

# SPLIT WIT DEFINITIVES

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The following is an outgrowth of two articles I wrote for National Lampoon in 1990 entitled "Split Definitives". It was thus titled because it featured word definitions that depend upon the splitting of words to effect the definitions. For example, **romantic** was defined as "Centurion's twitch" because it can be divided into **Roman** and **tic**. Similarly, **heathen** was defined as "barbecued chicken" as it breaks down into **heat** and **hen**.

The following Split Definitives dictionary is an enlarged version of the two National Lampoon articles. To qualify for inclusion in the list, the following rules are applicable:

- \* The words must be able to be broken down into two or more segments and defined by the constituent parts. For example, **significant** is defined as "assign power of attorney" because it is comprised of **sign**, **if**, **I** and **can't**.
- \* The individual parts must be defined by their actual spellings. This rules out inclusion of words like **archives**, defined as "where Noah kept the bees" because Noah's ark cannot be spelled **arc**. Alternate spellings, however, are permissible. **Lavender** is defined as "saleswoman" because **vender** is an alternate spelling of **vendor**.
- \* The word definitions shall not take up more than one computer line.
- \* Words may not be defined by words that appear as the constituent parts.
- \* Prefixes, suffixes and abbreviations that have specific and understood meanings can serve as constituent parts.
- \* The definition must sufficiently alter the meaning of the word. For example, in **auto-eroticism** defined as "how to turn on your car", the sense of eroticism in both the word and the definition are too similar and thus it does not qualify for inclusion. **Alpha-bet**, defined as "first wager", is likewise excluded.
- \* If a word or segment has more than one meaning, it can be interpreted differently for different words. For example, in **con-current**, defined as "against the flow", the sense of **con** is of being opposed, as in "pro or con". In **convocation**, defined as "forgery", the sense of **con** is as a convict.
- \* My final rule is one that is highly subjective, but I feel is essential for the exercise. To qualify for inclusion as a Split-Wit Definitive, an entry must be sufficiently witty. Certain words that can be divided into distinct parts just don't lend themselves to an interesting definition. For example, how could you define the **caterpillar** as **cater** and **pillar**, or **brandish** as **bran** and

dish in a witty manner? Defining asphalt as "a stopped snake" similarly is not clever enough for inclusion.

ADAMANT the first insect  
 ADDICTION Madison Avenuese  
 ADMINISTER commercial clergyman  
 ADMISSION to entice consumers  
 ADVERSE jingle  
 ALTERNATIVES modify the indigenous population  
 AMEN top guys  
 AMISS almost as good as amile  
 ANODE averse  
 ANTACID insect hallucinogen  
 APPENDIX hang nine  
 ASPIRE venom  
 ASSAILED sore bum  
 ASTEROID it won Ben Johnson a gold medal before detection  
 ASTROLOGICAL rational Houston ballplayer  
 ATROPHY memento of achievement  
 AUDIOLOGY German automotive engineering  
 AUDITORY progressive yet conservative German car  
 AUTOMATING back-seat lovemaking

BANKING exile the monarch  
 BARBED where the winos can sleep  
 BARGAINING law student's goal  
 BARRACKS where they keep shot glasses  
 BARRAGE tavern brawl  
 BASHFULLY trash thoroughly  
 BEACON go to jail  
 BEWILDER act more uncontrollably  
 BILLINGSGATE Montana political scandal  
 BLUNDERBUSS making a pass at a transvestite  
 BOASTING constriction  
 BROTHEL soup of Canaanite deity  
 BUCKSHOT lottery ticket  
 BULLDOZER somnolent viewer of a political debate  
 BULLDOZING a non-charging toro  
 BULLETIN loaded gun  
 BULLRUSH Pamplona tradition  
 BUMBLED wounded hobo  
 BUTCHER Sonny Bono's plea

CADDIE suggestion to Iago, at the end of Othello  
 CANADA fire a district attorney  
 CANBERRA what Steinbrenner did to Yogi  
 CANTEEN ax an adolescent  
 CARIOUS auto payments  
 CARMEN auto mechanics  
 CARROT rust  
 CASTANET how to catch fish  
 CASTRATING theater critic's role  
 CASUALTIES informal neckwear  
 CELEBRATING star quotient

CHAMPION award-winning atomic particle  
 CHOPSTICKS cuts up insects  
 CHUCKLED the U.K. when the Prince of Wales ascended the throne  
 COCKTAIL rooster extremity  
 COINCIDE eradication of metallic currency  
 COMMONWEALTH Socialism  
 CONCUR anti-dog  
 CONCURRENT against the flow  
 CONDENSE obtuse prisoner  
 CONDESCENDING prisoner on the way down  
 CONFERMENT prison riot  
 CONFRONT sting  
 CONFUSION against nuclear power (see PROFUSION)  
 CONJUROR shyster's function  
 CONQUEST manhunt  
 CONSCIENCE Creationism  
 CONSTABLE prisoner's workbench  
 CONSTRAINING rehabilitation  
 CONTOUR rip-off vacation  
 CONTRABAND anti-Sandinista group  
 CONTRADICTION anti-Sandinista speech  
 CONVERSION alibi  
 CONVOCATION forgery, for example  
 COPTIC policeman's itchy trigger finger  
 COUPLED in charge of the insurrection  
 COUPON sign, in banana republic  
 CRACKPOT someone stupid enough to mix hard and soft drugs  
 CURFEW dog shortage  
 CURLED dog in front  
 CURRENT what Fido pays if he can't afford a doghouse  
  
