

A STUDY OF SLANG AND INFORMAL USAGE
IN THE NEWSPAPER

by

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B.A., University of British Columbia, 1964

A THESIS SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF
THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF
MASTER OF ARTS

in the Department
of
Linguistics

We accept this thesis as conforming
to the required standard

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
May, 1969

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Date May 30, 1969

ABSTRACT

32*** The VANCOUVER SUN: Mon., Mar. 10, 1969



Yes, we do have a lot of "in" expressions; they are, in fact, the motive for this thesis, which discusses slang and informal usage in the major Vancouver newspapers (The Vancouver Sun and The Vancouver Province).

The creation of these non-standard usage groups in language arose through the concept of standardization. In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries lexicographers and grammarians, especially men like Dr. Samuel Johnson, proposed that the English language should be purified and "fixed"; that, in fact, it should be standardized for all time. But only dead languages remain lifeless; live languages branch infinitely in all directions. Thus, these Renaissance pursuers of standardization in language ironically created, through their efforts, the sub-standard - the slang, informal and other areas not relegated to the "cleansed" version. It was hoped that these vulgarities would thereby drop from use and cease to infiltrate the standard level of language. However, they did not, and they remain to add much to the life of the English language today.

It was felt that any examination of how effectively intertwined "slanguage" was with that body of English called standard, would be best realized through the study of newspapers. Newspapers occupy a special place in the realm of the written word, a place not far, I believe, from the spoken word. They reveal the daily story of a community in action and interaction, presenting the discontinuous variety and incongruity of ordinary life.

Newspapers reflect on a rapid, daily basis the multiplicity of social sub-groups, the mark of immediacy in transmission, and the permissive quality in our approach to language today.

For purposes of examination the newspapers were arranged into categories following the pattern in which the papers are usually presented. Thus, the General category, the Editorial section, the entertainment pages, the Sports page, the Comics and the Financial areas.

Slang and informal samples were culled and made up the lexicon contained within the body of this thesis.

Examination of this corpus of words indicates that the newspaper is very much what Marshall McLuhan terms a group confessional form or communal mosaic. Through their slang and informal language numerous sub-groups are clearly in evidence. It is also clear that their productive vocabulary changes continuously and rapidly, rarely remaining "fixed" as the eighteenth century authoritarians would have wished. Like the authoritarians in their age, we in ours are experiencing a marked increase in the awareness of language. We now seem to know enough to enjoy observing how the language of a sub-culture may enrich the mainstream of language and by observation "slanguage" gains daily on standard language. Yes, Snoopy, we do have a lot of "in" expressions.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

It is with sincere gratitude that I wish to express my thanks to Dr. Robert J. Gregg, my faculty advisor, without whom my initiation into the field of Linguistics may not have occurred. He gave me inspiration to begin, enthusiasm to proceed and encouragement at all times. Without his guidance, from the formulation of the problem to the final accomplishment of the project, this thesis would not have been possible.

PURE OR STANDARD LANGUAGE

The major intent of this thesis is the examination of slang and informalisms as they occur in the medium of the Vancouver newspapers. To realize this intent most effectively, perhaps it would be useful to consider what may be called the motive or underlying inspiration for the thesis, standard language.

To understand what is meant by a standard language we must first go back to the seventeenth century whose Renaissance tradition initially nurtured the concept.

While the rebirth of classical literature and sciences was an important aspect of the Renaissance, the era did not restrict itself to development in these areas only. This age also promoted languages, mainly through the formation of literary societies or Academies. Although Academies were formed everywhere in Europe within this period Italy was perhaps the source and model of the movement. In Italy alone nearly seven hundred Academies were formed, probably the most famous of which, and the one which concerns us the most, was the Accademia della Crusca.

For the most part these institutions were stimulated by the desires of rulers and expanding educated classes to stabilize and explicate the national languages. It was within the framework of the Accademia della Crusca, however, that the idea of standardizing a national language first arose. A prime purpose of this Academy was to create a dictionary as well as to establish a reasoned literary taste, both of which were expected to act as purifying agents upon the Italian language.

In 1612 its by now historically famous Vocabolario della Crusca was published to stabilize the Italian literary language on the basis of Tuscan speech. This was perhaps the first important beginning of the lexicographical tradition which was to be adapted and embellished for the English language by Dr. Samuel Johnson more than a century later.

Before Johnson, however, came the Académie Française, also important in the evolution of a lexicographic ideal. Like the Italians, who took it upon themselves to sift the language and publish the accepted residue in their Vocabolario mentioned above, the French also produced a dictionary, the assembling of which represented the labor of many academicians for many years.

During this period of lexicographic expansion the English were not unaware of the significance of the continental trend. In fact, it was with Mulcaster that we note the earliest request for some form of official regulation, preferably via a dictionary of the English language. Certainly, in the seventeenth century the influence of the French and Italian Academies began to make itself felt and the demand for an authoritative dictionary became increasingly insistent. Through the endorsement of antiquarians, etymologists, important men of letters and the Royal Society itself, the pressure for a dictionary intensified until in the early eighteenth century the Society established a committee for improving the English language.

Thus, we can clearly understand that by the time Johnson began work on his dictionary there was a solid background of social pressure for the English-speaking world to realize the lexicographic ideal first introduced on the continent—an ideal which Johnson largely shared and, to anticipate, largely realized.

In 1746, then, Johnson began work on his dictionary and within eight years published the complete work which included as well as the lexicon itself, a Preface, a Grammar and a History of the language. By the time the dictionary reached actual production Johnson was aware that it was probably impossible to "fix" a language as the continental Academies had tried to do. In his preface he states:

Those who have been persuaded to think well of my design, require that it should fix our language, and put a stop to those alterations which time and chance have hitherto been suffered to make in it without opposition. With this consequence I will confess that I flattered myself for awhile; but now begin to fear that I have indulged expectation which neither reason nor experience can justify. When we see men grow old and die at a certain time one after another, from century to century, we laugh at the elixir that promises to prolong life to a

thousand years; and with equal justice may the lexicographer be derided, who being able to produce no example of a nation that has preserved their words and phrases from mutability, shall imagine that his dictionary can embalm his language, and secure it from corruption and decay, that it is in his power to change sublunary nature, or clear the world at once from folly, vanity and affectation.

While he could understand the transitory and arbitrary qualities of language it was difficult for him to deny the concept of "fixing" entirely:

In hope of giving longevity to that which its own nature forbids to be immortal, I have devoted this book....²

In commenting upon Johnson's conflicting feelings on this point, James Sledd concludes that:

Johnson sees the situation as one in which reason is pitted against the natural inability of man, at once the creator of language and its corrupter.³

Johnson saw an idealized vision of language that included stability, regularity and a slow, controlled process of linguistic change. Indeed, his dictionary was exactly what its age had demanded for so long. It was a standard and a standardizing edition which included a history of the language, a grammar, and an extensive lexicon critically selected, explained by divided and classified definitions and illustrated with quotations from authorities regarding usage. It was, in fact, inspired by a thoroughly prescriptive approach to language, and until at least the third decade of the nineteenth century was widely accepted as a standard in both method and content. It was not until the very notion of the standard and standardizing dictionary was called into question, some three quarters of a century later, that Johnson's authority began to give way to the demand for an impartial recording of words.

We are now convinced, of course, that the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries had a completely mistaken conception of language. Men of learning and the educated classes in general had come to believe that the language of their time had reached an

ideal perfection and only required a little pruning and purifying at the hands of the lexicographer in order to become permanent and unchanging. It has long since been evident that the main duty of the lexicographer is to record and not to critically select.

The important contribution to be gleaned from the philosophical approach of the educated classes of the time (of which Johnson was the active representative) is the concept of the standardization of the English language, which was at once an extension of the continental lexicographical tradition and the primary official recognition of that tradition in the English-speaking world. By definition, standardization automatically excluded anything outside of this rather rigid concept and forced it to remain on the fringes of the approved lexicon under assumed labels or categories. In Johnson's time, they termed such items vulgarities, corruptions, secret and false words. Today, we call them more specifically slang, informalisms, jargon and argot words. These substandard elements have kept and do keep their labels until, through extended use and general social approval, they are elevated into the corpus of standard usage. Thus, it is reasonable to say that the existence of these sub-areas of the English language is perhaps ultimately due to the efforts of Samuel Johnson. With due respect for the irony involved we will examine two of these major sub-areas - slang and informalisms - that add so much to the life of our language today.

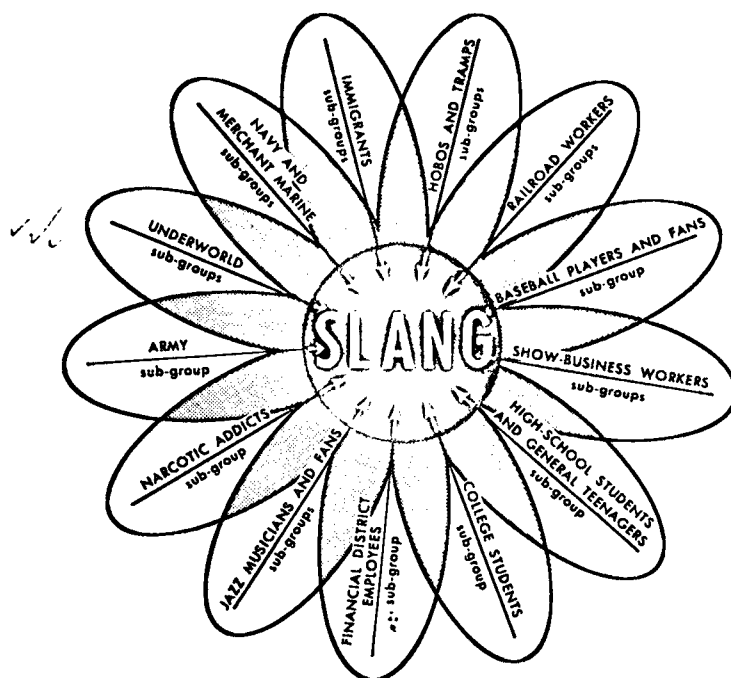
SLANG AND INFORMALISMS

It has been stated above that because the very concept of standardization in language was proposed and accepted, extra levels of language or vocabulary have thereby been created. Generally speaking, the two most important and comprehensive extra levels are what we term slang and informalisms.

Standard usage, it has been noted, is the level of vocabulary most widely accepted by the general populace and is that level contained within any number of standard dictionaries. Slang and informal usage, on the other hand, is that level of vocabulary, which while used frequently by the general public, is not considered as falling within the definition of good, formal usage. Neither does it appear very often in the normal dictionary, since it is by its very nature more characteristic of the spoken than the written record, as well as often being highly transitory in use. For the most part, slang enjoys a temporary popularity and quickly fades from use, but some items become, through extended use in time and space, accepted as standard usage and are thereby elevated from the extra level to the primary level.

Slang originates from the tendency of any large mass of people to form small, distinctive social groups. These may be groups that work or play together or others who may be grouped together for any particular reasons. In each of these smaller groupings new and unique concepts will be formed and these will require a response on the part of language, mostly in the form of slang expressions. It is assumed, of course, that these social groupings are substantial enough in size to be of some significance and that they are active members of the principal culture in other facets of life, both of these factors being necessary for the transmission of a group's slang formations to the dominant culture.

