal parts or roles in plays.
- leiotrichous** /*lī-ot'ri-kas*/ *adj* straight-haired. [Gr *leios* smooth, and *trich*, *trichos* hair]
 ■ **leiot'richy** /-*ki*/ *n* straight-hairedness.
- life'manship** *n* (*facetious*); title of humorous book by Stephen Potter, 1950) the art of making the other person feel inferior, of placing oneself at an advantage.
- liripipe** /*lir'i-pīp*/ or **liripoop** /*lir'i-poop*/ (*obs*) *n* the long tail of a graduate's hood; a part or lesson committed to memory; a silly person. [LL *liripipium*; origin unknown]
- Lob'-lie'-by-the-fire** *n* (*folklore*) a benevolent creature who may secretly help with domestic work at night in return for a bowl of cream; a Puck.
- logorrhoea** or **logorrhea** /*log-ō-rē'ə*/ *n* excessive flow of words, uncontrollable garbality. [Gr *logos* word, and *rhoiā* flow]
 ■ **logorrhoe'ic** or **logorrhē'ic** *adj*.

- love'-monger** *n* (rare) someone who deals in affairs of love.
- lucubrate** /*loo'* or *lū-kū-brāt*/ *vi* to study by lamplight; to discourse learnedly or pedantically. [L *lūcubrāre*, -*ātum*, from *lūx* light]
 ■ **lucubrā'tion** *n* (*archaic* or *facetious*) study or composition protracted late into the night; a product of such study; a composition that smells of the lamp. **lu'cubrātor** *n*.
- luz** /*luz*/ *n* a bone supposed by Rabbinical writers to be indestructible, *prob* the sacrum.

M

- mackerel sky** *n* a sky streaked with long, parallel white masses of cloud.
- magnum bonum** *n* (*pl* **magnum bonums**) (L *bonum* (neuter) good) a large good variety, *esp* of plums or potatoes
- mallemaroking** /*mal'i-mə-rō'king*/ (*naut*; *rare*) *n* carousing of seamen in icebound ships. [Obs Du *mallemerok*, a romping woman, from *mal* foolish, and *marok*, from Fr *marotte* a favoured object]
- manrikigusari** /*man-ri-ki-goo-sā'ri*/ *n* a weapon consisting of a series of weights on a chain. [Jap]
- the grey mare is the better horse** the wife rules her husband, or is the more able partner.
- massymore** /*ma-si-mōr'*, -*mōr'*/ (Walter Scott) *n* a subterranean prison. [Perh Sp *mazmorra*; cf **mattamore**]
- McKenzie Friend** /*mə-ken'zi frend*/ (*law*; *inf*) *n* a person who attends court with an unrepresented litigant in person to render assistance in presenting the case, but is not qualified to address the court. [McKenzie v McKenzie, legal case in 1971 where this was first allowed]
- meemie** /*mē'mi*/ (*sl*) *n* (in full **screaming meemie**) a hysterical person; (*in pl*) a fit of hysterics. [Origin unknown]
- merdivorous** /*mūr-div'ə-ras*/ *adj* (of an insect) dung-eating. [L *merda* dung, and *vorāre* to devour]
- merry dancers** *n pl* (Scot) the aurora borealis.
- metapelet** /*me-tə-pel'ət*/ *n* (*pl* **metaplot'** /*me-tā-plōt'*/) a woman acting as a foster-mother to children on a kibbutz. [Heb]
- methysis** /*meth'i-sis*/ (*pathol*; *rare*) *n* drunkenness. [New L, from Gr *methysis* drunkenness, from *methyein* to be drunk]
 ■ **methys'tic** *adj* intoxicating.
- migraineur** /-*oer'*/ *n* a person who suffers migraines.

