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. Alphabet, 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 concurrent, 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
ADDITION Madison Avenuese
ADMINISTER commercial clergyman
ADMISSION to entice consumers
ADVERSE jingle
ALTERNATIVES modify the indigenous population
AMEN top guys
AMISS almost as good as smile
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
BUMMLED wounded hobo
BUTCHER Sonny Bono's plea
CADDIE suggestion to Iago, at the end of Othello
CANDIDA fire a district attorney
CANBERRA what Steinbrenner did to Yogi
CANTEN 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
CONSCENDING prisoner on the way down
CONFRONT sting
CONFRONT against nuclear power (see PROFUSION)
CONJUROR shyster's function
CONQUEST manhunt
CONSCIENCE Creationism
CONSTABLE prisoner's workbench
CONTRAINING rehabilitation
CONTOUR rip-off vacation
CONTRABAND anti-Sandinista group
CONTRACTION anti-Sandinista speech
CONVERSION alibi
CONVOCATION forgery, for example
CONVINCING police officer'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
DELIVERATE enslave
DELIVERED 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
EXCRATING Fortune 500
EXPECTATION 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
FORGO 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 barber
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 anthropomorphic 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

MOTHERLANDS 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 steadies male golfer
PARLAY missionary position
PAROLE average bullfight cheer
PATRIOT contrived public disorder
PENALTIES prison cravats
PENNANT bug from Philly
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
POTASH marijuana residue
PRESERVE ball toss
PRETENSION calm before the storm
PROCREATE in favor of the Big Bang
PRODUCTION in favor of Mussolini
PROFUSION in favor of nuclear power (see CONFUSION)
PROGRAM in favor of the metric system (see PROPOUND)
PROFUSION of yearning (see TENDENCY)
PROFUSE second offense
PROFESSION of the baby
PROLIFERATING varies inversely with one's support for abortion
PROTEST urinanalysis
PSYCHOTHERAPIST Jack the Ripper
PUPPET try to extract family gossip
PUPPYFOOT paw
QUARTERBACK coin return
RAMBLED Abraham's sacrifice resulted in this
RIGID fake
ROMANTIC contrived
SCARCITY contrived
SCHOLARSHIP contrived
SECRETARY contrived
SEMINARY contrived
SEISMIC perturbations
SETINGE earth
SEWAGE the
SHERIFF or
SHAMROCK fake
SIGNIFICANT contrived
SINKING LULLaby
SOLACE target
SPALDING fake
SPASM fake
SPASTIC twitch
SPRING fake
SPURIOUS false
STAGNATION fake
STAGEMAKER fake
STALEMAKER fake
STANDOFF fake
STRATEGEM fake
SUBMISSION fake
SUBSCRIBE fake
SUBVERSION fake
SURETY fake
SUPERBOWL fake
SUPERFLUOUS fake
SUPERVISION fake
SURGEON fake
TACITURN fake
TENNIS fake
TENDON fake
TERMINUS fake
THINKING fake
TRENCHER fake
TRIFLING fake
UNISON fake
UNIVERSE fake
VAMOOSE fake
VANITY fake
VANQUISH fake
VIGILANTE fake
WARDEN fake
WARPLANE fake
WARRANT fake
WASSAILING fake
WHIPPET fake
WOODPECKER fake
ZITHER fake
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
SOLOACE tangent
SPARKING Muhammad Ali
SPASTIC twitch at Baden-Baden
SPURIOUS encourage debts
STAGNATION deer country
STALAGMITE German prison bug
STATEMATE ex-spouse
STANDOFFISH place that sells seafood
STRATEGEMS 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