Pictorially, as shown below, slang may be seen as the more popular portion of the cant, jargon and argot, taken from some of the many sub-groups of society. A natural overlapping is indicated by the shaded areas.⁴



Charlton Laird draws an apt analogy in his book, The Miracle of Language:

An amoeba is a formless thing which takes many shapes. It moves by thrusting an arm, and flowing into the arm. It multiplies by pulling itself in two, without permanently diminishing the original. So with words. A meaning may develop on the periphery of the body of meanings associated with a word, and shortly this tentacle-meaning has grown to such proportions that it dwarfs all other meanings.... At the same time, however, while one meaning segment in a word is growing, another meaning-tentacle may wither away. This meaning falls out of use because the object that it implied is also out of use; or because there were two words for the object, and one seemed to be enough; or because the word became vulgar, or became unpopular at the expense of another; or for any combination of all sorts of other reasons. As long as human vocabulary rests upon human nature, we must continue ignorant of many of the reasons for the rise and decline of the popularity of certain words - at least until psychologists have learned much more than they know about why we behave like human beings.⁵

Leonard Bloomfield, in Language, goes on to explore some of these psychological implications by noting that slang represents fluctuation in language to a great extent and that:

General effectiveness, in the shape of violence or wit, is a powerful factor in fluctuation. It leads to the sudden rise or fall of slang expressions. The rise of slang is due, apparently, to their effectiveness in producing a response from the hearer. At first they owe this to their novelty and apt yet violent transference of meaning; later the hearer responds because he has heard them in favorable situations and from attractive people. All these favorable factors disappear from sheer repetition; the novelty wears off, the violent metaphor lapses when the transferred meaning becomes more familiar than the central meaning; the average of the situations and speakers associated with the form becomes indifferent. Thereupon the slang form dies out.... The most powerful force of all in fluctuation works quite outside the linguist's reach: the speakers favor the forms which he has heard from certain other speakers who, for some reason of prestige, influence his habits of speech.⁶

Clearly then, slang, like much else in life, reflects the kind of people who participate in its use. It classifies us according to the groups to which we belong and additionally indicates:

...our biographical, mental and psychological background;...our social, economic, geographical, national, racial, religious, educational, occupational and group interests, memberships and patriotisms.⁷

This is so because there is a great element of personal choice involved in the use of slang. Standard usage, on the other hand, represents use derived from teaching and habit - more a carryover from the prescriptive approach in language; training we have received all our lives. Because we choose slang words which we find personally attractive and intriguing we reveal a good deal about our psychological makeup.

While consideration of the human factors which influence the creation of slang is both necessary and vital, it is equally important to examine the linguistic or technical means by which slang words may be formed.

Slang is formed by normal linguistic processes found in all living languages, some of which will be briefly enlarged upon here. Processes such as changes in form by compounding derivations, portmanteau words, and abbreviations through front-clippings, back-clippings and acronyms; changes in meaning by generalization, concatenation, specialization and metaphor; changes in pronunciation; in parts of speech; borrowing from dialects and foreign languages; as well as onomatopoeic, reduplicative and transformational processes.

(A) Form-changing: a) In compounding, two words belonging to any part of speech are combined to form one word or a hyphenated unit (e.g. kickoff, skindiver, crackdown, hotshot, laugh-in)

b) In lengthening, suffixes and suffix words, prefixes and prefix words are affixed to root words (e.g. reclaim, luncheteria, bon voyage party, desensitize). Here words and word elements are added and have the effect of changing tense or denoting a circumstance of condition; whereas in compounding two words are joined together on an equal basis to form a new word.

c) Portmanteau words are formed by compressing two word elements into one word (e.g. motorist+hotel=motel, smoke+fog=smog)

d) Abbreviations through back-clipping is done by clipping a syllable or syllables off the end of a word (e.g. psych/ology/, photo/graphy/, trig/onometry/)

e) Front-clipping is the reverse - clipping a syllable or syllables from the beginning of a word (e.g. /tele/gram, /earth/quake, /para/chute)

f) Acronyms are made up from the initials of the words of a phrase which may be run together to form, and be pronounced as, a new word (e.g. awol - absent without leave, CARE - Co-operative for American remittances to Europe, VIP - very important person)

(B) Meaning change: Perhaps the largest source of fresh words is the changing of meaning of standard words. For example, we

a) Generalize the meaning of a word so that it comes to represent several meanings (e.g. hand: to mean assistance - give me a hand, a person employed as a laborer - hired hand, the hand of cards in a game, to give or pass something) but each variation in meaning is directly related to the standard word.

b) Concatenation allows an old word to take on a series of new meanings, each not directly related to the basic concept as above, but related instead to a previous new meaning (e.g. cardinal: originally from Latin and French meaning hinge, to meaning of basic or prime importance - cardinal number, to a person of chief importance - a cardinal of the Roman Catholic church, to the color associated with the robe of a cardinal - yellow, to the bird of this color)

c) Specialization is the reverse whereby a word loses some of its inclusive meanings to become identified with one connotation only (e.g. gay meaning queer, the chair meaning the electrocution chair, liquor which once meant any liquid but now refers to alcohol only)

d) The formation or extension of meaning by metaphor or figurative use (e.g. a stuffed shirt, a closed book, he got pickled)

(C)Pronunciation changes: Here, new words are usually formed by making changes in stress, corrupting an older word or adding an infix between the syllables of an older word (e.g. positively, hip, kee-rect for correct, razzamatazz)

(D)Parts of speech: Altering the use of a word from its usual grammatical capacity to a different part of speech is termed functional shift. Therefore, functional shift changes or extends the grammatical use of words. Almost any noun, verb, adjective, adverb or combination of these can undergo this functional shift (e.g. ditch as a noun to ditch as a verb, a stmach^o-to stomach, break as a cut in something to break as luck; also crackdown, hotshot)

(E)Borrowing: Loans from dialects or foreign languages create new words or word elements in English. English usage often, but not necessarily, changes their connotation, pronunciation and spelling (vamoose, cinch, schmo, yen, hooch, pow-wow, -burger all being borrowed from Spanish, south west States Spanish, Yiddish, Chinese, North American Indian and German respectively)

(F)Onomatopoeic or Echoic processes: Pleasant sounds seem to be a basis on which additional new words are formed. In

a) onomatopoeia we imitate a natural sound (e.g. buzz, bow-wow, putt-putt, choo-choo, boo-hoo)

b) reduplication forms a new word through the repetition of a radical element in an older word (e.g. ding-dong, hanky-panky, buddy-buddy, yum-yum)⁸

In addition, contributions to the slang level of usage may be made by individual coinages, rhyming slang, synthetic slang and others, but whatever the source:

Communication, which is the very object of speech, is successfully effected only when the hearer's auditory perceptions are translated into the appropriate and intended flow of imagery and thought or both combined.⁹

RATIONALE

As we have seen above, within the discussion of Standard Language, language symbolizes the stratification of society. Because it helped solidify their social position, the rising middle classes ^{sanctioned} the dictionaries and grammars in return for the so-called "correct usage" rules. Since that period, the idea of examining and labelling as acceptable, language as it is actually used in current speech, has gained greater and greater momentum. Thus, it is the primary intention of this thesis to indicate the increasing split between prescriptive usage and "observed usage."

As representative of "observed usage" I have chosen to use daily newspapers since, perhaps, this medium can be said to be most widely read and accepted by the largest cross-section of today's social groups. Generally, it is also the major medium in which slang and informal language will be printed - thereby creating an "observed" record - since slang and informalisms are found mainly on the spoken level of language and not always on the written level.

For source materials both the major local newspapers were used: The Vancouver Sun and The Vancouver Province.

Since the character of "slanguage" is by nature often transitional and sometimes regional, it should be noted that samples collected are for the period noted below and are representative of Vancouver, Canada, during that period.

The items were selected from both papers although not every word or phrase can be said to have been culled. This is due, not so much to the sheer volume of articles over the sampling period as it is to the natural element of subjectivity in choice, whereby one must recognize his personal involvement with slang.

Since the majority of word and phrase samples found fell under the definitions of slang and informalisms no effort was made to classify any further into the smaller but equally valid sub-areas of neologisms, archaisms, portmanteau words, loan words and so on.

Instead, words and phrases belonging more properly to areas outside those of slang and informalisms are noted as such at the place where that particular item is under consideration. In all other cases the units are to be considered as falling within the definition of slang and informalisms.

Extensive categorizing did occur, however, within the subject areas of the papers themselves. That is, each item collected was coded as to its specific source area: Entertainment, Editorials, Sports, Comics, Finance, General Areas and so on. This was done to determine whether or not contributors to and readers of particular news areas may enforce upon themselves a greater or lesser degree of "observed usage" over "correct usage," whether each area has developed and is developing its own informal terms, and whether, in fact, there is any degree of crossover influence between topic areas. It should also be remarked that as well as being categorized as to subject area all units are arranged alphabetically within each category.

Finally, it was found that the quantity of word and phrase items accumulated a vast corpus numbering in the thousands. Thus, the final selection of forms presented represent a further restricted sampling through the posing of such questions as: How established are they in actual use? How frequently do they appear? How representative are they of the most recent slang? In many cases choices were made under the guidance of such experts in the field as Harold Wentworth, Stuart B. Flexner and Eric Partridge.

For the documentation of the selected items I relied strongly upon the Dictionary of American Slang by Wentworth and Flexner, The Shorter Oxford English Dictionary, Webster's New International Dictionary - third edition, Eric Partridge's Dictionary of Slang as well as the Dictionary of Underworld Lingo by Hyman Goldin, Frank O'Leary and Morris Lipsius.

ABBREVIATIONS

(A) Avis et al. Dictionary of Canadian English.

adj. adjective, attributive adjective.

adv. adverb.

Brit. British, Briton.

c. circa, about.

Cf. Compare, confer.

Co. Company.

deriv. derivative, derived.

dial. dialect, -al.

e.g. for example.

esp. especially.

f. from.

F February.

fig. figuratively.

Fr. French.

Ger. German.

(GOL) Goldin et al. A Dictionary of American Underworld Lingo.

J January.

lit. literally.

M March.

n. noun.

N.B. Note.

(OED) The Shorter Oxford English Dictionary. 3rd ed.

orig. original, -ly.

P Province newspaper.

perh. perhaps.

phr. phrase.

pl. plural.

poss. possibly.

pp. past participle.

prob. probably.

ref. reference.

spec. specifically.

S Sun newspaper

usu. usually

vb. verb.

(WF) Wentworth and Flexner.

Dictionary of American Slang.

WWI World War I

WWII World War II

1 to 31 dates of newspaper
edition.

+ and; combined with, added to.

number.

WORD CORPUS

(i) GENERAL AREAS

1. Acid / ʔasəd / n. P 12 M

LSD(WF)

Abbreviation through front and back-clipping, see #173,595.

2. Airlift / ʔerlift / n. S 29 J

the carrying of goods by airplane transport to an area otherwise cut off from accessibility.

Probably WW II origin with the advent of the Berlin airlift and now used with the same connotation for modern day "Berlins."

Compound formed by a transformational process: to lift (something) by air, becomes to airlift (verb), then airlift (noun).

3. All-Time / ʔl-təym / adj. S 29 J

understood to refer to being the best person or thing within a defined category thus far in recorded history.

as in: "At the end of the forties he was considered to be the all-time great of the basketball centers."

A compound formed by a transformational process: Champion of all-time becomes all-time champion.

Also by analogy to forms: all-out, all-over, etc.

4. Aquanaut / ʔkwəndət / n. S 17 F

a man who deep sea dives for a profession or who navigates the sea depths in a submarine or research globe.

Compound made up of two bound morphemes: aqua- + -naut

Compare models: argonaut, astronaut (stars-USA), cosmonaut (universe-USSR); see #519.

5. Ass / ʔas / n. P 6 F

a fool; a stupid or foolish person.

Colloquial. A meaning change.

6. Back up or shut up / bák ʔp or sát ʔp / vb. S 1 F

show support for your statements or be silent from now on.

