

W.O.R.D. April 2008

ya 04-30-08

from Frankie Wright

The position that "God Frog" the transistor-radio lip-synching frog stands in is called "Ya." It is from Egyptian hieroglyphics. When they stand with their arms raised, hands pointing upward, elbows bent at right angles, it is called "Ya". It means "protective energies." "Ya!"

lantana 04-29-08

from LL

Here's another word: lantana, aromatic flowers of the verbena family whose yellow/orange/pink or blue/violet blooms attract butterflies. I love lantana because I've been the only one to see this nine-pointer in two live games of Scramble on Facebook. Lisa Lantana has a nice ring to it. Hmm....

aunting 04-28-08

from Auntie Lisa

Kitty thought that I should mention "aunting" as a verb, as in "I love aunting around with Quincy and Sophia."

callipygian 04-27-08

from Jack Barrett

I like callipygous or callipygian. Calli- means beautiful, like calligraphy. Pyge means buttocks. I mean I just think it sounds much more eloquent than saying "Nice ass!"

turn 04-26-08

from Carol Cartier

Raised letters on a piece of sea glass tell me: turn. I found them when I turned it over..

gumption 04-25-08

from Mrs. Henderson

In "Mrs. Henderson Presents," the main character, Mrs. Henderson, proclaims that "gumption" is one of her favorite words.

nakhes 04-24-08

from Sheila Goodman

In describing her daughter's Bat Mitzvah, Sheila says nakhes means "good times." But I've also seen it defined as "the feeling you have

when you see that your children have turned out well." Very good word choice then!

bushwhack 04-23-08

via Jana Bull

We got lost in the woods, so we bushed it.

mud 04-22-08

via Nancy Crane

Mud is a verb: to fix old plaster walls; to mud!

coniferous 04-21-08

I always liked the phrase "coniferous forest" It sounds enchanted, gentle yet ominous (rhyming "carnivorous"). I picture the forests of Russian fairytales, full of snow and wolves, and caribou. Caribou, barnacle, carbuncle, conifer, and carbon---yes! these are a few of my favorite THINGS!

swag 04-20-08

better than booty or loot!

hoya 04-19-08

So what is a hoyo? Apparently it means "what is" in Latin, or something. You can always tease and taunt a hoyo by asking "What's a hoyo?"

jimp 04-18-08

from Lisa (and David)

Here's a word that came up during a game of WordTwist (a.k.a., crack) on facebook. My brother and I both got "jimplly" but missed "jimp" and "jimp" which means "slender; trim; delicate," or "scant; barely sufficient." Sounds like a good cat name. "My cats, Zaftig and Jimplet, lazed about the house after elevenses." (I also like "elevenses"--no surprise there!)

hosta 04-17-08

from Ruth Goodman

It's "a shot!"

zaftig 04-16-08

from LUP, Kitty, Holly

We like this word! Compared to the tonkinese twins--Little Bits and Sagey--all other cats are ZAFTIG!

gammy 04-15-08

from Frankie Wright

Your poor toof. I wonder if there's a word for a gimpy or gammy mouth.

favela 04-14-08

via Chris Devlin

Chris played this word in Scrabble and we all challenged, but it is more and more common in English now. Favela is from a Brazilian word, it means hovel or slum or ghetto, and is also a type of Brazilian funk music that goes by many names. It is supposedly similar to Miami Bass . . . , whatever that is!

zumba 04-13-08

I think it is Columbian slang for "sexy dance." This little trademarked workout is the best exercise and the best fun I've had in ages! To think it came all the way out to Peaks Island. More zumba please!

adamant 04-12-08

via Jane Kogan

Jane knew that this was the word I would use to describe my mom's decision. I could have said stubborn, but I meant clear, consistent, and firm. I like that connotation Plus I like the sound of the word. It has a bit of onomatopoeia, like "stamp." It also always reminds me of eighties rocker, Adam Ant, and seventies cartoon character Atom Ant.

skink 04-11-08

Because a skink makes you blink; it's so skinny and likes to slink. Skinamarink! It's a skink. Not a snake, not a skunk with a stink, JUST a skinny mariny lizard called a skink!

bloop 04-10-08

from Lisa Phillips

My mom coined this word to refer to my cat's belly, the way it bloop-bloped from side to side as she trotted down the hall. Bloop it to the right, bloop it to the left. Just bloop it. Bloop it good. Addie (the cat) so personified bloop

that it became part of her name: Atalanta Bloop Bloop Shirlie Bassie Wackington

kvell 04-09-08
from Miriam Goodman
To swell with pride!

parapet 04-08-08
Who wouldn't love to be standing on a parapet? Preferably on a castle? Preferably on ones toes?

carapace 04-07-08
from Lisa Usani Phillips
A carapace is a hard outer covering or shell. I love the sound of this word and the way it is somewhat at odds with its meaning. Plus, I love shells.

peccadillo 04-06-08
from a recent job interview
I got offered the job, in part because I answered this question correctly: How do you feel about dealing with people's peccadillos. I thought they were serving spicy meat dishes, so I said "Bring 'em on!" But, unlike picadillo, a peccadillo is a small sin or fault. It's actually a fun-sounding way of talking about something really annoying.

dybbuk 04-05-08
from Rebecca Ennen
I thought it was flu, I thought it was ear infections, then I thought it was a dybbuk infestation—the latter after struggling awake in the middle of the night, because unreadable flying disembodied Hebrew words were stuffing themselves down my dry throat and suffocating me.

fungi 04-04-08
from Tim Nihoff
What do you call a mushroom that walks into a circus?

flong 04-03-08
There's wet flong and dry flong. Does anyone use flong anymore? Printers used to use flong to transfer flat metal type into curved type that could sit on rotary press. Oddly enough it seems to have the same root as "flan" a root that means "molded".

squelch 04-02-08

from Z-17 1/3

[a quote from her 5th grade diary "Hippy"] "I'm depressed, glad, tired, mad, sad, & jellified. I also feel squelch, reeked."

hoax 04-01-08

Funny how some words , like "hoax" sound cool and strong, while other "clever" words like "ruse" sound wimpy and nauseating. In honor of April Fool's Day, I looked up the origin of "hoax" (a good Scrabble word to boot) and found that it came from "hocus pocus" which in turn came from the Latin "hoc est corpus" or "this is the body," a line from Catholic Mass. I like that origin, but I suppose it could be Wikipedia's little hoax. No?