 DAMNATION beaver country  
 DEADLINE broken telephone  
 DEBUTANTE start of a pot  
 DELIBERATE enslave  
 DELIBERATED reaction to spoiled pastrami  
 DEPARTMENTAL take leave of one's senses  
 DETERGENT spurn his amorous advances  
 DICTATORSHIP the Bismarck  
 DIGIT cemetery instruction  
 DISAPPOINTMENT firing  
 DISCONSOLATE what woke the neighbors at 3 AM  
 DISCOVER the flip side  
 DISENCHANT exorcise  
 DISINTEGRATION apartheid  
 DISORIENT Westernize  
 DISTRESS hair of a princess  
 DIVERGENT Jacques Costeau  
 DIVESTING jellyfish bite  
 DOGMA bitch of a mother  
 DOWAGER commandment, on a gambling junket  
 DOZEN meditate  
 DUNGEON a very long (and shitty) time



EAVESDROPPER icicle  
 ELECTRON Reagan's campaign slogan  
 ENDEAR lobe  
 EVEREST Adam's suggestion to his wife on the seventh day  
 EXECRATING Fortune 500  
 EXPECTORATION await a speech  
 EXPENSIVE no longer thoughtful  
 EXPERT formerly cute  
 EXPOSITION former stance  
 EXPOSURE reliable Montreal ballplayer  
 EXTRAORDINARY extremely mundane

FATALLY overweight friend  
 FINALE five-dollar beer  
 FLAGRANT display of obstreperous nationalism  
 FOREGO done to make one feel better  
 FOREMAN male golfer  
 FOREPLAY golf  
 FORMALLY function  
 FRIENDSHIP love boat  
 FUNDAMENTALIST bankroll a psychic  
 FUNGAL she's the life of the party  
 FURLONG full-length mink

GANGLION pack animal  
 GENERATING eugenics  
 GENERATION quota of inherited characteristics  
 GENITALIA highest military rank, in Italy  
 GIANTS entomological warriors  
 GIGANTIC stunt at Woodstock

HASSLED owns a toboggan  
 HEATHEN barbecued chicken  
 HEBREW beer with balls  
 HIPPOCAMPUS terrestrial version of a school of fish  
 HIPPOCRATES means of transporting extra-large animals  
 HUMBUG bee

IMPACT mischief  
 IMPALE devil's brew  
 IMPART graffiti  
 IMPASSES silly fools  
 IMPORTANT foreign bug  
 INCANDESCENT what the conquistadors caused  
 INFERNO imply a negative response  
 INMATE the favorite of a harem  
 INSECT fashionable religious denomination  
 INSTANCE politically-correct attitude  
 INTERNALLY nurse  
 INVERSE haiku  
 INVERSION today's truth  
 JUSTICE on the rocks  
 KIDNAPPING sleeping baby goat



LAVATORY erupting conservative  
 LAVENDER French saleswoman  
 LEGEND ankle  
 LESSON barer  
 LIEUTENANT sub-lessee  
 LIMPID unconscious unconscious  
 LITANY question to an arsonist  
 LOCOMOTIVE madness to method  
  
 MACHO Scottish-Vietnamese hybrid  
 MAIMONIDES mayhem against Caesar, March 15  
 MALARIA off-key operatic melody  
 MALEDICTION man talk  
 MALEFACTOR the Y chromosome  
 MANAGE pre-feminist era  
 MANAGER shrew  
 MANDATE male escort  
 MANDRAKE anthorpomorphic duck  
 MARGIN dilute the booze  
 MARRIOT ruin the uprising  
 MASCOT Pa doesn't sleep there anymore  
 MASSACRES Cape Cod  
 MEDALLION top cat  
 MENACING booming serves  
 MENDACITY urban renewal  
 MENTALLY scoring males  
 METHANE Macbeth's question to the witches  
 METRONOME downtown of an Alaskan city  
 MIASMA Maureen O'Hara  
 MICROWAVE lukewarm greeting  
 MIDDLESEX androgynous English area  
 MIGRATING quality of a Russian jet  
 MOLESTATION where the spies gather  
 MULTIPLY heavy-duty toilet paper  
 MUSHROOM mess hall  
 MUSTACHE no pain, no gain  
  
