

STINKY PINKIES: THE REAL MCCOY

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A **stinky pinky** is a two-word rhyming phrase such as FLOWER POWER or HAIRY LARRY. Buzzwords (Crown Publishers, 1993), a survey of occupational jargon by John Davis, is packed with examples which he claims are genuine but which, to my ear, sound made up by clever wordsmiths rather than working stiffs. Here is a sample (one per occupation) of the most apt. After each stinky pinky its user is given, followed by the translation. Cover the capitalized words below and see if you can reconstruct them from the translation alone.

SLOPPY COPY (adwriter) badly-worded press release
 SHABBY ABBY (beauty pageant director) poorly-outfitted contestant
 YELL BELL (car salesman) car theft alarm
 DECEASE RELEASE (coroner) authorization to turn body over to next of kin
 CANCER ENHANCER (cruise ship director) passenger with a tan
 BOY PLOY (dating service manager) personal ad placed by a woman
 SMACK ATTACK (day care operator) excessive corporal punishment
 ROOT BRUTE (dentist) endodontist
 ROOSTER BOOSTER (dermatologist) chicken-pox vaccine shot
 CRUMMY DUMMY (disc jockey) poor demo tape
 TOOT SHOOT (drug counselor) syringe
 CLUB DRUB (ecologist) baby seal hunt
 CRISCO DISCO (fireman) fatal dance-hall fire
 CRAMP CHAMP (health club director) lap swimmer in pool
 NERD HERD (high-school teacher) honor society
 BANGER HANGER (hunter) gun rack
 CHAR BAR (mortician) crematory
 PRICK STICK (nurse) hypodermic needle
 LOOSE JUICE (nursing home operator) laxative
 THROAT COAT (pharmacist) cough drop
 EYES REVISE (plastic surgeon) eyelid tuck
 MASTER BLASTER (policeman) hit man for mob
 OBIT PIT (postman) dead-letter area
 LAST REPAST (prison guard) final meal for condemned man
 LOBBY BOBBY (private investigator) hotel policeman
 CLEAVER FEVER (psychiatrist) sociopathic personality
 COCK SOCK (sex therapist) condom
 GAG BAG (stewardess) air sickness bag
 SHOCK CLOCK (stockbroker) stock market ticker tape
 CRYIN' BRYAN (summer camp counselor) homesick camper
 STEEL WHEEL (telephone operator) rotary-dial phone
 BUMPER HUMPER (trucker) tail-gater
 FROG GROG (waiter) French wine