- mirligoes** /*mīr'li-gōz*/ (Scot) *n pl* dizziness.
- misocap'nic** *adj* (Gr *kapnos* smoke) hating smoke, *esp* that of tobacco.
- mizmaze** /*miz'māz*/ *n* a labyrinth; bewilderment. [**maze**¹]
- molimen** /*mō-lī'mən*/ *n* a great effort, *esp* any physical effort made by the body in carrying out a natural function. [L *mōlimen*, from *mōliri* to toil, from *mōlēs* mass]
 ■ **moliminous** /-*līm'in-əs*/ *adj*.
- moon'-glade** *n* the track of moonlight on water.
- morigeration** /*mō-ri-jə-rā'shən*/ *n* deferential behaviour. [L *mōrigeratiō*, -*ōnis*, from *mōs*, *mōris* custom, humour, and *gerere* to bear]
 ■ **morig'erate** or **morig'erous** *adj*.
- mortiferous** /*mōr-tif'ə-rəs*/ *adj* death-bringing; fatal. [L *mors*, *mortis* death, and *ferre* to bring]
 ■ **mortif'erousness** *n*.
- moulage** /*moo-lāzh'*/ *n* the making of moulds (*esp* of objects of interest in criminal investigation). [Fr, from MFr *mollage*, from OFr *mouler* to model, from *modul* a mould, from L *modulus* a measure]
- muckender** /*muk'ən-dər*/ (*obs*) *n* a handkerchief; a table-napkin. [Appar from some Languedocian dialect; cf Fr *mouchoir*, Sp *mocador*]
- mulligrubs** /*mul'i-grubz*/ (*inf*) *n pl* colic; sulkiness.
- mundungus** /*mun-dung'gas*/ (*archaic*) *n* a rank-smelling tobacco. [Sp *mondongo* black pudding]
- mutt'on-thumper** *n* a clumsy bookbinder.

N

- Nandi bear** /*nan'di bār*/ *n* a great fierce animal reputed to live in E Africa, perhaps the spotted hyena. [From the *Nandi* Forest, Kenya]
- naughty pack** *n* (*obs*) a person, *esp* a woman, of loose life, a 'bad lot'.
- necessary house** or **place** *n* (*obs* or *dialect*) a toilet.
- nephalism** /*nef'ə-li-zm*/ *n* total abstinence from alcoholic drinks. [Gr *nēphalios* sober; *nēphein* to be sober]
 ■ **neph'alist** *n*.
- Newgate frill** or **Newgate fringe** *n* a beard under the chin and jaw.
- nipperty-tipperty** /*nip'ər-ti-tip'ər-ti*/ (Scot) *adj* finical; mincing; fiddle-faddle.
- noIition** /*nō-līsh'ən*/ *n* unwillingness; absence of willingness; a will not to do. [L *nōlle* to be unwilling]
- norsel** /*nōr'sl*/ (*rare*) *n* a short piece of line for fastening fishing nets and hooks. ♦ *vt* and *vi* (**nor'selling**; **nor'selled**) (*obs*) to fit with or fit norsels. [OE *nostel*, *nostle*, *nosle* a fillet or band]
 ■ **nors'eller** *n* (*obs*).
- nubiform** /*nū-bi-fōrm*/ *adj* cloudlike. [L *nūbēs* a cloud]
- nybble** or **nibble** /*nīb'l*/ *n* half a byte. [Humorous allusion to being smaller than a bite]

O

- Oblomovism** /*ob'lo-mo-vi-zm*/ *n* the inability to bring oneself to act, lazy inertia, from the character of *Oblomov*, the embodiment of physical and mental laziness, in the novel of the same name by the Russian author Ivan Goncharov (1859).
- obtruncate** /*ob-trung'kāt*/ *vt* to cut or lop off the head of. [L *obtruncāre*, -*ātum* to cut in pieces, mutilate, from *ob-* (intens), and *truncāre* to cut off]
- odso** /*od'sō*/ (*obs*) *interj* expressing surprise. [For **gadso**]
- omoplatoscopy** /-*plə-tos'kə-pi*/ *n* (see **-scopy**) divination by observing the cracks in a burning shoulder-blade.
- on'ion-eyed** *adj* (*Shakesp*) having the eyes full of tears.
- oragious** /*ō-rā'jas*/ (*rare*) *adj* stormy. [Fr *orageux*]
- ort** /*ört*/ (*dialect*) *n* (*usu in pl*) a fragment, *esp* one left from a meal. [Cf L Ger *ort* refuse of fodder]
- oustiti** /*oo'sti-tē*/ *n* a tool for opening a locked door from the outside (also called **outsiders**). [Fr *oustiti* marmoset]
- outfangthief** /*ow'i'fang-thēf*/ (*hist*) *n* the right of judging and fining thieves pursued and brought back from outside one's own jurisdiction. [OE *ūtfangene-thēof*, from *ūt* out, the root of *fōn* to take, and *thēof* thief]
- have the black ox tread on one's foot** to experience sorrow or misfortune.