-up suffix has a variety of uses, retains much of its

standard meaning and is commonly added to verbs or nouns

to form phrases = to fill or be filled with something (beer up);

to obtain or collect or to come together for a specific purpose(write up).

an agitated or confused state(e.g.foul up).

7.Bafflegab / báfəlgàb / n. P 12 F

the ambiguous,verbose talk or writing often done by bureaucrats;officialese.

Orig. used by M.A. Smith of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in 1952.

f. baffle(confuse) + gab(talk). Cf.Gobbledygook #108.

8.Bag / bag / n. S 13 F

one's special or current interest,obsession,talent, enthusiasm or liking;as in:"Thats not my bag,man."

Orig.jazz use;now beat,student,teenage and jazz use.

Cf. current use of "thing" #506.

9.Band / band / n. P 17 F

a group of reservation Indians recognized by the federal government as an administrative unit.(A)

A Canadianism.

10.Bandwagon / bándwàgən / n. S 29 J

to jump on the bandwagon means to join the majority or most popular faction after withholding one's opinion or vote until the majority or relative popularity is known-so as to be sure of being with the winning party or candidate.(WF)

Orig. f. bandwagon,meaning:A railroad pay car.

11.Beat out / biyt éwt / vb. S 30 J

to win something over another person;to achieve the goal or prize before someone else.

Colloquial since c1890.

-out suffix word is common in slang formations and retains much of its standard meaning:away from or beyond the limits.

12.Beefcake / biyfkeýk / n. S 8 F

a muscleboy;a musclebound man,spec. a photograph of a man wearing little clothing.

Developed by analogy to the female Cheesecake.

13. Beefeater / biyfiytər / n. S 30 J

an Englishman; a strong muscular person.

Orig. f. guard corps at the Tower of London (a corps of strong, powerful men).

Compound.

14 Beer up / biyr ʌp / n. S 7 F

a situation or occasion on which one drinks a lot of beer; also used as a verb.

Colloquial.

-up suffix, see #6

15. Best-heeled / best-hiylɪd / adj. S 29 J

wealthy; equipped with much money.

Since c1930. Colloquial.

Orig. meant armed or equipped with a weapon and by analogy the idea of "weapon" was replaced by "money."

Compound.

16. Bikini / bəkiyni / n. S 27 J

any short, revealing men's or Women's bathing suit, shorts or other sports clothes. (WF)

Since c1950.

Orig. f. the Bikini atoll where an atomic bomb was exploded; scanty swimsuit has figuratively the same impact as the atomic explosion.

17. Billygoated / biliygəwtəd / vb. S 28 J

forced into doing something or pushed into it; as in:

"The MLA was billygoated into pushing through a tax reduction by the opposition."

f. analogy to the animal 'billygoat' who butts his way through life.

-ed pp. suffix added to weak vb. stems; pp. frequently used as an adj.

18. Bilking / bilkiŋ / vb. S 28 J

deceiving; cheating; defrauding; failing to pay; eluding. (P)

Since c1750.

19. Blacks / blaks / n.pl. S 31 J

negroes

Currently gaining more prestige as the term for Afro-Americans through the recent civil strife.

20. Blasted / blástəd / vb. S 30 J
criticized publically; damned. (WF)
-ed suffix, see #17
21. Blue-nosed / blúw-nòwzd / adj. S 17 F
having strongly puritanical moral convictions; ultra-conservative.
Orig. in colonial times meaning: an aristocrat.
22. Boffin / bófin / n. P 25 F
an expert at something.
Orig. f. wartime slang used to mean a bomb disposal expert, or other technical expert. (e.g. on radar, etc.)
23. Booby trap / búwbiy tráp / n. S 4 M
a practical joke; a dangerous surprise; a trap to catch stupid people. (P)
Since c1850. Colloquial.
Prob. f. booby (a Fool) + trap. In WW II a bomb left behind to catch the unwary.
-trap suffix word meaning: a place where one may be trapped or endangered. (e.g. a tourist trap)
24. Booked off / búkt óf / vb. S 30 J
signed out of a situation by having signed a book which indicates your departure; as in: "He booked off sick from work."
Orig. prob. f. analogy to police jargon of booking a prisoner or suspect, so-called because they enter his name in a record book.
25. Brainwashed / bréynwášt / adj. S 29 J
the state of having induced an attitudinal change in a person, usually a captive, by means of psychoeducational methods, sometimes supplemented by drugs and physical coercion. (WF)
This form of conditioning developed in the USSR based upon the work of Pavlov with the conditioned reflexes of dogs.
-ed suffix, see #17.

26. Brass / bras / n. S 4 F

An official; influential people; persons in authority; executives; as in: "The top brass are here."

Orig. military use; common during WWII - from the officer's brass insignia.

27. Break / breyk / n. S 29 J

luck; opportunity; a stroke of fate; either good or bad.

Colloquial since c1925.

A functional shift.

Most famous usage is W.C. Fields giving his usual advice to a loved one, "Never give a sucker an even break!"

28. Breakaway / bréykəwèy / adj. S 27 J

pertaining to an object made to collapse easily at the pull of a string or the like. (WF)

Written both hyphenated and unhyphenated; more common without, thus indicating a solid acceptance of this compound.

29. Bucket shops / bākət šòps / n./S 4 M

offices where illegal, worthless or highly speculative stocks are sold by using misrepresentation bordering on swindling.

Financial jargon.

30. Bug / bág / vb. S 20 F

concealing a microphone or other recording device in order to record a conversation without the speaker's knowledge.

Meaning change. Poss. orig. from the small recording device's resemblance to a bug or small insect.

Other uses of bug: insect; to annoy; an enthusiast; any defect in plan, equipment, etc; an automobile, esp. a small one.

31. Bully-boy / búliy-bòy / adj. S 30 J

a male given to forcing others into situations through his aggressive nature; hence applied to methods used to attain entry to a situation, etc; as in: "He used bully-boy tactics to have the directors pass his resolution."

Prob. by analogy to the animal Bull: a strong aggressive animal.

-y suffix, noun forming, in this case forming a nickname; can also be an adj. forming suffix.

32. Bummer / bʌmər / n. S 24 F

a bad period of time for someone; a bad experience; an occasion when someone is not "with it." (P) as in: "When we were night-clubbing last night, he was on a real bummer." Poss. related to the German Bummler: an idler or tramp; or from bum adj. (as in a bum nap, a bum steer, a bum ride) + -er described below.

-er suffix, noun forming, meaning a person or thing associated with; a person or thing; a person or thing doing something; or it simply adds length to convey a more slangy, colloquial, or flippant effect.

33. Bums / bʌmz / n. pl. S 29 J

a bum is generally any jobless man or youth having little or no income; a poor, poorly dressed and unkempt frequenter of saloons; without professional occupation, goal in life, or social prestige. (WF) (P)

Common since c1880. However, the word has degenerated. Orig. a vagabond or hobo, by 1900 had taken on a connotation of beggar; later, a moneyless, prideless, filthy hopeless derelict and habitual drunkard.

See #32

34. Bung up / bʌŋ ʌp / vb. S 25 F

to ruin or spoil a plan or the successful completion of a task; esp. by blundering. (WF) (P)

Cf. Gum up, #112

Prob. f. boxing jargon meaning, to close up the eyes with a blow- c1900.

-up suffix, see #6.

35. butt in / bʌt ɪn / vb. S 7 M

to interrupt unasked; to make an unwanted intrusion.

Poss. by analogy to a billygoat's action.

36. Can't hack it / kʌnt hæk it / vb. S 13 F

"he can't hack it" means that he is unable to cope with a situation or predicament.

Note that it here has no antecedent.

A fig. use of hack (cut, hew) modelled on the earlier phrase "He can't take it."

37. Carpetbagger / kárpətbàygər / n. S 29 J

one who tries to make a favorable impression on a superior;
a brown-noser. (WF) (P)

Since c1875. A compound.

-er suffix, see #32.

38. Chesterfield / čéstərfiyld / n. P 21 F

a couch; a long article of furniture capable of seating
several people. (A)

After a nineteenth century Earl of Chesterfield.

A Canadianism.

39. Chomp / čomp / vb. P 24 F

to bite; chew; eat.

Cf. chompers #40.

Orig. champ becoming chomp; f. vowel models: stāmp/stomp,
tramp/tromp.

40. Chompers / čompərz / n. S 14 F

teeth, spec. a set of teeth.

Orig. champ becoming chomp + -er suffix, see #32, 39.

41. Chowline / čawlāyn / n. S 19 F

a line, as of soldiers, students, etc., waiting to be admitted
to an eating place or waiting to be served (cafeteria style).
(WF) (P)

A compound. Common WWI AND WWII usage.

Orig. poss. f. Chinese railroad workers in the West

where the Chinese for food was chow; also poss. influenced
by dial. chow (chew).

42. City-slicker / siti-y-slikər / n. S 31 J

a city dweller. spec. a shrewd, worldly, stylishly dressed one,
regarded by rural people as a swindler. (WF)

-er suffix, see #32.

43. Clam up / klām ʌp / vb. S 3 F

to refrain from talking or to stop talking; to refuse to
disclose information, esp. to the police or judge. (GOL)

Since c1900.

-up suffix, see #6.

44. Clots / klòts / n. S 25 F

idiots; imbeciles.

Orig. British WWII slang esp. in the alliterative phrase:
clueless clot, clumsy clot.

Related to clod, whence clodhopper, derog. for country dweller. Cf. Hillbilly #127, Rube # 244.

45. Cob / kob / n. P 28 F

a corncob pipe.

Orig. prob. f. cob, meaning a farmer or small town local inhabitant; corncobs, from which cob pipes were made.

Abbreviation through front-clipping: /corn/cob.

46. Cold snap / kòwld snap / n. S 1 F

a sudden drop in the temperature causing a short period of cold weather.

Compound. A fig. use of snap.

47. Collograph / koləgráf / n. S 30 J

a print which is taken from a collage surface (e.g. a collage whose surface is inked, paper applied and removed, leaving an impression of the collage surface.)

Neologism and Portmanteau compound: coll(age) + (lith)ograph.

48. Con artist / kón àrtist / n. S 30 J

one who tricks, fools or persuades another to do something not in his best interests. (WF)

Back-clipping from the word con(fidence), hence the connection with the underworld; hence also the verb con:

"He conned me into lending him my car for the weekend."

49. Con game / kón gèym / n. S 7 F

a confidence game, a swindle; any way of earning easy money; unethical procedure. (WF)

Orig. underworld slang use.

Back-clipping of con(fidence) + game.

50. Con job / kón jòb / n. S 26 F

a swindle; anything unethical or illegal.

Orig. underworld slang use.

Back-clipping of con(fidence) + -job suffix; -job suggests any activity and often takes the place of -ing to form nouns from verbs.

51. Conk out / kòŋk ʔwt / vb. S 30 J
 to break down and stop running; to tire suddenly; to become exhausted. (WF) (P)
 Colloquial since c1918.
-out suffix word, see #11.
52. Cook your goose / kùk yər guws / vb. S 1 F
 to put yourself in an unpleasant situation through your own actions or words; to spoil your chances for anything.
 Orig. poss. by lit. analogy.
53. Cool it / kúwl it / vb. S 8 F
 to remain calm, unperturbed, relaxed; aloof to a situation.
 Usu. said to someone who is getting excited, as in: "Cool it, John."
 For use of it without antecedent see #36.
54. Copper-outers / kòper-ʔwtərz / n. S 7 F
 those who bow out of a situation; persons abandoning a plan or event.
 Cf. cop-out, #389.
-er suffix, see #32.
55. Cops / kops / n.pl. P 18 F
 the police. (GOL)
 Poss. f. the copper buttons once used on police uniforms, reinforced by the Italo-American "coppo." (WF)
 Underworld slang.
56. Cough up / kòf ʔp / vb. S 29 J
 to pay, pay up or pay over money; to come forth with or present, as a confession of guilt. (WF) (P)
 Since c 1400.
-up suffix, see #6.
57. Cover / kʌvər / n. S 27 J
 a false concealment of one thing by another so that the true situation may escape detection or punishment. (WF)
 as in: "He blew his cover." (said of a spy).
 Since c1810.
 Functional shift.

