



COPING WITH COINAGES: NEW ARRIVALS IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

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WHAT ARE COINAGES?

- **Coinages** are words that have been coined or invented by speakers. If these speakers are influential, these words become part of the vocabulary of the community around them.
 - Today, because of the mass media, coinages are common and spread fast.
 - Part of being cultural competent in English is knowing the meanings of new coinages.
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NEOLOGISMS

- Another name for coinages is **neologisms**. This means “new words”.
- Some good websites for checking on recent neologisms are the Birmingham University Research & Development Unit for English Studies at:
<http://rdues.bcu.ac.uk/neologisms.shtml>
 and the British Council BBC Teaching English site at:
<http://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/think/articles/new-words-english>

HOW DO COINAGES ARISE?

- **Acronyms:** *FYI, NATO, LOL, RSVP, scuba*
- **Semantic shift or metaphorical extension:**
bottomless, rip off
- **Conversion:** *sing* (noun), *gift* (verb)
- **Compounding:** *fastfood, freeze-dried, zip-lock*
- **Clippings** (abbreviations): *fax* (facsimile)
- **Borrowing:** *nouveau riche, macho*
- **Invention:** *xerox, velcro, frisbee*





- **Onomatopoeia:** *blahs, yahoo, boo-hooing*
- **Loan translations (calques):** *living space* (lebensraum), *superman* (übermensch)
- **Blends (portmanteau words) :** *smog, brunch, motel, chunnel, spork*
- **Reduplication:** *no-no* (noun), *ta-tas* (breasts), *hoity-toity, chick-flick,*
- **Back formations** (false etymology): *burger, Korea gate*
- **Eponyms** (based on names): *sandwich, cardigan, frisbee*



WHERE CAN WE SEE COINAGES?

- Coinages appear in virtually all **social domains** of our society.
- Some domains lend themselves more readily to coinages.
- Among the most productive are: arts and entertainment, technology, politics, health and fitness, social relationships, food, economy, and advertising.
- We will consider new words from each of these domains in this presentation.



ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

- *bling-bling*
- *buzz (buzz word)*
- *daycation*
- *goth*
- *infomercial*
- *re-gift*
- *staycation*
- *yada-yada*



BLING-BLING



Flashy jewelry and adornments, originally associated with rap artists. Coined in 1999 song by a New Orleans rapper named B.G

*Jocko showed up at the concert wearing his best **bling-bling**.*

BUZZ (BUZZ WORD)

Buzz, meaning "a busy rumor," is attested from c.1600. In 1946, **buzz word** was student slang for a key word in a lecture or reading. Today **buzz** is used to refer to the latest news about something.



*Have you heard the **buzz** about Charlotte?*

DAYCATION

A one-day vacation, typically to a nearby place or activity. Became popular in the aftermath of the economic crisis of 2008.



GOTH

Goth originated in England during the early 1980s within the gothic rock scene, a branch of post-punk rock music. **Goths** favor death-like makeup, piercings, tattoos, and black Victorian-style clothing.



*Have you seen Farah lately? She's become a real **goth**.*

INFOMERCIAL

This was first attested in 1983. It's a blend made up of *information* + *commercial*. Late-night TV contains many **infomercials** which appear to be talk shows but are really product promotions.

Jessica Simpson hosts the Proactiv infomercial series.



RE-GIFT

Re-gift was coined on *The Seinfeld Show* in the episode titled *The Label Maker* which first aired on January 19, 1995. It means giving away a gift that you have received.



<http://www.tbs.com/video/index/0,,73482%7C%7C,00.html>

STAYCATION



Staycation refers to staying at home when you have vacation time in order to save money. It was first used by Terry Massey in an article in *The Myrtle Beach Sun-News*, July 11, 2003.

TECHNOLOGY

- *blogging*
- *cutting-edge*
- *flame war (flaming)*
- *gamer*
- *googling*
- *landline*
- *lurker*
- *micropublishing*
- *newbie*



BLOG (BLOGGING)

Blog is a blend of *web* + *log*. Language maven William Safire defined it as: “a Web site belonging to some average but opinionated Joe or Josie who keeps what used to be called a “commonplace book” -- a collection of clippings, musings and other things like journal entries that strike one's fancy or titillate one's curiosity.”



