

Excellent Words



The website Haggard Hawks has taught readers all of these excellent words and phrases.

Do they remind you of anybody or anything?

Can you act them out in a big and vivid manner?

Can you imagine how confused people might be, if you used some of these words now? What might they think you meant? Can you make an insulting word or phrase sound like a compliment, and vice versa?

A NOSTOS is a literary or written work based around a journey home.

FLUMGUMMERY is frivolous trivia, or showy but useless ornamentation.

A CLANCH is an ill-mannered man.

Hammerhead sharks were originally known as BALANCE FISH.

If you're GUT-FOUNDERED then you're extremely hungry.

A BENSLE is a cold, unfeeling person.

To CHAWNER is to complain tiresomely.

To SPRAG is to strut or swagger around.

Something that is BALANOID resembles an acorn.

SCABBLE-AND-GOW is an old English dialect word for a quarrelsome, gossipy conversation.

In 18th century English, saying 'are you there with your bears?' meant 'are you at it again?!', or 'are you still going on about that?!'

A RUPESTRINE creature is one that lives on cliffs or rockfaces.

To be AULDFERRANT (adj.) is to be wise beyond your years.

In 18th century English, a COOKIESHINE was a tea party.

Coined by the poet Robert Buchanan in 1865, according to the Scottish National Dictionary the sound made by a loom making cloth is called WHUZZLE-WHAZZLING.

To MISMAY someone is to annoy them.

A JURMUMMLE is a noisy commotion.

SHEEFFIE-SHAFFIE is an old Scots dialect word for an unbelievable or throwaway excuse.

The pool at the bottom of a waterfall is called the LINN.

Something that is AGRYPNOTIC prevents you from sleeping.

To JOWDY something is to shake or knock it.

The HOWNIGHT is the darkest dead of night.

To LALLATE is to speak like a baby.

JORGING is the squelching sound made by walking in wet shoes or across waterlogged ground.

To TARTLE is to hesitate or stumble your words while trying to remember someone's name.

In 17th century English, to move ARSEWARDS was to move backwards.

In Tudor period English, 'to make a leg payment' meant 'to run away from someone you owe money to'.

In 19th century slang, FROWST was extra time spent in bed on Sundays.

The sound of a spade digging into soft earth is called the DARG.

METOPOSCOPY is the act of judging someone's character or personality from their face or appearance.

A PETARD is a small explosive device that was once used to blow up walls and doors—so to be 'hoisted by your own petard' was to be blown up by your own bomb. In the sense of something causing a small explosion, the word PETARD itself derives from the French word for a fart.

To EMBERLUCOCK someone is to utterly confuse them.

To ASSOPIATE someone is to calm them down.

NIDIFICATION is the process of building a nest.

To ELAPIDATE is to remove stones from earth.

EFFOSSION is the act of digging something out of the ground.

In 1920s slang, "not in these trousers!" was used to mean "no chance!"

A SONGUARY is a book in which dreams are interpreted.

A LALLYCODLER is someone who is particularly good at whatever they do.

To EFFLAGITATE something is to greatly desire it.

If you're NEQUIENT, then you're unable to do something.

A SLOUPER is someone who tries to leave without being noticed.

The proverb 'muddy springs have muddy streams' advises that children cannot be expected to behave any better than their parents.

BREEKUMTRULLIE is an old Scots dialect word for a man whose trousers don't fit him.