58. Crackdown / krakdawn / n. S 30 J

a situation in which one takes admonitory or punitive action against someone; to censure. (WF)

Compound.

-down suffix word, noun forming and verb forming, meaning: a contest of stamina, knowledge or courage, or to put, drop or plunk down.

59. Crisis-prone / kraysəs-prawn / adj. S 13 M

more liable to experience crises than normal people are.

Compound.

-prone is now becoming a productive word element. Cf. accident-prone.

60. Cross / kros / vb. S 31 J

to cheat; to do something against someone's wishes. (WF) (GOL)

Cf. doublecross #74.

Underworld slang. A meaning change.

61. Crumby / krāmiy / adj. S 20 F

dirty; contemptible; repulsive; disgusting. (WF) (P)

Common use since c1840.

The spelling crummy is more common, prob. just a phonetic spelling for crumby.

-y suffix, see #31.

62. Crummy / krāmiy / adj. S 7 F

of poor quality; unsatisfactory.

From crumby, see #61, a variant.

63. Dead giveaway / dɛd givəwey / n. P 8 F

a total, unwitting betrayal or revelation of something secret.

Fig. and emphatic use of dead; Cf. the phrase "dead center"

64. Deadline / dédlāyn / n. S 1 F

a specific time by which an effort towards a goal must be completed.

Compound.

Orig. newspaper jargon.

65. Dicker / dikər / vb. S 18 F

to bargain or do a deal for something or with someone; to haggle.

Poss. -er suffix here, see #32.

66. Dirt / dɜrt / n. S 28 J

refers to gossip, obscenity or scandal circulated about a person or other entity. (WF)

Colloquial. Fig. use.

67. Dirty Crack / dɜrti kræk / n. P 25 F

a short, often humorous criticism; an audacious remark; a statement, esp. one that is uncomplimentary but clever. Colloquial.

F. by dirt + -y suffix + crack.

-y suffix, see #31.

For crack Cf. "wise crack" as well as dial. use meaning conversation, gossip, etc. (Scots and British North Country)

68. Dish / diʃ / n. P 19 F

a woman or girl, usu. a beautiful or sexually attractive one. (WF)

Fig. use, linking sex and a dish of food well laid out.

69. Doggone it / dogɒn it / adj. S 30 J

darn it.

A euphemism which is comparatively pleasant and substituted for taboo or unpleasant words; in this case: "God damn it!"

Here gol darn is a Deckwort for god damn which by transformation becomes damn god and having a Deckwort of doggone.

70. Do-gooder / dʊw-gʊdər / n. S 26 F

a sincere but self-righteous worker for the welfare of others. (WF)

Compound.

The phrase do-good is treated as a unit to which the -er suffix is added. (see #32)

71. Dollar-shop / dɒlər ʃɒp / n. S 4 F

a bank.

Facetious or nonce usage.

72. Doodled / dʊdɒld / vb. S 13 F

to doodle means to draw meaningless figures or patterns as a nervous gesture or idle habit while doing something else.

-ed suffix, see #17.

73. Dottle / dótəl / n. P 28 F

slime; drool; saliva.

Orig. poss. from the dottle in a pipe.

74. Doublecross / dʌblkrɒs / n. S 6 M

a betrayal or cheating by one's associates, esp. among criminals.

Orig. underworld slang usage. Cf. #60.

75. Dove / dāv / n. S 1 F

one who advocates peace.

adj. dovish; Cf. contrary: Hawk #122.

Meaning change by analogy to the bird's characteristics (docility), as well as being part of christian symbolism.

Both opposing terms are used in referring to attitudes towards the U. S. war in Vietnam.

76. Down-and-outers / dāwn ənd ʔwterz / n. P 31 J

a tramp, homeless and jobless, or living in poverty, and who will not probably be able to improve his way of life, (WF)

-er suffix, see #32; -out suffix, see #11.

77. Draft-dodger / drāft-dòjər / n. S 1 F

a young male American who has fled the U.S.A. to avoid being inducted into the armed services.

Compound. Draft + dodge (to evade) + -er suffix (see #32).

78. Drag / drag / n. S 20 F

a person, thing or event that is intellectually, emotionally or aesthetically boring, tedious, tiring or colorless. (WF) (P)

Orig. jazz use c1946, now common with teenagers, students.

From vb. drag.

79. Drag race / drág rèys / n. P 24 M

a race between two or more cars, usu. hot rods, to determine which can accelerate the faster. (WF)

Hot rod use since c1945.

Term apparently comes from the need to "drag" or stay in low gears as long as possible.

80. Drum up / drʌmp / vb. S 27 J

to try to get people enthusiastic over a product or cause; to obtain customers or trade. (WF) (P)

Fig. use of drum.

-up suffix word, see #6.

81. Expo / ɛkspow/ n. S 26 F

Exposition.

An abbreviation by back-clipping: expo/sition/

The reference is to the Exposition 1967 held at Montreal.

82. Failsafe / feyølsəyf / adj. S 8 F

safe from the possibility of any mistakes occurring.

Neologism and portmanteau compound: fail(ure) + safe.

Cf. model of burglar proof.

83. Fakement / feykmənt / n. S 4 M

a forgery; a dishonest practice, as in any trade, action, thing or contrivance. (P)

Since c1850.

From fake (a sham, deception) + -ment.

84. Farm out / fərm awt / vb. S 7 M

to let out to someone, usu. said of a contract or article which is rented to someone for a fee.

Generalizing of meaning by analogy to the orig. meaning, farming acreage outside of your own, by renting it.

-out suffix, see #11.

85. Fat cat / fət kət / n. pl. P 29 J

a person who has fame, wealth and luxuries; a well-off person in modern social terms. (WF)

Rhyming reduplication.

86. Feds / fedz / n. S 27 F

persons having strong support for the people who form the national government.

Abbreviation through back-clipping: federalists/

87. Fed up / fəd ʌp / adj. S 4 F

bored; sated; disgusted (WF) (P)

From British slang, orig. a version of the French j'en ai soupe.

-up suffix, see #6.

88. Feedback / fiydbæk / n. P 20 F

information response to information already given or a situation already created.

Portmanteau compound: feed(ing) + back(wards); for model Cf. phrase, "to make a comeback" or "kickback."

89. Feed-forward / fīyd-fōrwərd / n. S 30 J

past information being taken advantage of, as in: "There is not enough feed-forward in city management today."

Formed by analogy to feedback, see # 88.

90. Finks / fīŋks / n.pl. S 8 F

a contemptible person; an undesirable, unwanted or unpleasant person.

Common since c1925. Orig. a strikebreaker or scab; f. the Yiddish fink, lit. finch.

91. Fogey / fōgēy / n. S 17 F

an older, conservative, moral type of person; a dullard. (P)
Since c1780.

-y suffix, see #31.

92. Foul-up / fāwl-ʌp / n. S 13 M

a mix-up; a mess, esp. due to a blunder.

Compound.

For -up suffix word, see #6.

93. Flower children / flāwə 'čīldrən / n. P 24 M

those members of offbeat society who associate themselves with the qualities of flowers: back to nature, sweet, loving, and serene. Thus, lit. the children of the flowers.

94. Funnymoney / fāniymīniy / n. S 27 F

counterfeit money; playmoney or something substituted for real currency.

Rhyming reduplication.

95. Fuzz / fāz / n. P 18 F

the police; a detective. (WF)

Underworld, hobo and carnival use. (GOL)

Orig. poss. through Damon Runyon, a syndicated newspaper columnist who used it in 1946.

96. Gang up on / gāŋ ʌp ɒn / vb. S 7 F

to unite against someone, as in a fight or the like. (WF)

Colloquial.

-up suffix word, see #6

on means, to the disadvantage of.

97. Gas / gas / n. S 20 F
 a gas is anything exceptional, extremely satisfying or successful, such as a piece of music, a person, a party or any experience. (WF)
 Since c1945.
 Orig. a Harlem negro term, now in common use in "cool" circles.
98. Generation gap / jənə'reysən gæp / n. S 29 J
 lit. meaning the period in years between two generations but fig. referring to the difficulties in communication of thoughts, feelings, etc., between two successive generations.
 Fig. use of gap.
99. Get a handle on / gèt ə hændəl ɒn / vb. S 7 M
 to get a grip on a situation or event; to understand something; to grasp how something functions.
 Fig. use of handle.
100. Get off the pot / gèt ɒf ðə pɒt / vb. S 20 F
 to quit fooling around; to stop procrastinating and become actively engaged in the assignment.
 Poss. drug addict jargon.
- 101A. Get out from under / gèt ʔwt frəm ʔndər / vb. S 30 J
 to extract oneself from an embarrassing or unpleasant situation, enterprise, job or relationship.
 Concatenation of the prepositional adverbs.
- 101B. Giggly Water / gɪgəl wɔtər / n. S 7 F
 Champagne or liquor generally.
 Fig. spkg. f. how it affects a person drinking it.
102. Gimmicks / gɪmɪks / n. S 3 F
 a gimmick is part of a plan or adventure that can mean success or failure; one's angle or sub-motive; a gadget; subterfuge. (WF)
 Orig. with circus, carnival and gambler usage.
103. Give-away / gɪv-əweɪ / n. S 29 J
 anything that betrays or reveals unwittingly. (WF) (P)
 Colloquial since c1880. Cf. # 63.

104. Give the nod / giv ðə nód / vb. S 29 J
to signify initially, with a nod of the head, that it is suitable to proceed upon some course of action or another. (P)
Fig. use of nod.
105. Globetrotters / glówbtródərz / n. pl. P 7 F
persons who travel around the world.
Poss. orig. from an analogy to the Harlem Globetrotters basketball team who travel world wide to play.
106. Glue sniffing / glúw snifin / n. S 31 J
the act of sniffing the fumes from a tube of glue when the glue is emptied into a bag, in order to obtain a momentary mind-expanding sensation.
Neologism.
Formed by a transformational process: to sniff glue, becomes to glue sniff, then glue sniffing.
107. Gobbledygook / góbldiygùwk / n. S 14 F
nonsense; gibberish.
Onomatopoeitic formation, perh. f. gobble, the noise made by a turkey. Cf. bafflegab #7.
108. Go-get / gów-gét / n. P 14 M
verve; vitality; ambition; inspiration.
Abbreviation through back-clipping: go-get/ter/.
109. Goodies / gúdiyz / n. pl. P 13 M
sweets or small gifts; any adult foods, drinks, clothing or objects, artistic or cultural, that inspire childish enthusiasm.
Since c1948.
-ie(-y) suffix, see #31.
110. Grab-bag / gráb-bàg / n. S 4 M
a lucky bag; a situation which is made up of odds and ends; a mixed bag.
Compound. Since c1900.
111. Great white hope / grèyt hwayt hówp / n. S 4 F
anyone, esp. a politician, athlete or entertainer, whose accomplishments may bring fame or respect to his native town, country, school, etc. (WF)
Orig. in prize-fighter use in ref. to a white boxer able to beat negro Jack Johnson.