CUTTING-EDGE

This adjective was created by analogy with the cutting surface of a knife.



It means to be in the vanguard or most advanced position in some new technology or fashion. The term dates back to 1964, but has only recently become common.

My boss *prides herself* for staying at the **cutting edge** of technology.

FLAME WAR (FLAMING)

An exchange of hostile or vulgar instant messages or forum posts. **Flaming** (also known as **bashing**) is expressly forbidden in most forum rules but can result from arguments about politics, sports, religion, or philosophy, or even trivial personal differences.



RoboDude is flaming Obsidian over his religion. What a drag!

GAMER



*Rosie and her brother are **gamers** from way back, starting with *Dungeons & Dragons*.*

Gamers (also called **larpers** from Live Action Role Playing) are avid participants in video games, often in online gaming communities. Hardcore **gamers** may spend years perfecting their roles. According to a 2009 Entertainment Software Association study, 40% are female.

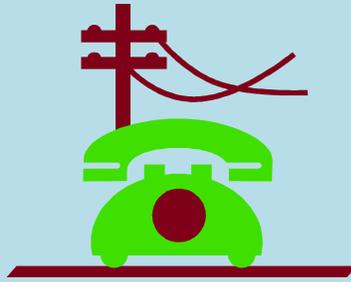
GOOGLING

This word refers to running a search on Google. In 2002, it was chosen by the American Dialect Society as the year's most useful word. It was added to the *Oxford English Dictionary* on June 15, 2006.



*While **googling** my new boyfriend yesterday, I found out all sorts of interesting things he never told me about.*

LANDLINE



*Hey, call me on my **landline**. I can't get a cell signal here.*

A phone line that runs through cable as opposed to a cell phone. Many people today do not have a landline because of the installation expenses entailed and rely almost exclusively on cell phones.



LURKER

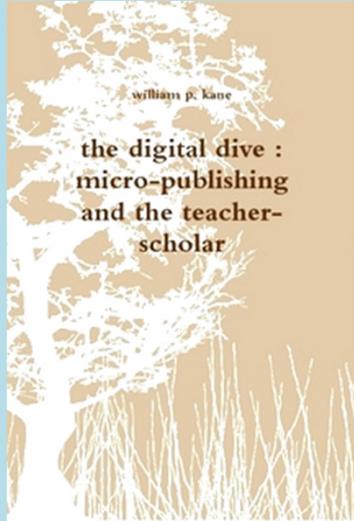
A person who enters a chat room or forum and only observes without commenting. This is considered rude or even cowardly but may be a way for new users to become acclimated to the group.



***Lurkers** occasionally **de-lurk** and attack. Such unexpected assaults are universally regarded as ambushes.*



MICROPUBLISHING



Micropublishing is publishing and distribution of a work intended for a specific micromarket normally ignored by conventional publishers because of low mass appeal. It includes printing on demand, digital books, as well as blogging.



NEWBIE (NEWB, NOOB)

This refers to someone new to a particular technology. It is used commonly on tech forums and gaming communities. **Newbie** and **newb** are neutral terms, but **noob** is disparaging.



*He's just a **newbie**; cut him some slack.*



POLITICS

- *dirty tricks Thursday*
- *global village*
- *Main Street vs. Wall Street*
- *red states vs. blue states*
- *Purple America*
- *urban village*



DIRTY TRICKS THURSDAY

The Thursday prior to an election when candidates often accuse opponents of scandalous behavior to make headlines. Opponents have little time to counter the charges.

The phrase was coined by Bill O'Reilly, in an article titled "Schwarzenegger Faces Accusations," *The O'Reilly Factor*, October 3, 2003.



GLOBAL VILLAGE

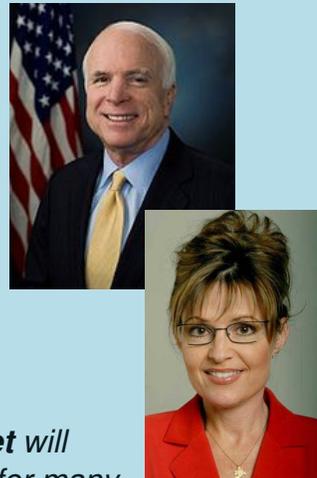
- Marshall McLuhan popularized term in *The Gutenberg Galaxy: The Making of Typographic Man* (1962) and *Understanding Media* (1964).
- Pointed out how globe has been contracted into a village by electric technology.
- Often used today to show how interconnected the geopolitics of countries are with each other.



