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 Avenue
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
BARRIED 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
BILLINGS GATE 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
CANDID fire a district attorney
CANBERRA what Steinbrenner did to Yogi
CANTEN ax an adolescent
CARIOUS auto payments
CARMEN auto mechanics
CARRIOT 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
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
CONTRADISTINCTION anti-Sandinista speech
CONVERSION alibi
CONVOCATION forgery, for example
CONVOLUTION policemen'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
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
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
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 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
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
PERESTROIKA Shimon's three-horse carriage
PERMIT what a hairdresser does
PLACEBO armpit
PLAINTIFF run-of-the-mill quarrel
PLOWING Fatah
POTAGE high time
POTASH marijuana residue
PENULTIMATE Alcatraz
PERSEVERE ball toss
PRESERVE calm before the storm
PROCUREMENT 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)
PROPAGANDA lifts a fence
PROPERTIES formal neckwear
PROPAGANDA advice for a beer shortage
PROSECUTE clever writing
PROTEST urinanalysis
PROVOKING master of Utah
PSYCHOPATH insane lane
PSYCHOTHERAPIST Jack the Ripper
RATIONAL advice for a beer shortage
RECREATION new life
REDACTOR target at McCarthy hearings
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 II
RIGID fake
ROMANTIC (see)
SCARCITY C
SCHOLARSHIP S
SECRETARIAT G
SECRETION E
SEEING E
SETTEE firs
SEWAGE the
SHAMROCK P
SIGNIFICANT I
SINKING LU
SOLACE tar.
SPARKING N
SPASTIC tw
SPURIOUS e
STAGNATION A
STALAGMIT T
STALEMATE A
STANDOFF P
STRATEGEM M
SUBMISSION N
SUBSCRIBE B
SUBVERSION R
SUNDAY wh.
SUPERBOWL F
SUPERHUMAN P
SUPERVISION K
SURGEON r.
TACITURN H
TENDONS co.
TERMINUS N
THINKING I
TRAMPLED H
TRENCHANT K
TRIFLING E
UNISON on
UNIVERSE E
VAMOOSE e
VAMPIRE s
VANGUARD Y
VICTORIOUS I
VIGILANTE E
WARDEN ba
WARPLANE T
WARRANT Y
WASSAILING S
WHIPPET a
WOODPECKER Z
ZITHER f
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
SETTTEE 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