112. Gum up / gʌm ʌp / vb. S 15 F
to ruin or spoil a plan or the successful completion of a task, esp. by blundering. (WF)
Cf. bung up, #34.
113. Gun for his job / gʌn fɔr hiz ʃɒb / vb. S 30 J
to be after a person's job, using devious and opportunist tactics in doing so.
Orig. poss. f. model of: gun for someone, meaning: pursue with intent to murder.
114. Guru / gʊrʊ / n. P 13 M
a spiritualist; a metaphysicalist; a teacher of transcendental meditation. (WF)
From the Hindi, meaning: venerable one, spiritual leader or teacher.
115. Gutlessness / ɡʌtləsənəs / n. S 14 F
the quality of having no courage. (P)
From guts (courage) + less + ness.
116. Hand-out / hænd-ʌwt / n. S 12 M
something given for free, without any qualifications.
Compound.
117. Hanky-panky / hɛnkiy-pɛnkiy / n. S 15 F
deception; anything crooked or unethical; funny business. (P)
Colloquial since c 1840.
Poss. formed on model hokey-pokey.
Rhyming reduplication.
118. Happening / həˈpɛnɪŋ / n. P 14 M
a happening is any situation in which something happens; initially limited to the offbeat segment of society and their social occurrences called "happenings" Now in general use.
Orig. in jazz slang.
119. Hard-core / hɑrd-kɔr / adj. S 28 F
basic; essential; having the solid core after all the frills have been taken away; as in: "The hard-core policy of the U.S.A. was"

120. Hard-line / hɑrd-lāyn / adj. S 6 F

characterized by a tough, firm position on any situation;
as in: "He made a hard-line statement on the Red China
developments."

121. Hatchet-job / hæt-jɒb / n. S 31 J

a professional job done by a hired associate to destroy
the reputation of others; an unethical attack made by a
paid colleague to a member of another political party. (WF)
Since c 1925.

For suffix -job, see #51.

122. Hawk / hak / n. S 1 F

one who advocates war.

adj. hawkish.

Cf. dove, #75, for background.

123. Headshrinkers / hedsrɪŋkərz / n. pl. S 18 F

professional psychologists; psychoanalysts. (WF)

Orig. a gruesome reference to the practice of S. American
headshrinking tribes, such as the Jivaro Indians.

Now frequently contracted to shrink.

124. To heck with / təhék wiθ / adj. S 1 F

indicates that the speaker wants to give up doing some-
thing; an expression of hopeless abandonment.

A euphemism for "to hell with" ("heck" being a Deckwort for
"hell")

125. Heist / haɪst / n. S 11 F

a successful holdup, robbery or theft; usu. an armed
robbery by professional thieves. (WF) (GOL)

From "hoist" in underworld use meaning, to steal an
expensive item.

126. Hell to pay / hel tə peɪ / n. P 12 M

a severe punishment; a severe penalty or bawling out. (WF) (P)
Since c 1890.

127. Hillbilly / hɪlbɪli / n. S 15 F

an uneducated, unworldly rustic, such as one who lives in
the southern hills or the Ozark region.

Reduplication and partial rhyming; Cf. clots #44, rube #244.

128. Hippie / ^hipiy / n. S 27 J

a member of the beat generation; in the extreme, one who has removed himself from commercial, material, political and all physical and intellectual reality, intensely believing in and protecting only the true, nonemotional, nonsocial, amoral identity he has. (WF)

Orig. jazz slang

The c1929 form "hep" became later "hip" by a vowel change; whence came "hippie", "hipster," etc.

-ie(-y) suffix, see #31.

129. Hitch / ^hiɬč / n. S 7 M

a catch; a point of contention; a snag or difficulty. (OED)

Fig. f. c1948.

130. Hoedown / ^howdawn / n. S 13 F

a party or dance, esp. a lively one.

Compound: hoe + down, in reference to the time of celebration when agricultural work (with the hoe) was finished.

131. Hokum / ^howkəm / n. S 8 M

insincerity; nonsense; bunk.

Colloquial use.

Orig. theater use; Cf. models like hocuspocus, hokey-pokey.

132. Hootch / ^huwč / n. S 11 M

liquor, esp. inferior homemade or cheap whisky. (WF)

Orig. a Canadianism, f. Indian term hootchinoo, an Indian people of south Alaska and Tlingit tribe's hutsnuwu, lit. grizzly bear fort.

Back-clipping of hootchinoo.

133. Hotline / ^hotlāyn / n. S 19 F

a telephone to a radio station or important political contact which is kept open at all times for questions and discussions of an urgent or controversial nature.

Compound.

134. Hotrod / hótrodər / n. S 12 F

one who has an interest in and drives a stock car that has had its engine rebuilt or modified so that the car is faster and more powerful than the original design. (WF)
Since c1950, wide teenage and student use.

-er suffix, see #32.

135. Hotseat / hótseyt / n. S 18 F

originally the electric chair or witness stand in a courtroom; now any uncomfortable situation, usu. in which one is being questioned.

Compound.

136. Hotshot / hótshot / n. S 20 F

an important, active, successful person; a skillful person who takes risks to succeed and does succeed to become important, self-assured and proud. (WF) (P)

From hot-shot, one who shoots eagerly or successfully with a firearm.

Rhyming reduplication.

137. Hovercraft / hāvərkræft / n. S 24 F

a water vehicle which actually cruises slightly above the water on a self-created air cushion.

Neologism. Compound by analogy with patterns like: aircraft, spacecraft, etc.

138. Hydrofoil / hādrəfōyl / n. S 20 F

a water vehicle which cruises slightly above the water on an air cushion.

A compound of word element hydro- + foil.

Neologism. Cf. hovercraft, see #137.

139. In hock / in hók / vb. S 13 F

to be in hock means to be indebted to someone materially or immaterially.

Orig. hock: pawnshop.

140. In the black / in ðə blæk / n. S 26 F

operating a business at a profit; making money.

From the dark or black colored ink bookkeepers use on the credit side of the ledger.

Cf. in the red, #142.

141. In the hole / in ðə hól / n. P 12 F
in debt. (P)
Since c1760.
142. In the red / in ðə réd / n. S 26 F
operating a business at a deficit; losing money.
From the red ink that bookkeepers use on the deficit side of the ledger.
Cf. in the black, #140.
143. Iron-on / áyər-n-ɔn / adj. S 11 M
affixed with a hot iron, usu. patches on pants, etc.
144. Jack-hammer / ják-hámər / vb. S 30 J
to force an issue to conclusion, as in: "He jack-hammered a bill through the House today."
Orig. in construction workers jargon.
Functional shift.
145. Jerk / járk / n. S 19 F
an ineffectual, foolish or unknowingly dull youth or man.
Poss. orig. with railroad use where it meant a short branch railway line. Also, jerkwater stops, prob. reinforced by the number of jolts and jerks trains make on such a railway line; orig. jerkwater, to take on water while in motion by scooping it from a trough between the rails.
146. Jerry built / jériy bílt / adj. S 20 F
unsubstantially built; poorly constructed. (P)
Colloquial since c1880.
Poss. orig. f. a corruption of jury, as in jury-mast, leg, etc.
147. Jetliner / jétlaynər / n. S 20 F
an aeroplane with jet engines.
Prob. formed on model of passenger liner, railliner, etc. and relating to airliner.
148. Johns / jonz / n. S 4 F
a toilet, esp. a public toilet for males. (WF)
149. Kettle of fish / kətəl əv fiʃ / n. S 7 F
a predicament or situation, esp. a confused one. (P)
Poss. f. Scottish, kettle of fish, meaning a picnic.

150. Keyholery / kɪhɔwləri / n. P 19 M

investigating; fig., as by peering through key holes.

Cf. rubber checkery #242.

-ery suffix, usu. forming nouns f. nouns or vbs. to mean: a place where something is served; or a place that is associated with something (dancery); also, the state or condition of, or the qualities or acts characteristic of that denoted by the root word (keyholery).

151. Kid / kid / vb. S 29 J

to josh a person; to deceive; to make fun of a person in his presence.

Functional shift, f. kid:child.

152. Kiddies / kɪdiyz / n.pl. P 12 F

children.

Meaning shift, Cf. kids #151.

-ie suffix, see #31.

153. Kingpin / kɪŋpɪn / n. S 29 J

the highest ranking person in a group; the leader; usu. has an underworld connotation. (WF) (P)

Orig. poss. f. game of ninepins.

154. Knock / nok / vb. S 4 F

to find fault with; to give bad publicity to. (WF)

Fig. use, functional shift.

155. Land grab / lænd græb / n. S 31 J

a sudden acquisition of land, usu. near some area of new development.

Compound.

156. Lark it up / lɑrk it ʌp / vb. S 7 F

to have a good time. (P)

By analogy to the bird.

for it, see #36; for up, see #6.

157. Lead-pipe cinch / léd paɪp sɪnʃ / n. S 12 F

something easy; anything or anyone certain of success.

Colloquial since c1875; f. the cinch of a saddle which secures it, orig. of lead-pipe uncertain.

158. Lippy / lipi / adj. S 20 F
 insolent; impertinent; talkative. (WF)
 From lip in fig. sense: cheek, insolence.
 -y suffix, see #32.
159. Lock-in / lɒk-in / n. S 4 M
 a situation where a group of demonstrators lock themselves inside a building they wish to occupy as a protest.
 -in suffix pattern after model of sit-in, see #271.
160. Locos / lɒkwɔz / n.pl. P 27 F
 locomotives.
 Abbreviation through back-clipping: loco/motives/.
161. Look-in / lʊk-in / n. S 13 F
 a brief visit on a casual temporary basis where you cursory attention to the attraction.
 Modelled on pattern of sit-in, see #271.
162. Looksee / lʊksi / n. S 4 F
 a look; a visual inspection, whether cursory or protracted.
 Colloquial since c1925.
 Poss. orig. in pidgin English.
163. Loner / lɒnər / n. S 1 F
 a man who prefers to live, work, drink, etc., by himself, without taking others into his confidence.
 Both a derogatory and a complimentary use.
 -ed suffix, see #32.
164. Longhairs / lɒŋhəz / n. S 7 F
 intellectuals; people who like serious books, music, theater, etc. Now a more general application to the modern day haircuts with hippy implications.
165. Loot / luwt / n. S 27 J
 money, esp. a large sum of money; also a vb.
 Common since c1945, used as jazz slang.
 From Hindi lut, but influenced by lootie, a native irregular of India, hence a bandit.

166. Lose your cool / lúwz yor kuwl / vb.phr. S 1 F
 to lose composure; to lose that state of mind characterized by detachment, disdain for emotional involvement and a distant and reserved rather than enthusiastic attitude towards persons and ideas.
 Functional shift; Cf. cool it, #53.
 Used by "cool" groups that flourished in the mid-1950's.
167. Loss-leader / lós-liydər / n. S 26 F
 an article sold by a store at less than cost so as to attract customers who, it is hoped, will also buy other items at normal prices.
 Compound.
168. Lot on the ball / lɒt on ʔə bɒl / n. S 6 F
 to have a lot on the ball means to be alert and have vitality and ability; to be in the know; to be hep. (WF)
 First pop. associated with bop and cool use, student use since c1935.
 Prob. derived f. baseball.
169. Lousy / láwsiy / adj. S 12 F
 bad; horrible; worthless; extremely inferior. (P)
 Colloquial since c1860.
 From louse + -y suffix (see #31).
 Cf. Ger. lansig/lawziç/ with the same shift of meaning.
170. LP / ɛlɛpiy / n. P 11 F
 long play records.
 An acronym where the first two letters of each word act as an abbreviation which now stands as a word.
 Actually a patterned trademark of the Capitol Recording Co.
171. LSD / ɛlɛsdiy / n. S 20 F
 lisergic acid diethylamid, a potent but non-addictive hallucinogenic drug.
 An acronym: initials are taken from the orig. Ger. name-lyserg-säure-diaethylamid.
 Cf. acid #1.
 Common since c1962; student and addict use.