*The Internet has made the **global village** concept come true.*

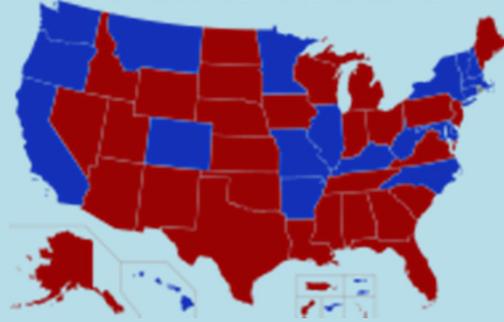
MAIN STREET VS. WALL STREET

During the presidential and vice presidential debates of 2008, Republican candidates John McCain and Sara Palin used it to compare the concerns of small business people with those of high finance.



*The \$700 billion bailout of **Wall Street** will have a lasting effect on **Main Street** for many years to come.*

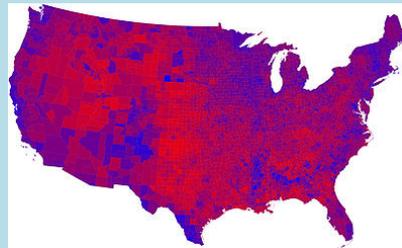
RED STATES VS. BLUE STATES



States dominated by Republicans (red) vs. Democrats (blue). First used by NBC correspondent John Chancellor in 1976 and then popularized by colleague Tim Russert during the 2000 presidential election. It has been entrenched ever since.

PURPLE AMERICA

Refers to the fact that if one looks at electoral district instead of state or congressional district, U.S. voting patterns are not polarized between Red America (Republican) and Blue America (Democratic) but rather mixed across the nation.



*Robert Vanderbei of Princeton University made the first **Purple America** map after the 2000 presidential election.*

URBAN VILLAGE



Came out of the British urban planning movement of the late 1980s. Sought to reduce reliance on cars and promote cycling, walking, and public transit, with

residents working, recreating, and living in the same area. Ultimate goals were building social cohesion and reducing waste.

*Kelvin Grove in Brisbane, Australia is a model **urban village**.*

HEALTH / FITNESS

- *carb loading*
- *core*
- *glutes*
- *menopot & muffin top*
- *six-pack*



CARB LOADING

This refers to ingesting large quantities of high glycemic index carbohydrates (pasta, bread, cereal, potatoes) as runners do before a marathon.



*Drink plenty of fluids when you **carb load**, since your body needs water to store with the extra carbohydrates.*



CORE

Part of the Pilates lexicon, it just means center of the body (gut and back). Using a new term makes it sound like people didn't know how to exercise the abdominals, sides, and lower back until Joseph Pilates coined the word.



*Wow, this exercise ball really works the **core**!*



GLUTES



Glutes are short for the gluteal muscles or the buttock muscles which allow you to extend and rotate your thighs. These are also referred in street parlance as **booty** (e.g. *Shake your booty!*).

MENOPOT & MUFFIN TOP

One of the unfortunate results of menopause is the accumulation of belly fat. **Menopot** is a blend of *menopause* and *potbelly*. If the **menopot** keeps growing, then it's referred to as a **muffin top**.



SIX-PACK



This refers to the hard ridges of abdominal muscles sported by obsessive gym frequenters, the result of endless crunches.

*Frank has totally lost his gut—Look at that **six-pack!***

SOCIAL RELATIONSHIPS

- *cling factor*
- *cougar*
- *cyberstalker*
- *frenemy*
- *gender-inclusive*
- *metrosexual*
- *road rage*
- *sandwich generation*
- *yada-yada*



CLING-FACTOR

This refers to the tendency of some women to cling obsessively to their boyfriends. It's particularly irksome when the boyfriend's male friends are around.