P

- padd'ing-ken** *n* (*archaic sl*) a thieves' or tramps' lodging-house.
- paneity** /*pa-nē'i-ti*/ *n* the state of being bread. [L *pānis* bread]

pantophobia /*pæn-tə-fə'bi-ə*/ *n* morbid fear of everything; (by confusion with **panophobia**) causeless fear. [Gr *pās*, *pantos* all, and *phobos* fear]

parablepsis /*par-ə-blep'sis*/, also **parablepsy** /*par'ə-blep-si*/ *n* false vision; oversight. [Gr, looking askance, from *para* beside, beyond, and *blepein* to see]
 ■ **parableptic** *adj.*

paronym /*par'ə-nim*/ *n* a word whose meaning is altered to conceal an evasion or untruth, eg *liberation* used for conquest. [*para-*¹ and *Gr onyma* name]

parvanimity /*pār-və-nim'i-ti*/ *n* smallness of mind. [L *parvus* little, and *animus* mind]

patzer /*pat'səz*/ (*sl*) *n* a poor chess player. [Ger *patzen* to bungle, make a mess of]

pedetentous /*ped-i-ten'tas*/ *adj* proceeding slowly. [L *pedentim*, -*temptim*, from *pēs*, *pedis* foot, and *temptāre*, -*ātum* to make trial of]

talk like a pen-gun to chatter volubly.

Pepper's ghost /*pep'əz gōst*/ *n* a phantom produced on the stage by a sheet of glass reflecting an actor on an understage. [John H *Pepper* (1821–1900), improver and exhibitor of H Dircks's invention]

perissology /*pe-ri-sol'ə-ji*/ *n* verbiage; pleonasm. [Gr *perissologiā*, from *perissos* excessive, and *logos* speech]

pervicacious /*pūr-vi-kā'shəs*/ *adj* very obstinate. [L *pervicāx*, -*ācis*, from *pfx per-*, and *vincere* to prevail]

■ **pervicaciousness**, **pervicacity** /*-kas'i-ti*/ or (*obs*) **pervicacy** /*pūr'vi-kə-si*/ *n*.

phansigar /*pān'sē-gār* or *fān'*/ *n* formerly in India, a thug. [Hindi *phasī* a noose, and Pers agent *sfx -gār*]

philomath /*fil'ə-math*/ *n* a lover of learning. [Gr *philomathēs* fond of learning, from *math-*, root of *mathanein* to learn]

■ **philomathic** or **philomathical** *adj.* **philomathy** /*-om' e-thi*/ *n* love of learning.

have a rod in pickle to have a punishment ready.

piepowder /*pi'pow-dər*/ (*obs*) *n* a wayfarer, itinerant. [OFr *piecpoudreux*, from *pied* (L *pēs*, *pedis*) foot, and *poudre* (L *pulvis*) dust]

■ **Court of Piepowder** or **Piepowders** an ancient court held in fairs and markets to administer justice in a rough-and-ready way to all comers (also **Court of Dusty Feet**).

pilgarlick or **peelgarlic** /*pil-, pēl-gār'lik*/ *n* a baldpate (*obs*); a poor wretch; in whimsical self-pity, oneself. [p^{ill}² or **peel**¹, and **garlic**, because like a pill or peeled head of garlic]

■ **pilgarlicky** *adj.*

pingle /*ping'gl*, *ping'li*/ (*Scot* and *dialect*) *vi* to strive; to struggle with difficulties, exert oneself strongly; to work ineffectually; to trifle or dally, esp with food. ♦ *vt* to contend strongly with; to harass, worry; to eat with feeble appetite. ♦ *n* a strenuous contest or exertion. [Cf Swed *pyngla* to be busy in small matters, to work in a trifling way]

■ **ping'ler** *n.* **ping'ling** *adj.*

piss'-a-bed *n* (*dialect*) the dandelion.

plap /*plap*/ *n* a flatter sound than a plop. ♦ *vi* to make, or move with, such a sound. [Imit]

plerophory /*pli-rof'ə-ri*/ *n* full conviction (also **plerophō'ria**). [Gr *plērōphoriā*]

pneu'monoultramicroscopicsil'icovolcanoconio'sis *n* a form of pneumoconiosis caused by very fine silicate or quartz dust.