172. Megapolitan / mēgəpólətən / adj. S 13 F
 referring to a million person population of the metro-
 politan area of a city, etc.
 Portmanteau word f. mega (prefix denoting, a million times)
 + (metro) politan.
173. Mickey / mikiy / n. S 8 F
 a 13 oz. bottle of liquor, small enough to carry in a
 pocket.
 Prob. derivation f. mickey: an Irishman; a potato; a potato
 brew- f. an Irishman's reputation for drinking or always
 being with liquor.
174. Milked / milkt / vb. S 28 J
 to milk means to obtain possession of by trickery and
 artifice; to take advantage of some one through deceitful
 means. (P)
 By analogy to milking a cow.
175. Mind-blasting / maynd-blàsting / adj. S 1 F
 pushing your mind or conscious level of experience into
 the extra-conscious level of experience.
 Prob. a natural derivative f. mind-blowing and mind-exp-
anding, which through repeated use and extended application
 have lost their descriptive power; all are based upon or
 translated from psychedelic (a neologism).
176. Mindsudsed / mayndsàdzd / adj. S 12 F
 Ego-scrubbed / iygo-skràbd / All are facetious synonyms
 Libido-rinsed / ləbáydo-rìnst / for brainwashed, see #25.
177. Mish-mash / miš-máš / n. P 14 F
 a hodgepodge; a mixture composed of many ingredients, esp.
 a poorly integrated mixture.
 Near rhyming reduplication, with vowel variation.
 Orig. mash.
178. Moccasin telegraph / mókəsin téləgráf / n. S J 30
 the means by which information circulates amongst Indians;
 (orig. Indians wore moccasins and sent important
 information by runner).

179. Mod / mod / adj. S 19 F

modern; up to date; usu. applied to fashions, has connotation of an Edwardian or fancy way of dressing.

Orig. f. mod style first worn by the mods of the mods and rockers group in England during the 1950's.

180. Moonship / múnʃɪp / n. S 8 M

the vehicle used to land on the moon (lunar module).

Neologism, modelled on the pattern of airship, spaceship, etc.

181. The most / ðə mɔʊst / n. S 7 F

the best; the most exciting; the most up to date person or thing.

Far out, beat and cool use.

182. Mudslinging / mʌdslɪŋɪŋ / n. S 30 J

the act of spreading malicious, derogatory statements about another, whether such statements are true or not. (WF)

Synonym for the older muckraking for which Cf. Bunyan's "man with the muckrake."

Mainly political use since c1890.

183. Multiversity / mʌltiɪvɜrsəti / adj. P 14 M

a university which has several colleges or separate schools which, nevertheless, fall generally under the name of one institution.

Portmanteau word from multi + (uni)versity.

184. Nigger / nɪgə / n. S 13 F

negro; Afro-American. (P)

185. Nitty-gritty / nɪtiɪ-ɡrɪti / n. S 13 F

the basics or essentials of any situation, predicament, action, etc.; the hard, unvarnished facts.

Rhyming reduplication.

186. No big sweat / nɒ bɪg swet / S 1 F

nothing to be concerned about; easily accomplished.

Fig. orig. f. the idea of working hard physically and perspiring versus no sweat.

187. No go / nòw gów / n. P 7 F
that moment in any situation when the operation is cancelled. (WF) (P)
Used in aerospace jargon when they indicated that a missile launching was cancelled.
Rhyming reduplication.
188. Northpaw / nórəpəw / adj. P 22 F
a right-handed person.
Formed by analogy to southpaw, see #734.
189. Oddball / ódbòl / n. P 8 F
an eccentric, queer or odd person; a nonconformist. (WF)
A compound from odd + ball; Cf. screwball.
190. Off-the-cuff / òf-ðə-káf / adj. S 20 F
informally; extemporaneously; unrehearsed.
Orig. poss. f. the habit of writing brief notes on the shirt cuffs.
191. Okayed / òwkeyd / pp. S 4 F
judged as satisfactory; approved.
From the standard O.K.
192. Ombudsman / òmbʌdzmən / n. P 21 F
the official who receives and deals with public complaints of a general or specific nature, usu. laid against organizations and bodies of a higher, unapproachable order, such as governments.
From Swedish, via New Zealand English.
193. One-upmanship / wʌn ʌpmənsɪp / n. S 10 F
being one step ahead of your fellow being in any facet of life; having an advantage over your fellow being.
Orig. a coinage by Stephen Potter.
194. On the stump / òn ðə stʌmp / S 24 F
on the campaign circuit. (P)
Orig. f. political days where a candidate lit. used to climb up on tree stumps to talk to the people as he travelled around the country.
195. Operation cleanup / ópəreysən kliynʌp / n. P 7 F
an organized plan to clean or tidy up a place, area or situation.
Modelled on wartime expressions such as "operation overload."
For -up suffix see #6.

196. Ornery / ɔrnəri / vb. P 18 F
stubborn; difficult; unmoveable on an opinion, principle, etc.
North American dial. f. ordinary.
197. Outage / ʔwtəʃ / n. S 12 F
failure; temporary interruption, as in: "An electricity outage."
Technical neologism from out (the power is out, i.e. off) + -age.
198. Out of whack or kilter / ʔwt əv hwak or kiltər / vb. S 19 F
out of order; not functioning properly.
Colloquial since c1899.
Kilter is a variation of kelter, meaning good condition or order.
199. Out of your mind / ʔwt əv yor máynd / S 29 J
ecstatic about something, so ecstatic that it fig. borders on insanity.
Cf. mind-blasting #175.
200. Over-provocation / ɔwvər-pròvəkéysən / n. S 12 M
an overabundance of annoyance or irritation.
Prefix -over has become a productive prefix giving such terms as: over-eat, over-sleep, and over-step; Cf. over-reaction #201.
201. Over-reaction / ɔwvər-riyáksən / n. S 13 M
a response to something more energetic than normally called for.
Prefix -over, see #200.
202. Paper tiger / pèypər táygər / n. S 27 J
a deceptively strong, powerful or influential person who has all the actions of a forceful personality but turns out to be ineffective.
This pattern of paper + _____ is now commonly applied in other situations to imply ineffectiveness. (e.g. paper mayor.)

203. Pass the buck / pás ɒ̃ bʌk / vb. S 31 J
to pass onto someone else a problem, a responsibility,
or a person having a problem requiring attention. (WF)
Colloquial since c1900.
204. Payload / peyləʊd / n. S 6 F
any desired result such as money, the correct answer,
the solution to a problem or the like.
Orig. f. the lit. application in mining: to dig down until
paydirt or the mother lode was hit ; hence payload.
205. Peel / piyl / vb. S 27 F
to undress, esp. to do a striptease on the stage. (P)
By analogy to the peeling of fruit; colloquial since c1800.
206. Picture / pikč̣ər / n. S 27 J
a comprehensive understanding or view; a presentation
of all the essential facts and relationships pertaining
to the subject at hand. (WF) (P) as in the question: "Get the
picture?"
Meaning shift. Colloquial.
207. Piddling / pidlɪŋ / adj. S 31 J
small; trivial; inconsequential.
From piddle, child's word for urinate.
208. Pigs / pigz / n. S 22 F
the police.
Since c1848, criminal use.
209. Pipedream / paypdriɪm / n. S 4 F
any plan, scheme, goal idea or ideal that is as unrealistic
as the dreams of an opium addict after smoking an opium
pipe. (WF)
Orig. with opium smokers; colloquial.
210. Plaster / plástər / vb. S 1 F
to abuse someone physically. (WF)
Prob. orig. f. plaster, meaning to shoot with a gun; in the
military sense to shell heavily.
Colloquial.
211. Plonks / plɒŋks / n. S 22 F
the doldrums; in a state of mild depression.
Onomatopoetic formation.

212. PM / piyém / n, S 7 M
Prime Minister.
 an acronym; the first letter in each word.
213. Pop culture / póp kálčər / n. S 20 F
 popular culture.
 Abbreviation through back-clipping: pop/ular/ + culture.
 Cf. models of pop music, pop singers, pop fashions.
214. Pommy bastard / pómíy bástərd / S 1 M
 Australian slang nickname for an Englishman.
 Cf. north American terms: blimey, kipper, brit.
215. Poppycock / pópíykòk / n. S 30 J
 nonsense.
 A euphemism.
216. Posties / pówstíyz / n.pl. S 7 F
 postmen; mailmen. (P)
 By analogy to model of goalie for goalkeeper, etc.
 Abbreviation through back-clipping: Post/man/ + -ie suffix.
 For -ie suffix see #31.
217. Pound the sidewalk / páwnd ðə sáydwòk / vb. S 1 F
 to walk the streets in search of a job or in order to
 beg from passers by. (WF)
218. Pranksters / pránkstərz / n.pl. P 24 F
 practical jokers.
 From prank + -ster suffix, a productive suffix of agency
 joined to nouns and often giving a derogatory connotation.
 Cf. punster #227.
219. Pre-fabbed / priy-fàbd / adj. S 26 F
 custom cut and ready to assemble.
 Abbreviation: fab/ricat/ed.
-ed is a pp. or an adj. forming suffix.
220. Prexies / préksíyz / n.pl. P 21 F
 university or business presidents.
 Abbreviation for presidents.
-ie suffix see #31.
221. Pro / prow / n. S 29 J
 a professional in any line of work.
 Abbreviation: pro/fessional/.

222. Psyche out / sàyk ɔwt / vb. S 12 F
 to lose control through fear; to lose one's nerve;
 to understand another's deeper psychological motivations
 and to cause him to falter or lose control.
 -out suffix see #11.
223. Pull the cork on / pùl ɔ kórk ɔn / vb. S 29 J
 to intentionally cause secret information about a person
 or situation to become general knowledge.
 Fig., by analogy to corks in bottles--to prevent leakage.
224. Pullout / pùl ɔwt / n. S 6 F
 a departure; a complete withdrawal from a situation. (P)
 Compound; colloquial since c1880.
 -out suffix see #11.
225. Punch out / pínc ɔwt / vb. S 14 F
 to fight someone and successfully beat them up; to win
 a fight.
 Orig. f. an office or factory; workers punching a time
 card as he begins or leaves work.
 -out suffix see #11.
226. Punch through / pínc ɔruw / vb. S 30 J.
 to put something through with a connotation of force
 or strength, as in: "They wanted to punch through an
 access route to the highway."
 Orig. f. construction workers' jargon; Cf. jack-hammer #144.
227. Punster / pínstər / n. P 29 M
 a person who tells puns. (WF)
 -ster suffix see #218.
228. Push on / pùs ɔn / vb. P 7 M
 to move on to other topics or areas for action; to proceed
 to other points waiting for consideration.
 Fig. use of push.
229. Put on / pút ɔn / n. S 28 J
 a purposeful deception, often done in an affected manner.

230. Put one over on / pùt wàn ówvər òn / vb. S 29 J
to tease or make a fool of someone; to misrepresent something to someone; to convince them that something fake is real. (WF)
Orig. jazz, student and swinger use; colloquial since c1956.
231. Put on ice / pùt on áys / vb. S 3 F
to postpone (WF)
Fig. use.
232. Quack / kwak / n. S 24 F
an unethical person passing himself off as a knowledgeable doctor. (P)
Since c1660.
233. Quake / kweyk / n. P 25 F
an earthquake.
Abbreviation through front-clipping: /earth/quake.
234. Ransom racket / ránsəm ràkət / n. S 27 J
any shady or dishonest business or occupation; a swindle; here spec. referring to the illegal holding of a person to be returned for a sum of money. (WF)
Reduplication; alliteration.
235. Ratting on / ràtɪŋ òn / vb. S 6 M
informing or squealing on.
Orig. the rat that leaves a sinking ship is a symbol of treachery.
236. Redeye / rédəy / n. S 30 J
inferior or raw whisky, spec. bootleg whisky; cheap liquor.
Since c1820. Also used in Canada (Alberta) to refer to beer laced with tomato juice "Calgary redevye"
237. Regulars / régyələrz / n. S 1 F
those persons who frequent a place on a regular basis.
Cf. habitués (French).
Functional shift.
238. Ring / rɪŋ / n. S 29 J
a group of persons usu. formed for some illegal purpose, as in: "The dope ring is operating in the east end of Vancouver."