*Boy, Sheila really needs to cut down on the **cling-factor**.*



COUGAR

A **cougar** is an older woman who is mainly attracted to and has sex with men young enough to be her sons. The term was popularized by a 2001 book by Valerie Gibson, *Cougar: A Guide for Older Women Dating Younger Men*, but a Canadian website called Cougardate.com, dates back to 1999.



Mrs. Robinson (Anne Bancroft) in *The Graduate* typified the **cougar** woman as she stalked the young Dustin Hoffman.



CYBERSTALKER

The **cyberstalker** uses email, texting, chat, Facebook, Skype, Twitter, etc.



to follow the object of his/her obsession. There may be false accusations, threats, identity theft, solicitation of minors for sex, or harassment. It may escalate to physical stalking. In 2000, the federal Violence Against Women Act included **cyberstalking** as a punishable offense.



FRENNEMY

This term was made popular by the early 2000s TV shows *Sex and the City* and *Ugly Betty* and the



movie *Mean Girls*, but it's actually been in print since 1953. A **frenemy** is a friend who is also a rival. **Frenemies** like to know about you to celebrate your slips and use them against you or to take credit for your ideas.



GENDER-INCLUSIVE

Gender-inclusive language includes both genders without distinction. In English, occupational terms like *fire fighter*, *mail carrier*, and *flight attendant* do not indicate gender and are thus gender-inclusive. Using *they* or plural nouns rather than *he* or *she* or singular nouns is also gender inclusive.



Children learn their values at home.

instead of
A child learns his values at home.

METROSEXUAL



Enrique Iglesias epitomizes the metrosexual look.

Derived in 1994 from a blend of *metropolitan* and *hetero-sexual*. Used to describe an urban heterosexual man who is strongly concerned about his appearance and may pluck his eyebrows, use skin and hair care products, or wax body hair. Earlier generations would have termed such men *dandies*.

ROAD RAGE

- Motorist hostility often resulting in violence against other drivers.
- Can include rude gestures, verbal insults, or physical attacks with tire irons, guns, and other weapons.
- Coined in 1987-88 by newscasters at KTLA in California when a wave of freeway shootings occurred on the Los Angeles freeways.



SANDWICH GENERATION

The generation caring for their children's needs at the same time as they're tending to their own elderly parents. This has become an increasingly large group due to extended life spans. Term first showed up in 1985 and entered the Merriam Webster dictionary in 2006.



Sandwich Generation caretakers are usually women, and they have to choose between their kids and their parents daily.

YADA-YADA



This is another coinage from the popular 1980s TV show *Seinfeld*. It refers to predictable and even boring talk that doesn't need to be specified or even listened to carefully, an alternative to *blah, blah, blah*.

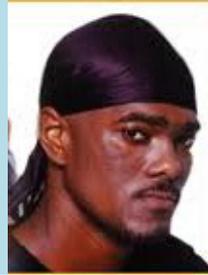
FASHION

- *do-rag*
- *fashionista*
- *hoodie*
- *skort*
- *Tencel*



DO-RAG

A **do-rag** (also spelled **doo-rag** or **du-rag**) is a piece of cloth with long ties used to wrap the head, especially after chemical hair processing. Derives from *do* as in *hairdo*. Became popular in U.S. during 1970s and 2000s, particularly among African American males, and is a common component in the wardrobe of breakdancers, rappers, and hip-hop artists.



FASHIONISTA

Coined in 1993 by Stephen Fried in *Thing of Beauty: The Tragedy of the Supermodel Gia*. It is a blend of *fashion* and the Italian, Spanish or Portuguese suffix: *-ista*. (cf. *Sandinista*, *machista*, *Peronista* etc.). Refers to someone who is very dedicated to setting and following fashion trends.



HOODIE



A hooded sweatshirt with large frontal pockets. Originally sportswear, it became popular in the 1990s as part of the wardrobe of breakdancers and hip-hop artists. Now seen as high fashion.

*Get a load of Paris Hilton in a lambswool **hoodie**! It must have cost a fortune!*

SKORT



A **skort** is a pair of women's shorts with a flap of fabric in front to make it look like a skirt.

