

THE ABC'S OF ENGLISH

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English is English of the logical neologist. It consists of sportman-teaux (sportive portmanteaux), imperfect qwaints (the perfect qwaint is self-explanatory) and triviana (contrived trivia such as the palindrome ATAVADAVATA or the alphabetically progressive ABACADAE). Pundigroans (contrived pundigroans or puns) are tolerated but only in small number. The acid test of an English word is that it has the potential for assimilation into English just as the language of the Angles became a strand of the vocabulary which continues to develop as English. The following is a mere sample:

- ABACADA n a hybrid of ABACA (Manila hemp) and the East Indian fibre plant DA (plural ABACADAE)
- ABACUSS n a counting frame that one swears by
- ABRIDG vb of an editor, to delete a significant conclusion (it has no recorded inflected forms and is known only from the quote 'Eckler, thou wretch, thee didst abridg mine mayster-worke' (English Rolls, volume XLIII))
- ACCEPTABULL adj of a cow, that she is receptive
- ACCOMPOLICE n a bent cop
- ADELDD adj exceptionally confused or mudeldd
- AFART adv at or to as great a distance as possible
- AFTERTHINK vb to attempt to be wise after the event
- AIRWOVE n a defunct airwave
- AMAZONKED slang, adj exhausted by the prowess of an aggressive woman
- AMSTERDAMP n a wet odorous smog peculiar to the industrial region of Amsterdam
- AMIGONE n a former Mexican friend
- AMNESIUM n selective amnesia
- AMOROSOSO adv of music, somewhat tenderly
- ANECDOTAGE n a state of senility characterized by excessive recounting of personal tales
- ANSWERINE adj of, resembling or pertaining to a stupid reply
- ANYBUDDY slang, n any friend
- APRESKI n a social activity following a day's skiing in Russia
- ARTICHOKED adj a condition induced by eating too many artichokes
- ASSESSASSASSINATRESSLESSNESS n the action of estimating the lack of a potential killer instinct in a woman
- ATAVADAVAT n the recurrence of ancestral characteristics in the avadavat, an Asian weaverbird (plural ATAVADAVATA)
- AUSTRALOPITHECINEMA n a primitive Australian motion picture art

- AYATOLLAHALLOTAYA n literally, an AYATOLLAH charged with the specific task to ALLOT A YA (the ultimate letter of the Arabic alphabet) to a particular matter; metaphorically used of a zealot who insists upon having the final say
- BANANANA n an exceptionally large banana
- BANANANANAGANANANANAB vb to arrest (NAB) an exceptionally large (BANANANA) crazy fool (NANA) suffering from NAGANA (an African bovine disease) (the Literary Editor of Word Sway, the official organ of the Anglish Society, refused to accept this construction on the grounds that it might tempt others to bring the language into disrepute by their efforts to exceed its 21 letters)
- BEDPANIC n in psychoanalysis, the technical term for the state of being overwhelmed by fear of the toilet facilities available to the bedridden
- BEENPOLE n firewood
- BEEF OWL n the Nil bird, a mythical muscular bubonine weaverbird
- BEEF OWL vb (conjugated with IT) of the Nil bird, to construct a skillfully woven nest (hence the proverb 'It's a Nil bird that beef owls it sown nest')
- BEE SNEEZE, THE n in masochistic society, an extreme form of an attack of hives
- BILLABOONG Australia, n the legendary desert mermaid of the Northern Territory (from BILLA, river + BOONG, aborigine)
- BIOMESS n the total amount of living organisms in a given area that has been subjected to man's influence: an alternative term for a dust bowl
- BLACKFLEW n a dead blackfly
- BLUNDERKISS n a twentieth-century blunderbuss
- BLUNDERKISS vb of a myopic philanderer, to attempt to buss the object of one's desire either in the presence of one's spouse or else on the nose whilst aiming for the mouth
- BOBCATT n the male of an extinct species of North American quail which failed to attract a partner as females would immediately take flight on hearing his mating cry 'bob catt, bob catt'
- BOOBOOB n an embarrassment suffered by a woman wearing a dress with a badly-designed plunging neckline
- BOTTLENECK PARTY n an informal gathering in a narrow street to which visitors bring their own vehicles
- BOURBON MOTS n plural the wit of a whiskey drinker
- BRIDLEGROOM n one who is led to the altar against his natural instincts
- BROMIDLE adj pertaining to stupefaction wrought by an excess of tedious platitudes
- CABANA suffix designating a small storage cabin, as in BANANACABANA and TARAMARASALATACABANA
- CACUSCUS n a secret assembly of cuscuses (large nocturnal yellow-nosed philangers), especially in a Russian mountain range
- CASSAC n a reversible cassock with a pouch on either side
- CENTAUROCHS n singular the legendary half-man-half-wild-ox of Anglish folklore
- CENTIDEGRADE vb to promote the change of name from centigrade to

Celsius after the former had enjoyed ready acceptance for more than 200 years

CENTIPEDAGOG n the name for the measurement of achievement in the promotion of metric systems against the natural instincts of the citizenry

CHAMBERSATZ n/adj (of) any dubious word in *Chambers Dictionary*, especially where no other authority shares its opinion

CHLOROPHYLISTINE n one responsible for a BIOMESS (qv)

CISERAPHIM adj on this side of the angels (it normally retains the original Latin sense of 'side nearest Rome' and has strong Papal connotations)

CLAIRVOYEUR n one who professes to see sexual delight as an aspect of the future for anyone who cares to consult a fortune-teller

CODEFICIENT mathematics, adj jointly inadequate

COMPUTRE n a computer attacked by a virus

CONCLUD vb to conclude falsely

CONSEQWENT adj pertaining to a resultant departure

CONTRAVEND vb to sell illegally

CONUNDRUUM n a continuous series of riddles of the 'How many Englishmen does it take to change a lightbulb? Two--one to consult a dictionary, the other to screw up the spelling' type

The English Appreciation society is keen to receive readers' contributions on such as word squares, letter-shift pairings, limericks, Mary hads (any word play based on the famous rhyme), anglagrams (English anagrams), word ladders or, indeed, any constructions which appeal. Address all contributions to the Literary Editor, Word Sway, Spring Valley Road, Morristown NJ 07960. The best of these will be considered for publication, and the remainder used to stuff his dilapidated chesterfield (at which point the editor didst abridg).