239. Rocketeer / rəkə'tiər / n. S 18 F

a person who is actively interested in the science of rockets, usu. a young initiate in the science.

Suffix -eer, by analogy with model like racketeer.

240. Roughing it / rʌfɪŋ ðɪt / n. S 24 F

doing something in a difficult manner; it is implied that there is an easier way to do the task but one chooses to take this more difficult route.

For use of it without antecedent, see #36.

241. Roughneck / rʌfnɛk / n. S 13 F

an ill-mannered, uncouth, rough person, esp. if burly. (WF) (P)

Orig. circus use; colloquial.

242. Rubber checkery / rʌbər ʃɛkəri / n. P 12 F

the writing of checks that are returned to the writer because there is not enough money in his account to cover its value. (WF)

Orig. rubber + check + -ery suffix, as in: thievery, roguery.

Fig. use of rubber in reference to the slang expression used for such checks: e.g. they are said to "bounce."

Note the American spelling: check for cheque.

-ery suffix see #150.

243. Rubby-dub / rʌbiy-dʌb / n. P 15 M

a bum; a worthless tramp; a down and outer, often with a connotation of a drunkard.

Abbreviation f. rub/bing/ alcohol.

Reduplication with partial rhyme.

-y suffix see #31.

244. Rube / ruwb / n. S 29 J

an unworldly, naive, unsophisticated country youth or man; a newcomer; an outsider, hence anyone easy to victimize. (WF)

From Reuben, a traditional rural name; Cf. clots #44, hillbilly #127.

245. Savvy / saviy / n. P 15 M

understanding; knowledge; worldliness.

Orig. in pidgin English, f. the Portuguese saver, to know.

Colloquial since c1865.

246. Sawed-off / sòd-óf / adj. S 11 F
 annoyed or disgusted (with someone or something).
 Cf. browed-off, cheesed-off, brassed-off, etc.
-off suffix word with connotation of ending an action or relation; Cf. finish off, sign off, etc.
247. Seepage / siypəj / n. P 27 F
 any substance that has seeped or leaked from some enclosure or container.
 Dial. and colloquial usage.
 From seep = -age suffix; Cf. outage #197.
248. Sell down the river / sèl dàwn ðə rívr / vb. S 4 F
 to betray.
 Prob. orig. with the slave trade in the southern States when slaves were transported down the river to plantation owners. (Mark Twain use in Huckleberry Finn).
249. Sell out / sèl áwt / vb. S 29 J
 to become a traitor; to compromise one's ideals or beliefs because of fear or for other reasons; to renounce one's principles for the sake of monetary gain.
-out suffix see #11.
250. Set-to / sèt-túw / n. S 4 M
 an argument; an attack; a heated disagreement with or without violence. (P)
 By analogy with model sit-in, see #271.
251. Shacktown / šáktáwn / n. S 8 F
 any part of a settlement, town or city, that is run-down shoddy or slummy in appearance.
 Orig. prob. f. the shack or caboose of a freight train; or hobo use of the term to mean a meeting place.
 Cf. use of -town suffix word in reference to a city district in words like: Chinatown, Gastown (e.g. old Vancouver).
252. Shabby / šákij / adj P 27 F
 rundown; dilapidated. (WF)
 Formed by shack + -y suffix (see #31).

253. Shake-up / šéyk-ʌp / n. S 30 J
 a reorganization of personnel or work methods.(P)
 Since c1885; colloquial.
 -up suffix word see #6.
254. Shamuses / šéyməsəz / n.pl. P 19 M
 investigators; detectives.
 From Irish gaelic: Séamus, meaning James.
255. Shanty town / šántiy təwn / n. P 27 F
 a town of shacks; a group of shacks and makeshift dwellings on the outskirts of a city.(WF)
 Cf. shacktown #251.
Shanty from Cdn. Fr. chantier or Irish sean tigh/šàn tíy/ (an old house).
256. Shape up / šéyp ʌp / vb S 1 M
 to pull oneself together; to organize oneself and begin working properly.
 -up suffix words, see #6.
257. Sharks / šarks / n.pl. S 4 M
 unethical operators in the money lending field who charge a high rate of interest, the exact amount of which is often hidden from the borrower.(P)
 Fig. use; also loan sharks.
258. Shear-in / šíyr-ín / n. S 3 M
 a gathering of hippies and longhairs generally for a haircutting spree.
 -in suffix, patterned after sit-in, see #271.
259. Shinny up / šíniy ʌp / vb. S 7 M
 to climb.
 From shin + -y suffix (see #31).
 -up suffix word, see #6.
260. Ship-shape / šíp-séyp / adj. P 25 M
 fine; ready for use; in perfect condition.
 Reduplication with vowel change.
 Orig. prob. re ship being readied for cast-off or the beginning of the season.

261. Shoo / ʃu / vb. S 31 J

to chase away.

From shoo! (used with imperative force.)

262. Shoot off your mouth / ʃuwt ɒf yɔr maʊθ / vb. S 13 F

to talk, esp. to talk too much and with too little regard for propriety; to disclose a confidence. (P)

Orig. perh. f. Dorothy Sayers (Murder Must Advertise) and H. Wade (Constable Guard Thyself).

263. Shoot-out / ʃuwt-əwt / n. S 20 F

a gun duel; also applied to a heated argument or discussion.

Cf. #264; -out suffix word, see #11.

264. Shoot up / ʃuwt ʌp / n. S 1 F

a gun duel, Cf. #263.

Prob. orig. f. gambling-dice player use.

-up suffix word, see #6.

265. Short end of the stick / ʃɔrt ɛnd əv ðə stɪk / n. S 31 J

the least desirable lot; the worst of a transaction; an instance of being cheated, ignored, taken advantage of or receiving unfavorable treatment. (WF)

Although the image is that of the short end as opposed to the larger quantity or the large end of a stick, which can be wielded, the etymology is more vulgar: fig., the short end is the end of a stick poked up another's rectum by the one in command of the situation, who holds the other end.

266. Shots, call the / ʃɒts, kəl ðə / vb. S 29 J

to call the shots means to have the privilege of indicating what should happen or take place, as in: "He paid for the gate fee, so he should call the shots."

Prob. orig. during prohibition (e.g. the nickel shots of whiskey).

267. Showbiz / ʃəʊbiz / n. S 8 M

showbusiness.

Abbreviation by back-clipping: showbus/iness/; then -us sequence changed to phonetic spelling and pronunciation.

268. Shut up / ʃʌt ʌp / vb. S 1 F
to cease talking or making noise of any kind. (P)
-up suffix word, see #6.
269. Side-effect / saɪdɪfɛkt / n. S 11 M
a result of any event other than the main effect or result.
Compound.
270. Sidestep / saɪdstɛp / S 1 F
to deviate from meeting a situation head on; to ignore a situation altogether, as in: "To sidestep an issue..."
271. Sit-in / sɪt-ɪn / n. S 28 J
an act of protest in which demonstrators enter or remain in a place in a sitting position, to protest against some law, custom or official policy or to gain support and publicity for civil rights, pacifism, etc.
This is an important formation with -in as a suffix word, which has become popular since c1960, when civil rights protests began to gain national attention.
Sit-in was the first such word to gain currency and many others have been formed by analogy with it.
Now the use of -in has expanded to include any protest or demonstration for most anything and not always in connection with segregation as was the orig. connotation.
See #311, 316, 317, 398, 441, 487, 497, 503 and 731.
Cf. also the term sit-in strike in ref. to popular front political activities in France during the 1930's.
272. Skidroad / skɪdrɔʊd / n. S 12 F
a street or district of a town containing cheap businesses, gambling rooms, brothels and the like. (WF)
Orig. logger use f. the skid road in the bush; hobo and underworld use since c1915.
273. Skindiver / skɪndəvər / n. S 26 F
a man who deep sea dives without the aid of rubber wet-suits, etc. as a protection against the cold; more of an amateur connotation here.
Cf. aquanaut #4.

274. Skookum / skúwkəm / adj. S 12 F
heavy; large; overwhelming, as in: "A pretty skookum price."
A borrowing f. Chinook jargon word; Cf. skookum chuck
(rapids - chuck means water in the jargon).
275. Skullduggery / skúldígəriy / n. S 14 F
rascally conduct; scheming or plotting.
From skull, associated with pirates whose flag, the jolly
roger, bears a skull and crossbones.
For suffix -ery see #150, 242.
276. Skyjacker / skáyjækər / n. S 13 F
a person who hijacks an airplane while it is en route
somewhere.
Neologism; portmanteau word: sky(hi)jacker, with rhyme of
hi-/sky.
277. Sky-pirates / skáy-pàyrəts / n.pl. S 3 F
those persons who hijack airliners while on flight and
force them to fly to another destination.
Neologism. Cf. skyjacker #276. Again note rhyme of sky/pi-.
278. Skyride / skáyrayd / n. S 20 F
a mode of transportation, connected with the ground, which
carries one through the air.
Compound. Note the rhyme: sky/ri-.
279. Skyscrapers / skáyskrèypərz / n.pl. P 30 J
a skyscraper is a very tall building; fig., one so tall
that it scrapes the sky. (WF)
Colloquial since c1920.
280. Slam-bam-thank-you-mam / slám-bám-θánk-yuw-mám / S 12 F
a pretty rough thank you to a woman! an abrupt, rapid
way of thanking someone.
Rhyming formation.
281. Slide-prone / sláyd-pròwn / adj. S 13 M
more liable to the sliding down of rock or other
substance than normal, as in: "This area is more slide-
prone because of the shale mountains."
Compound; Cf. accident-prone.

282. Slog it out / slòg it áwt / vb. S 31 J
 to succeed in doing something but not without hardships and difficulty. (P)
 For use of it without antecedent see #36.
-out suffix see #11.
283. Smear Campaign / smíyr kampeyn / n. P 29 M
 a plan or campaign which attempts to destroy the good reputation of another, esp. by making false or exaggerated accusations; to degrade or slander. (WF)
 From the Yiddish schmear.
284. Smoker / smówkər / n. S 28 J
 a much debated subject which continues under discussion over a long period, thus smouldering like a fire, as in:
 " This problem of whether to recognize Red China is a real smoker."
 Poss. orig. in railroad jargon referring to a locomotive-
 f. the days of wood and coal burning locomotives.
285. Snowmobile / snówmowbiyl / n. S 12 F
 a vehicle running on ski-like tracks which carries people over the snow.
 Cf. skidoo.
 Portmanteau word: snow/auto/mobile; note rhyme: snow/mo-/.
286. S.O.B.'s / ès.òw.biyz. / n. P 12 M
 S.O.B. stands for son of a bitch.
 An acronym.
287. Spacecraft / spéyskràft / n. S 30 J
 the vehicle used by and carrying explorers into outer space in modern day research programs.
 By analogy to other compounds with the -craft formation.
 Cf. hovercraft #137.
288. Spaceship / spéysšip / n. S 3 F
 a vehicle which carries astronauts into outer space on aerospace launchings.
 By analogy to other -ship formations; Cf. moonship #180.