*You can wear a **skort** and not worry about looking too informal.*

TENCEL



Brand name for a man-made fiber called lyocell produced from wood cellulose via a special process in which the fiber is twisted or spun into yarns, which are woven or knitted into fabrics and garments.

Tencel is very light and durable.

*Pants made of **Tencel** wash beautifully and rarely need ironing if you hang them up immediately after drying.*

FOOD

- ***Frankenfood***
- ***supersize***
- ***tangelo***
- ***vegan***



FRANKENFOOD

Genetically-modified food (e.g., corn, soybean, and tomatoes). Blend of *Frankenstein* + food. Source of great controversy today because of concerns over health and ecological balance.



SUPERSIZE



- McDonald's ran the ad campaign from 1999 to 2004.
- In 2004, the term was immortalized in the documentary *Super Size Me* which linked super-sizing with teen obesity.

McDonald's contribution to the English language:
 "Would you like to **Supersize** that?"

TANGELO

A *tangelo* is a cross between a *tangerine* and a *pomelo* (type of grapefruit). It is sweet like a tangerine and extremely juicy. It has a characteristic knob at the top that distinguishes it from an orange.



VEGAN



The term was coined in 1944 in England by Donald Watson, founder of the British Vegan Society. **Vegans** reject animal exploitation and refuse to eat animal products of any kind, including eggs, honey, milk.

ECONOMY

- *bio-waste*
- *Black Friday*
- *bottom feeder*
- *carbon footprint*
- *downsizing*
- *mall-rats*
- *silver ceiling*



BIO-WASTE

- Organic waste that can decay or degrade over time and be converted into useful forms.
- Two main sources of bio-waste are municipal sources (consumer paper, cardboard, food waste, textiles, and wood) and industrial sources (from wastewater treatment, food/drink preparation, agriculture, forestry and pharmaceutical production).



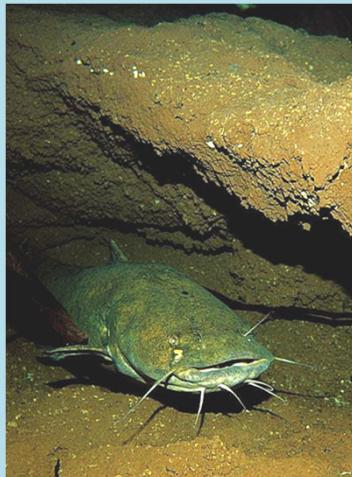
BLACK FRIDAY



The day after Thanksgiving Day in the U.S., traditionally the beginning of the Christmas shopping season. Many stores offer special sales. First used in 1966 in Philadelphia to denote the heavy traffic of the day. Now most people link it to the period of turning a profit or being "in the black."



BOTTOM FEEDER



Originally a biological term to refer to fish that eat wastes or scum at the bottom of a tank. Now applied to people who live off of others or who are total losers.

*Pedro never brings his wallet.
What a **bottom feeder!***



CARBON FOOTPRINT

A measure of our impact on the environment and on climate change. Refers to amount of greenhouse gases produced through burning fossil fuels for electricity, heating, and transportation etc. A small carbon footprint can be achieved by turning off appliances, reducing use of cars, and recycling.



DOWNSIZING

Euphemism for firing workers (also known as ***RIFing*** for Reduction in Force). Appeared during 1990s but became common during Great Recession of 2000. Now applied to almost anything that can be measured or valued. Cars, houses, and grocery products are now being ***downsized***.



MALL-RATS

Pre-teens or young teens who practically live at the mall and spend hours walking around in small packs, only rarely buying anything.



SILVER CEILING



Attitudes or policies that prevent older employees from being promoted to higher positions. First used in 1999 as analogy to ***glass ceiling***. Also known as ***ageism***.

CONCLUSION

- We have seen that coinages are very common in today's society.
- We have also seen that certain social domains are more productive than others in supporting coinages.



- Some coinages will not stand the test of time and will expire as fads. Others will fulfill a need and take their place in the lexicon.

CONCLUSION CONT...

We should not be afraid to use newly coined words. This is one way a language grows. It is also the way our own personal vocabulary expands.

So keep your eyes open for new words and new usages of old words! You will then be a **cutting edge** speaker of the English language and never be regarded as a **noob**.

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