Podsnappery /*pod-snap'ə-ri*/ *n* British Philistinism as exemplified in Mr Podsnap in Dickens's novel *Our Mutual Friend* (1865).

pompier /*pom'pi-ər* or *po-pyā*/ *adj* (of art) conventional, traditional, uninspired. [Fr *pompier* fireman, from an alleged resemblance of mythological heroes in rigidly traditional art]

popjoy /*pop'joi*/ *vi* to amuse oneself. [Poss connected with **popinjay**]

pos'ture-master *n* a teacher or exponent of artificial postures of the body (*hist*); an acrobat or contortionist (*obs*).

pray'er-monger *n* someone who prays mechanically

premonish /*prē-mon'ish*/ (*rare*) *vt* to admonish or warn beforehand. [pre- (1); modelled on **admonish**]

■ **premon'ishment** *n.*

prick'-the-louse *n* (*Scot*) a tailor.

procerity /*prō-ser'i-ti*/ *n* tallness. [L *prōcērītās*, -*ātis*, from *prōcērus* tall]

prodnose /*prod'nōz*/ (*sl*) *n* a prying, meddlesome person; a detective.

♦ *vi* (*rare*) to pry. [prod and nose]

pronk /*prongk*/ *vi* (of a springbok, etc) to leap in the air with arched back; to strut or show off (*S Afr*). [Afr^{ik}, to show off, strut or prance]

■ **pronk'ing** *n.*

prosilient /*prō-sil'i-ənt*/ *adj* outstanding. [L *prōsiliens*, -*entis*, *prp* of *prōsilire* to leap forward, from *prō-* forward, and *salire* to leap]

■ **prosil'ieny** *n.*

prunes and prisms part of a formula for setting the lips into a pleasing shape, 'serviceable in the formation of a demeanour' (Dickens, *Little Dorrit*); hence (often **prisms**) a somewhat prim manner of speaking, or any trivial and superficial refinement.

puftaloon /*puf-tə-loon*/ (*Aust*) *n* a type of fried cake, *usu* eaten hot with jam, honey or sugar (also **puftaloon'as**, **puftaloon'ies**, etc). [Origin unknown]

pundigrion /*pun-dig'ri-on*/ (*obs*) *n* a pun. [Origin unknown; Ital *puntiglio* is only a conjecture]

purple airway *n* a reserved course for a royal flight.

pyjama cricket *n* (*inf*) cricket played in coloured clothing.

Q

quat /*kwot*/ *n* a pimple (*now dialect*); an insignificant person (*Shakesp*). [Origin unknown]

quiddle /*kwid'l*/ (*dialect*) *vi* to trifle. ♦ *n* a fastidious person.

■ **quidd'ler** *n.*

R

rack'abones *n* (*US*) a very thin person or animal.

Ralph /*ralf* or *rāf*/ *n* the imp of mischief in a printing house. [Personal name, from OE *Rædwulf*]

rantipole /*ran'ti-pōl*/ (*archaic*) *n* a wild, reckless person (also *adj* and *vi*). [Perh **rant**]

rebecca-eureka /*ri-bek'ə-ū-re'kə*/ *n* a secondary-radar system in which the interrogating installation is in an aircraft and the fixed beacon responder on the ground.

redivivus /*re-di-vi'vəs* or *re-di-wē'wūs*/ (*formal* or *literary*) *adj* resuscitated; come to life again. [L, from *red-* again, and *vivus* alive, from *vivere* to be alive]

refocillate /*ri-fos'i-lāt*/ (*obs*) *vt* to refresh, cherish. [L *refocillāre*, -*ātum* to cherish, from *focus* a hearth]

■ **refocilla'tion** *n.*

remember your courtesy (*obs*) remember to put your hat on, which you have taken off in courtesy

reremouse or **rearmouse** /*rēr'mows*/ *n* (*pl* **rere'-mice** or **rear'mice**) a bat. [OE *hrēmūs*, appar from *hrēran* to move, and *mūs* a mouse]

retree /*ri-trē'*/ *n* slightly damaged paper. [Perh Fr *retret*, *retrait*; see **retreat**]

rhyme to death to kill by incantations (as rats were supposed to be killed in Ireland); to pester with rhymes.

rinthereout /*rin'dhə-root*/ (*Scot*) *n* and *adj* (a) vagrant; (a) vagabond. [*run thereout*]

cry roast-meat (*archaic*) to publish one's good luck foolishly.

roscid /*ros'id*/ (*rare*) *adj* dewy. [L *rōscidus*, from *rōs* dew]

rubber chicken circuit *n* (*esp N Am sl*) a lecture tour, round of political campaigning, etc characterized by the provision of bland, unappetizing food to the participants.