 NETHERLANDS underworld  
 NEWSPRINT rerun the race  
 NIGHTMARE equine lady of the evening  
 NOTICE water or steam  
 NOVICES spiritual perfection  
  
 OFFEND the wrong side of the bed  
 OFFSPRING lousy April and May  
 OFTEN decimal system  
 ONUS we'll pay  
 ORDERLIES demand falsehoods  
 OVERTONES conspicuous people  
 OYSTER Jewish complainer  
  
 PALEONTOLOGIST colorless metaphysician  
 PANACHE Peter's pain  
 PANTHEIST haberdashery hold-up  
 PANTIES knock the neckwear  
 PARAMOUNT 72

PARENTAL Dad's lease  
 PARKING steadiest male golfer  
 PARLAY missionary position  
 PAROLE average bullfight cheer  
 PATRIOT contrived public disorder  
 PENALTIES prison cravats  
 PENNANT bug from Philly  
 PENULTIMATE Alcatraz  
 PERESTROIKA Shimon's three-horse carriage  
 PERMIT what a hairdresser does  
 PLACEBO armpit  
 PLAINTIFF run-of-the-mill quarrel  
 PLOWING Fatah  
 POLEMIST fog over Warsaw  
 POTAGE high time  
 POTASH marijuana residue  
 PREDICTION baby talk  
 PRESERVE ball toss  
 PRETENSION calm before the storm  
 PROCREATION in favor of the Big Bang  
 PRODUCE in favor of Mussolini  
 PROFUSION in favor of nuclear power (see CONFUSION)  
 PROGRAM in favor of the metric system (see PROPOUND)  
 PROLIFERATING varies inversely with one's support for abortion  
 PROMOTIONAL anti-static  
 PROPAGATE lift a fence  
 PROPERTIES formal neckwear  
 PROPOUND in favor of the Imperial system (see PROGRAM)  
 PROSECUTE clever writing  
 PROTEST urinalysis  
 PROVOKING master of Utah  
 PSYCHOPATH insane lane  
 PSYCHOTHERAPIST Jack the Ripper  
 PULPIT put the orange in the juicer  
 PUMPKIN try to extract family gossip  
 PUNGENT Groucho Marx  
 PUNJAB verbal thrust  
 PUSSYFOOT paw  
 QUARTERBACK coin return  
 RAMBLED Abraham's sacrifice resulted in this  
 RAPACITY put a town down  
 RAPSCALLION jive-talking onion  
 RATIONALE advice for a beer shortage  
 RECREATION new life  
 REDACTOR target at McCarthy hearings  
 REDOLENT fast twice  
 REFILL ailing sports official  
 REFINE penalty for second offence  
 REGALE second wind  
 REINFORCE how to stop a stagecoach  
 RELEASE rent the apartment again  
 RETIRE what you do when you have a flat  
 REPOSSESSION Exorcist 11

RIGID fake your unconscious  
 ROMANTIC centurion's twitch  
 SCARCITY Chernobyl  
 SCHOLARSHIP intellectual boat  
 SECRETARIES hidden Zodiac sign  
 SECRETION undiscovered subatomic particle  
 SEEKING Elvis lives!  
 SEETHING eye  
 SEMITIC partial twitch  
 SETTEE first step in driving a golf ball  
 SEWAGE the era of the seamstress  
 SHAMROCK fake diamond  
 SIGNIFICANT the purpose of power of attorney  
 SINKING Lucifer  
 SOLACE tangent  
 SPARKING Muhammad Ali  
 SPASTIC twitch at Baden-Baden  
 SPURIOUS encourage debts  
 STAGNATION deer country  
 STALAGMITE German prison bug  
 STALEMATE ex-spouse  
 STANDOFFISH place that sells seafood  
 STRATAGEMS layers of jewels  
 SUBMISSION sink the Bismarck  
 SUBSCRIBE underwriter  
 SUBVERSION minority opinion  
 SUNDRY what you do with no towel  
 SUPERBOWL great hooter  
 SUPERCONDUCTOR Leonard Bernstein  
 SUPERVISION 20-20 eyesight  
 SURGEON rallying cry  
 TACITURN discreet place to store the remains  
 TENDONS conclave of Mafia bosses  
 TERMINUS our life span  
 THINKING slender monarch  
 TRAMPLED directed by Chaplin  
 TRENCHANT colonial defender  
 TRIFLING menage a trois  
 UNISON only male offspring  
 UNIVERSE poetic equivalent to a one-act play  
 VAMOOSE elk in Virginia  
 VAMPIRE seductress's rage  
 VANGUARD bumper  
 VICARIOUS priestly vows  
 VIGILANTE watched pot  
 WARDEN battle room  
 WARPLANE highway segment after Los Angeles earthquake  
 WARRANT battle cry  
 WASSAILING cruised  
 WHIPPET animal abuse  
 WOODPECKER artificial penis  
 ZITHER female's pimple