

NEOLOGISMS: Beginning with letters T through Z

J. JAMES MANCUSO
Niskayuna, New York

T

- T-totaler n. someone who ruins a great T-shirt.
- tailstrong adj. (tayl strawng) (fr. headstrong) unable to stick to a decision.
- tandruff n. (tæn & dæn druhf) (fr. tan + dandruff) flakes of peeling skin from a sunburn.
- teaspoonfulcrum n. (fr. teaspoonful and fulcrum) a very trivial matter on which a much greater matter depends.
- teconomics n. (fr. technology & economics) the study of how technological change affects the economy.
- teatotaler n. (fr. tea & T-totaler) someone who ruins the box of tea.
- teleconomist n. (tEl 'can 'm Ist) (fr. tele- + economist) a person who performs all his stock transactions over the web.
- tetherworld n. (fr. tether & netherworld) a temporary state of lingering attachment to something; a brief interlude during which one is still minorly attached to something.
- theologism n. (thi o lo jIz 'm) (fr. theology & neologism) religious jargon understood only by the devout adherents of the religion.
- Thoreau-back n. (fr. Henry David Thoreau & throw-back) a 65-year old hippie doing yoga on the shores of Walden Pond.
- thorential adj. (thor En sh'l) (fr. Thor & torrential) containing thunder, lightning, wind, and heavy rain.
- threeshadowing n. (thri shæd o wIng) (less effective than foreshadowing) a literary device by which the reader of the novel is easily able to guess the outcome of the story.
- togetherate adj. (too gEth 'r It) (fr. together & separate) describing a condition in which two things are simultaneously separate and together, such as two written works printed together in one volume, or a married couple wherein the spouses live in different cities.

tollhouse kooky	n. (tol hows koo ki) (fr. Tollhouse cookie & kooky) a crazy or unusual person who makes a habit of hassling toll collectors about trivial matters. (see also: squeueball)
tomorning	adv. (tu mor ning) (fr. tomorrow & morning) tomorrow morning.
toungry	adj. (tun gri) (fr. tongue & hungry) desirous of a certain food for which your mouth (tongue) is watering.
topical island	n. (ta plk 'l ai lInd) (fr. topic & tropical island) a red herring; a portion of a discussion devoted to an irrelevant topic.
transmillennial	adj. (trænz mIl en i 'l) (fr. trans- + millennial) spanning two millennia, especially a date range, e.g. 1998-2001.
treeage	n. (tri azh) (fr. tree & triage) urgent care for trees.
tsugua	n. (tsu gwa) (August backwards) a mass of steamy, humid summer air especially hot, muggy air heated by a hot sun after a rainshower.
twond	adj. (toond) (fr. two & -nd, i.e., a logical pronunciation of "2nd") referring to words, quasi-words, abbreviations, or acronyms whose pronunciation is arcane in nature or is obtusely irregular, such that the obvious pronunciation is wrong, and the reader must understand other words to pronounce it right. examples: DOS, cation, cooperation, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, oz., lb., underOPACed, userid
type-O-personality	n. (fr. typo and type A personality) someone who is fond of discovering and pointing out typographical errors.
U	
unAdventful	adj. (un æd vEnt f'l) (fr. uneventful & Advent) unpleasant events during Christmas time.
undercome	v. (Und'r kum) (fr. under + overcome) to fail to get the victory.
UPStruction	n. (uhps truhk shuhn) (fr. UPS truck + -tion & obstruction) a delivery truck double parked on a one-way or narrow street.
utagon	n. (yoo tu gan) (fr. Utah + -gon) a regular rectangle with one corner missing thus shaped like the U.S. state of Utah. (see also arkagon, missogon)
V	
velveetocentric	n. (vEl vi to sEn trIk) (fr. Velveeta + -ocentric) a bland, homogenized, generic lifestyle, often characterized by a glorification of trivial, materialistic matters.

versimilitude n. (vEr sIm Il I tood) (fr. verse + verisimilitude) a verse or chorus in poetry or song in which a word or phrase changes slightly to show progressive action. (Ex.: I'm headed home... I'm going home.... I'll be home)

W

wallnut n. (wawl nuht) (fr. wall & nut) someone with an inordinate desire to remodel or redecorate houses; one who does so often.

weather twocast n. (fr. two & weather forecast) a weather prediction that only gives you half of the information you need.

websessive-compulsive adj. (fr. web & obsessive-compulsive) unable to resist spending time on the Internet.

winterlude n. (wIn t'r lud) (fr. winter & interlude) spring-like day in the middle of winter.

wintermission n. (wIn t'r mish in) (fr. winter & intermission) an even more spring-like stretch of freakishly warm weather in the middle of winter.

wiwo n. (initialism of water in - water out) pit stop; rest stop; a very brief stop during a highway trip during which each passenger is allotted a few moments to use the bathroom and get a drink of water.

Wizard of Oz. n. (wIz 'rd uv own sIz) (fr. Wizard of Oz and oz.) someone adept at making quick mental conversions of measurement equivalents, i.e, 1 gallon = 64 fluid oz.

word of mouse n. (fr. word of mouth & [computer] mouse) how reviews of businesses are passed around now that we are all online.

wright adj. (rait) (fr. wrong and right) correctly executed though ethically wrong; ex. a successful, unpunished, unsolved crime.

wuff n. (wuhf) (fr. a contraction of What if...?) something that might happen; a suggestion, usually unlikely, of something that might possibly happen; a trivial possibility which is a source of great concern to the speaker and of little consequence to the listener.

X-Z

zerox n. (zir aks) (intentional misspelling of Xerox) a photocopy with a typographical error on it.

Ziptember n. (fr. zip & September) the rush of "back to school".