Rupert's drop /*roo'pərts drop*/ *n* a tailed bulb formed by dropping molten glass in water, bursting when the tail is broken, reputedly discovered by Prince *Rupert* (1619–82).

S

saikai /*sai-kā*/ *n* a Japanese miniature landscape of bonsai trees, etc, growing on rocks or stones; the art of cultivating such landscapes. [Jap *sai* cultivation, and *kei* scenery]

saltigrade /*sal'ti-grād*/ *adj* progressing by leaps. ♦ *n* a jumping spider (*qv*). [L *saltus*, -*ūs* a leap, and *grad* to go]

sancho-pedro /*san'chō-ped'rō*/ *n* a card game in which the nine of trumps is called *sancho* and the five is called *pedro*.

sausagetre *n* a tropical tree (*Kigelia africana*) with bell-shaped flowers and sausage-shaped fruits.

schwärmerei /*shver'mə-ri*/ *n* sentimental enthusiasm, wild devotion, fanaticism. [Ger, swarming]

■ **schwärmerisch** /*-ər-ish*/ *adj.*

scribā'cious *adj* (*archaic*) given to writing.

scru'to /*skroo'tō*/ (*theatre*) *n* (*pl* **scru'tos**) a kind of stage trapdoor. [Origin obscure]

se-baptist /*sē-bap'tist*/ *n* a person who baptizes himself or herself. [L *sē* himself]

seek-no-furth'er *n* a reddish winter apple.

sensibilia /*sen-si-bil'i-ə*/ *n* *pl* whatever may be perceived by the senses. [L, neuter *pl* of *sensibilis*]

sericon /ser'ɪ-kon/ *n* conjectured to be a red (or black) tincture in alchemy

sesquipedālian or **sesquip'edal** *adj* (L *sēsquipedālis*, from *pēs*, *pedis* foot) tending to use long or cumbersome words; (of words) long, pedantic or polysyllabic (after *sesquipedalia verba* words a foot and a half long, coined in Horace's *Ars Poetica*).

shable /shab'l/ (Scot) *n* an old rusty sword. [Cf Ital *sciabola*, Pol *szabla*, and *sabre*]

sharawaggi or **sharawadgi** /shar-ə-waj'i/ *n* (in design, architecture, etc) the use of irregularity, discordance or incongruity for deliberate, artful, contrastive effect. [Ety uncertain; used orig in the late 17c in the context of Chinese landscape gardening]

shippo /ship-ō/ *n* Japanese cloisonné ware. [Jap *shippō* seven precious things, hence something beautiful]

shot-clog *n* (obs) a simpleton who is only tolerated for his willingness to pay the bill.

shy-cock *n* a cock not easily caught.

sieve of Eratosthenes /er-ə-tos'then-ēz/ *n* (maths) a method of finding prime numbers, by listing all positive integers from 2 up to some given number, leaving the first number, 2, but crossing out all its multiples, leaving the second remaining number, 3, but crossing out all its multiples, and so on.

singult /sing'gult/ (archaic) *n* a sob. [L *singultus* a sob]
 ■ **singult'us** *n* (med) hiccupping.

skug² /skug/ (dialect) *n* a squirrel.

slammakin /slam'ə-kin/ or **slammerkin** /slam'ər-/ (obs) *n* a loose gown; a slovenly-dressed woman, a slattern. ♦ *adj* slovenly. [Origin obscure]

slipslop /slip'slop/ *n* sloppy stuff; twaddle; a malapropism (from Mrs Slipslop in Fielding's *Joseph Andrews*); a person who commits malapropisms; a loose sandal.
 ■ **slip'sloppy** *adj*.

snicker-snack /snik'ər-snæk/ *n* a word coined by Lewis Carroll to evoke the sound of a slicing blade. [Imit; also of **snickersnee**]

snooze /snoo'z/ (inf and dialect) *vi* to nuzzle and then sleep. ♦ *vt* to thrust nuzzlingly. [Cf **snooze** and **nuzzle**¹]

snudge¹ /snuj/ (obs) *vi* to be snug and quiet. [Origin obscure]

sod'buster *n* (US) a farmer who works the soil.

