

# IMAGINARY PEOPLE FOR YOU TO MEET

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Words that have been made out of people's names, such as *boycott* and *forsythia*, are known as eponyms. However, there appears to be no name for the inverse process, that of creating fictitious names to describe generic behavior or inanimate objects. What behavior or objects do the following names stand for?

Be warned that this quiz is more difficult than most of the ones I present in *Word Ways*. Even if you get a *harlot's hello* (British slang for nothing at all), you will certainly learn something about a little-known byway of onomastics.

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|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Dame Jeanne          | 16. William Shears       |
| 2. Titivillus           | 17. Miss Thing           |
| 3. Old Nick             | 18. Father Bunloaf       |
| 4. Dolly Oil            | 19. Lucy Law             |
| 5. Nancy Pretty         | 20. Mary Jane            |
| 6. Scavenger's Daughter | 21. Fancy Dan            |
| 7. Tabby                | 22. Big Dick from Boston |
| 8. House Larry          | 23. Maggie Moores        |
| 9. Mother Carey         | 24. Charles James        |
| 10. Charley Pope        | 25. Reuben               |
| 11. Jacky Rue           | 26. Bertram              |
| 12. Jimmy Green         | 27. Whistling Willie     |
| 13. Buttinsky           | 28. Dickey Flurry        |
| 14. Herkimer Jerkimer   | 29. Peter Funk           |
| 15. Mr. Whiskers        | 30. Peter Lug            |

Answers can be found in Answers and Solutions at the end of this issue.