solivagant /sō-liv'ə-gənt/ *adj* wandering alone (also *n*). [L *sōlus* alone, and *vagāns*, -*antis* wandering]

soogee or **soogie** /soo'jē or -ji/ (naut) *n* a solution of soap, soda, etc for cleaning the decks and paintwork of a ship (also **soo'jey** or **su'jee**). *vt* to clean, wash, esp with soogee. [Perh connected with Hindi *suji* a type of gruel; or poss from Jap *sōji* cleaning]

spang² /spang/ (dialect, esp Scot) *n* a bound; a leap; a sudden movement or blow; a bang. ♦ *vi* to bound, spring. ♦ *vt* to dash; to fling; to throw or cause to spring into the air. ♦ *adv* (N Am) bang, exactly, straight, absolutely. [Origin obscure, perh connected with **spring**¹ and **spank**¹]
 ■ **spang-cockle** *n* the flicking of a marble, etc from the forefinger with the thumbnail. **spang'hew** *vt* to fling into the air, esp in a seesaw game using a plank, orig from a practice of torturing frogs using a stick.

speakerine /spē-kə-rēn'/ (old TV and radio) *n* a female announcer or programme hostess. [Fem form of **speaker**]

sphairistike /sfā- or sf'ɪ-ris'ti-ki/ *n* the name under which lawn tennis was patented in 1874 by Walter Wingfield, and by which it was quite widely known for a time. [Gr *sphairistike techne* the art of playing ball, from *sphaira* ball]

spissitude /spis'ɪ-tūd/ (now rare) *n* density. [L *spissitūdō*, from *spissus* thick]

spoffish or **spoffy** /spof'ɪsh or spof'ɪ/ (archaic) *adj* fussy, officious. [Origin obscure]

squabble /skwob'l/ *vi* to dispute in a noisy manner; to wrangle. ♦ *n* a noisy, petty quarrel; a brawl. [Cf Swed dialect **sqvabbel**]
 ■ **squabb'ler** *n*.

squish lip system *n* a type of diesel engine combustion chamber designed to lessen fumes and noise pollution.

star-proof *adj* (Milton) impervious to starlight.

steatopygous /-tō-pt'gəs or -top'i-gəs/ *adj* fatbuttocked.

stiff ware *n* (comput sl) software that is no longer flexible, having been customized or having incomplete documentation or an obscure function and therefore being difficult to modify or remove without risk to other programs.

stramazon or **stramac-on** /stram'ə-zon or -son/ (obs) *n* a downward cut in fencing. [Ital *stramazzone*, and Fr *estramaçon*]

strepent /strep'ənt/ (rare) *adj* noisy. [L *strepere* to make a noise; frequentative *strepitāre*]
 ■ **strep'erous** *adj* loud; harsh-sounding. **strep'itant** *adj* loud; noisy; clamorous. **strepitā'tion** *n*. **strep'itous** *adj*.

stuggy /stug'i/ (dialect) *adj* thick-set, stout.

subitaneous /sub-ɪ-tā'ni-əs/ (rare) *adj* sudden; hasty; hastily made. [L **subitaneus**, from **subitus** sudden]

sug /sug/ (commercial jargon) *vi* and *vt* to attempt to sell a product while purporting to be engaged in market research. [Appar acronymic for selling under the guise]
 ■ **sugg'ing** *n*.

sumpsimus /sump'si-məs/ *n* a correct expression used in place of one that is popularly used but is strictly incorrect. [L *sūmpsimus*, see **mumpsimus**]

supercherie /sū-per-shə-rē'/ *n* deception; a hoax; fraud. [Fr]

surucucu /soo-roo-koo-koo'/ *n* a native S American name for the bushmaster snake. [Tupí *surucucú*]

swin'dle-sheet *n* (facetious) an expense account.

synallagmatic /sin-ə-lag-mat'ik/ *adj* mutually or reciprocally obligatory. [Gr *synallagmatikos*, from *synallagma* a covenant, from *syn* together, and *allagma* exchange]

synizesis /sin-ɪ-zē'sis/ *n* the union into one syllable of two vowels without forming a recognized diphthong (*phonetics*); contraction of chromatin towards one side in karyokinesis (*cytology*). [Gr *synizesis* a collapse, from *syn* with, together, and *hizein* to seat, to sit down]

T

taghairm /tū-gūrm'/ *n* (in the Scottish Highlands) divination; esp inspiration sought by lying in a bullock's hide behind a waterfall. [Gaelic]

tallmen *n pl* (obs) loaded dice.

tarand /tar'ənd/ (obs) *n* a northern beast fabled to change colour like the chameleon; a reindeer. [Gr *tarand(n)os* a reindeer or (prob) elk]

tatpurusha /tat-pū'rū-shə/ *n* a class of compound words in which the first element modifies the second by standing next to it in various types of relationship, eg possession, as in *goatskin*, location, as in *fieldmouse*, as the object of an action, as in *guitar-player*, and as agent, as in *man-made*; a compound of this class. [Sans *tatpuruṣa*, literally, his servant]

telestich /ti-les'tik, tel'ɪ-stik/ *n* a poem or block of words in which the final letters of each line spell a name or word. [Gr *telos* end, and *stichos* row]

tenebrific /ten-ɪ-brif'ik/ *adj* producing darkness. [L *tenebrae* darkness, and *facere* to make]

teru-tero /ter'oo-ter'ō/ *n* (pl **ter'u-ter'os**) the Cayenne lapwing. [Imit of its cry]

therblig /thūr'blig/ *n* a unit of work into which an industrial operation may be divided. [Reversed spelling of the name of its inventor, FB Gilbreth (1868–1924), US engineer]

thing'hood *n* the state or fact of being a thing; substantiality.

thun'derplump *n* a heavy fall of rain in a thunderstorm.

tick'ly-bend'ers *n pl* thin ice that bends underfoot; a game played on it.

tipsy key *n* a watchkey in which the head is released if an attempt is made to turn it backward.

tityre-tu /tīt-, tīt-ɪ-rɪ-too', -tū'/ *n* a member of a 17c fraternity of aristocratic hooligans. [Opening words of Virgil's first eclogue, *Tityre tū*, Tityrus, thou (lying under the spreading beech), conjectured to indicate the class that had beech trees and leisure to lie under them]

tol-lol /tol-lol'/ (old sl) *adj* pretty good. [tolerable]
 ■ **tol-lol'ish** *adj* tolerable.

tosticated /tos'ti-kā-tid/ (dialect) *adj* (also **toss'icated**) fuddled; perplexed. [A corruption of **intoxicated**, associated with **toss**]
 ■ **tostica'tion** *n* perplexity.

tralaticious or **tralatitious** /tral-ə-tish'əs/ *adj* transmitted; traditional; handed on, second-hand. [L *trālātīcius*, from *trānslatum*, serving as supine to *trānsferre*; see **transfer**]

travesty role *n* (theatre) a role intended to be taken by a performer of the opposite sex to that of the character.

trikisoctahedron /trɪ-ə-kis-ok-tə-he'drən/ *n* a solid figure like an octahedron with a three-faced pyramid on each face. [Gr *triakis* three times]

troll-my-dame /trōl-mi-dām'/ or **troll-my-dames** /-dāmz'/ (Shakesp) *n* an old game like bagatelle, in which bullets were trolled into a little arcade (also **trou-madame** /trou-mā-dām/). [Fr *troumadame*, from *trou* hole, associated with **troll**²]

trou-de-loup /troo-də-loo'/ (*hist*) *n* (*pl* **trous-de-loup** /troo-/) a pit with a vertical stake in the middle, used as a defence against cavalry. [Fr, wolf-hole]

tuftaffety /tuf-taf'ə-ti/ or **tuftaffeta** /-tə/ (*archaic*) *n* a taffeta with tufted pile. ♦ *adj* of or wearing tuftaffety; richly dressed. —Also (*obs*) **tufttuftaffety** or **tufttuftaffeta**.

turbiniacious /tūr-bi-nā'shəs/ (*Walter Scott*) *adj* (of the smell of whisky) peaty. [An erroneous form from LL *turba* peat, under the influence of L *turbō*, *-inis* a spinning-top, a swirl]

two-pot screamer *n* (*Aust sl*) a person who gets drunk on a comparatively small amount of alcohol.

U

ultracrepidate /ul-trə-krep'i-dāt/ *vi* to criticize beyond the sphere of one's knowledge. [From the painter Apelles' answer to the cobbler who went on from criticizing the sandals in a picture to finding fault with the leg, *nē sūtor ultrā crepidam*, the cobbler must not go beyond the sandal]

■ **ultracrepidarian** *n* and *adj*.

underfong /un-dər-fɒŋ'/ (*Spenser*) *vt* to overcome, entrap; to undertake. [OE *underfangen*, pap of *underfōn* to receive, take or steal]

ur'chin-shows *n pl* appearances of elves or goblins.

ustion /us'ch en/ (*obs*) *n* burning; cauterization by burning. [L *ūstiō*, *-ōnis*]

ustulation /us-tū-lā'shən/ *n* burning; roasting.

V

vagitus /və-jī'təs/ *n* a cry or wail, esp of a baby. [L *vagīre* to cry]

vel'vet-fidd'ler *n* a swimming crab with velvety pile

ventripotent /ven-trip'ə-tənt/ (*facetious*) *adj* with great capacity or appetite for food. [After Rabelais, from L *venter* belly, and *potēns* powerful, from *posse* to be able]

victorine /vik-tə-rēn'/ *n* a fur tippet with long ends; a variety of peach. [Woman's name]

vitiligation /vit-i-li-ti-gā'shən/ (*rare*) *n* vexatious wrangling. [Formed from L *vitilīgāre*, *-ātum* to quarrel disgracefully, from *vitium* a blemish, and *litigāre* to quarrel]

■ **vitilit'igate** *vi* (*rare*).

vriil /vril/ *n* electric fluid represented as the common origin of the forces in matter, in EGL Bulwer-Lytton's *The Coming Race*, 1871.

W

wagger-pagger /wag'ər-pag'ər/ or **wagger-pagger-bagger** /-bag'ər/ (*inf*, esp *facetious*) *n* a wastepaper basket.

wamble /wom'bl/ (*dialect*) *vi* (of the intestines or stomach) to give the feeling of working or rolling; to quake; to twist or wriggle; to move unsteadily. ♦ *vt* to turn round, or upside down, or over and over. ♦ *n* a

rolling in the stomach; a feeling of nausea; an unsteady, rolling or staggering movement. [Perh two or more verbs; cf Dan *vamle* to feel sick, connected with L *vomere* to vomit; also Norw *vamla*, *vamra* to stagger]

■ **wam'bliness** *n*. **wam'bling** *n* and *adj*. **wam'blingly** *adv*. **wam'bly** *adj* affected with, or causing, sickness; unsteady.

□ **wam'ble-cropped** *adj* sick at stomach.

waribashi /wā-ri-bash'i/ *n* a pair of chopsticks in the form of a single sliver of wood ready scored for splitting into two. [Jap]

wasserman /wos'ər-mən/ (*obs*) *n* a sea monster shaped like a man. [Ger *Wassermann*, from *Wasser* water, and *Mann* man]

waveson /wāv'sən/ (*rare*) *n* goods floating on the sea after a shipwreck. [Poss by analogy from Anglo-Fr *floteson* flotsam]

weather gleam *n* (*dialect*) a bright aspect of the sky at the horizon.

whangam /h)wāŋ'gəm/ (*Goldsmith*) *n* an imaginary animal.

whiskerando /h)wis-k e-ran'dō/ *n* (*pl* **whiskeran'dos**) a whiskered person, in allusion to Don Feroles Whiskerandos in Sheridan's *Critic*.

■ **whiskeran'doed** *adj* having whiskers.

wigs on the green a fray.

wishtonwish /wish'tən-wish/ *n* the *n* American prairie-dog; the whippoorwill (Fenimore Cooper). [Native American]

wobbly egg *n* (*sl*) a sleeping tablet that gives a feeling of euphoria when taken with alcohol.

woubit /woo'bit/, also **woobut** /-but/, **oubit** or **oobit** /oo'bit/ *n* (*usu* **hairy woubit**) a hairy caterpillar, esp one of a tiger moth; applied derogatorily to a person, often implying smallness and shabbiness. [ME *wolbode*, *wolbede*; prob from *wol* wool, with unexplained second element]

X

xyster /zis'tər/ *n* a surgeon's instrument for scraping bones. [Gr *xystēr* an engraving tool]

Y

yrneh /yūr'ni/ *n* unit of reciprocal inductance. [*henry*, the unit of inductance, spelled backwards]

yump¹ /yump/ (*sl*) *vi* in rally-driving, to leave the ground (in one's vehicle) when going over a ridge or crest. ♦ *n* an instance of this. [Norw *jump* jump (as pronounced)]

Z

zelatrix /zel'ə-triks/, **zelatrice** /-tris/ or **zelator** /-tər/ *n* a nun whose duty is to keep watch on the behaviour of the younger nuns in the convent, or on that of the mother superior. [L *zelator* and *zelatrix*, Fr *zēlatrice*, from L *zelus*, from Gr *zelos* zeal, from *zeein* to boil]

zoozoo /zoo'zoo/ (*dialect*) *n* the wood pigeon. [From the sound made by it]