289. Spacewalking / spɛyswɔkiŋ / n. S 6 M
leaving a spacecraft and lit. floating in outer space.
Fig. use of walking.
Neologism.
290. Speak garbage / spiɪk ɡɑrbəʃ / vb. P 12 M
to talk nonsense.
291. Spice up / spəys ʌp / vb. S 7 M
to glamorize a person, situation or occasion; to make more attractive and enticing. (P)
Fig. from spice + -up suffix word (see #6).
292. Spillage / spɪləʃ / n. P 27 F
any substance which has spilled over the boundaries or limits of a container.
From spill + -age suffix; Cf. #197, 247.
Neologism.
293. Spivs / spɪvz / n. pl. S 7 F
a street vendor often selling stolen or (during WWII) black market goods.
British wartime slang.
294. Squatters / skwɒtərz / n. S 30 J
persons who move onto land they do not own and set up housekeeping. Derogatory.
From squat + -er suffix (see #32).
295. SRO / ɛsəroʊ / P 11 F
sold right out.
An acronym. Tradesmen's jargon.
296. Stacked / stækt / adj. P 1 F
having a sexually attractive body, usu. said of a girl or woman. (WF)
297. Standpatism / stændpætɪzəm / n. S 13 F
the policy of keeping a firm, fixed position, opinion or belief. (WF) (P)
Poss. orig. f. gambling: to keep a good hand of cards; also, to sell f. a stationary position (stand pad).
formed from vb. phr. to stand pat + -ism suffix.

298. Sticky situation / stíkiy síeyuweysən / n. S 1 F
 a difficult situation; a situation where one must proceed with care and diplomacy. (P)
 Prob. orig. with the Briticism sticky wicket, in ref. to the game of cricket.
299. Stinker / stínkər / n. S 4 F
 a contemptible person. (P)
 From stink + -er suffix (see #32).
300. Stooze / stúwǵ / n. S 27 J
 an underling, esp. one who acts as a puppet for another, saying and doing what he does without question because he is told to. (WF)
 Orig. prob. f. theater and stage use; Cf. fall guy #546, sidekick #673.
301. Stoolie / stúwliǵ / n. P 29 J
 a person serving as a decoy; an informer; a stool pigeon.
 From the fact that pigeons were often tied to a stool as a decoy for other pigeons.
 Portmanteau word: stool (pigeon) + -ie suffix. (see #32).
302. Strongarm / strónàrm / n. P 1 M
 a person employed to carry out acts of violence, to obtain money, information, etc.; a hoodlum or thug who uses physical violence. (WF)
 Compound. Since c 1830.
303. Sucked-in / sákt-ín / vb. S 7 F
 deceived by false promises. (WF) (P)
 From suck-in: to engulf in a whirlpool.
304. Superbowl / súwpərbòwl / n. S 15 F
 a larger-than-ever-before stadium for sports.
 Prefix super- currently a very productive pattern.
 Cf. #305, 309.
305. Superliner / súwpərlàynər / n. S 14 F
 a passenger ship larger than any other known before.
 prefix super- see #304-309.

306. Superport / súwpərpòrt / n. S 30 J
a port much larger and more grandiose than anything yet existing.
Prefix super-, see #304-09.
307. Superpower / súwpərpəwər / n. S 25 F
a country whose economic, political and military power is greater than most others in the world.
Prefix super-, see #304-09.
308. Supersavior / súwpərsəyvyər / n. S 8 M
a person with the power and desire to save other persons from undesirable situations, people, etc.
Prefix super-, see #304-09.
309. Supertax / súwpərtàks / n. S 29 J
above the normal tax load; extra; out of proportion to the current tax situation in other areas.
Prefix super-, see # 304-08.
310. Surf's up / sàrfs ʌp / P 1M
you're in trouble now; now you're in for it, as in:
"Surf's up, John."
Expression type.
From surfer's call which fig. denotes: "now you have to show us what you can do."
-up suffix word, see #6.
311. Swim-in / swim-in / n. S 22 F
an intentional gathering of people for the purpose of swimming-as a social event or otherwise.
-in suffix, see #271.
312. Swinging / swɪŋɪŋ / adj. S 4 F
hip; in rapport with modern attitudes; satisfying, exciting, or pleasing to a modern, hip person.
Orig. swing use c1935-c1942, now general jazz and esp. cool use; Cf. phr. swinging London.
313. Swipe / swáyp / vb. P 7 F
to steal a small object, usu. one that can be easily concealed; to appropriate another's possessions, ideas, girl, etc., without asking permission, (WF)
Fig. use of swipe (to hit, strike).

314. Take a stab at / tɛyk ə stáb at / vb. S 1 F
to try to do something; to take a chance. (WF) (P)
Fig. use of stab.
315. Take-off-athon / tɛyk-ɔf-əθon / n. S 27 F
a competition to see who can lose the greatest number of pounds in a defined period of time.
-athon suffix, popular pattern denoting endurance and largeness in concept; Cf. (marathon, walkathon, danceathon.)
316. Talk-in / tɔk-ɪn / n. S 1 F
a meeting, usu. connected with protest, in which participants gather in a place for the purposes of holding lengthy, definitive discussion on one or more subjects.
-in suffix, see #271.
317. Teach-in / tiyč-ɪn / n. S 3 F
a situation in which professors or teachers gather outside of regular class hours to give concentrated teaching guidance to discussions, usu. over a lengthy period of time.
-in suffix, see #271.
318. Tear-sheet / tiyr-ʃiyt / n. P 21 F
a kleenex; a handkerchief used to wipe away tears.
Compound.
319. Teenology / tiynóləʃiy / n. S 27 F
the study of teenagers or teenage years.
Formed by analogy with: astrology, cardiology, psychology; the -ology element denoting study of.
320. Teeny-boppers / tiyniy-bópərz / n. pl. S 20 F
a teeny-bopper is a stereotyped teenage girl rock and roll enthusiast; a teenage girl considered as annoying, insignificant, undesirable and a boring burden.
Orig. negro use.
-er suffix, see #32.
321. Teflon / tɛflon / n. P 17 F
the coating for cookware instruments and the like which eliminates the need for a grease and is strongly heat-resistant. A trade name. Neologism.

322. Think-tank / θɪŋk-tæŋk / n. S 22 F
 a group of experts in a particular field assembling to undergo concentrated thought and discussion in their field.
 Compound. Note the repetition of /-ŋk/.
323. Thumbs-down / θʌmbz-dʌwn / adj. S 27 F
 a vote or sign of non-confidence; a negative endorsement.
 Lit., turning the thumb downwards, from the signal of Roman emperors concerning a defeated gladiator.
 -down suffix word, see #58.
324. Togs / togz / n.pl. S 29 J
 clothing.
 British slang; f. latin toga.
325. Tokenism / tɒkənɪzəm / n. P 18 F
 any minor contribution to a dispute, etc., as in: "They claimed that our contributions to the settlement of this dispute were just mere tokenism."
 From token + -ism suffix.
326. Trendy / trɛndi / adj. S 11 F
 following the current trends in fashions, customs, etc.
 From trend + -y suffix (see #31).
 Popularized with 'Trendy Trudeau' application, which is also alliterative.
327. Turn-on / tɜːn-ɒn / S 10 M
 to arouse someone's interest or curiosity in something; to become enthused, alert to, happy, etc.
 Orig. addict, jazz and student use, now general.
 Very common since c1960.
328. Two-bit / tuː-bɪt / adj. P 19 F
 cheap; inferior; insignificant; small-time; tinhorn. (WF)
 lit., worth 25 cents, e.g. a quarter or two bits of old coins known as pieces of eight.
329. UFO / juː ɛf ɔː / n. S 7 F
 unidentified flying object.
 An acronym.
330. Uncle Tomism / ʌŋkəl tɒmɪzəm / n. S 24 F.
 a negro who acts in a subservient, solicitous manner to any white man.
 Negro use. From H.B. Stowe's novel UNcle Tom's Cabin.

331. Unhorsed / ʌnhórst / adj. S 1 F
 having no power, influence or authority.
 Orig. ref. to a rider, spec. a soldier, thrown from his horse and hence hors de combat.
332. Upswing / ʌpswing / n. S 30 J
 a movement upwards as against downwards, positive as against negative, as in: "The economy is on the upswing."
333. Waffling / wɒflɪŋ / adj. S 20 F
 vague and meaningless, as in: "Waffling statements about my involvement with...."
334. Walkie-talkie / wɒkiy-tókiy / n. S 6 F
 a portable telephone run on batteries, used in military manoeuvres, etc.
 Prob. orig. as WWII slang.
 Reduplication and rhyming formation.
335. Walk-in / wɒk-ɪn / n. S 1 F
 an action whereby the participants walk in and occupy a place.
 -in suffix, see #271.
336. Walkout / wɒkəwt / n. S 30 J
 a strike by union employees against an employer.
 Technical jargon.
 -out suffix word, see #11.
337. Wet behind the ears / wɛt bəhəynd ðə ɪəz / n. S 6 F
 innocent, inexperienced, uninitiated, unsophisticated. (WF)
 Prob. by analogy to new-born animals or human beings not yet altogether dry.
338. Wherewithal / hwérwiðəl / n. S 30 J
 the money with which to buy something. (WF) (P)
 Colloquial use since c1910.
339. White collar crooks / hwáyt kɒlər kruks / n.pl. P 1 M
 influential, respected businessmen who use their power and position for illegal purposes; sophisticated criminals.
 By direct analogy to white collar workers.

340. Whitewashing / wáytwòsin / vb. S 15 F

covering up or glossing over a misdeed; esp. used in politics to refer to an opinion, report or public statement intended to excuse a misdeed or exonerate an unethical person.

By analogy to whitewashing or covering up a fence.

341. Whitey / wáytiy / n. S 13 F

a white person; the white race.

Now the most common urban negro slang word for white man.

Formed by white + -y suffix (see #31).

342. Whizbang / hwizbāŋ / adj. S 28 J

anything remarkable or outstanding. (WF) (P)

Orig. WWII use, British army slang, from whizzing sound of shells during flight, followed by an immediate explosion-bang!

Onomatopoeic formation.

343. Wide blue yonder / wáyð blùw yòndər / n. S 31 J

infinite space; nothingness.

Phr. quoted from a popular song.

344. Wipe out / wáyp áwt / vb. S 29 J

Orig. meant having lost control of one's surfboard while riding a wave and falling into the water. Then it was transferred to the sport of skiing, used in the same sense and finally has come to refer generally to someone who is a conformist, dull or square. (WF)

-out suffix word, see #11.

345. Wise-cracking / wáyz-krákiŋ / vb. S 6 M

making bright, witty or sarcastic remarks or jokes, esp. emphasizing another's shortcomings. (WF) (P)

Colloquial since c1920.

346. Wop / wop / n. P 18 F

an Italian or person, usu. male, of Italian descent.

Derogatory use.

Became common during the 1920's when it implied an illiterate Italian immigrant working as a day laborer.

347. Worked over / wərkt ɔvər / vb. S 1 F
beaten up, usu. in order to gain information or in retaliation; roughed up.
348. Work-to-rule / wɜrk-tə-rul / adj. S 30 J
usu. a union employee use against his employer in which he chooses to work strictly as his job framework indicates, rather than skipping unnecessary details, etc. as is usu. done. Result is the slowing down of service to the public by the company concerned.
349. Yeggs / yeygz / n.pl. S 10 M
any thief, esp. one who travels as a hobo using the freights; a safeblower.
Said to be from John Yegg, traditionally the first safe-cracker to use nitroglycerine.
Hobo and underworld use, now common.
350. Yō yo / yōw yōw / n. S 14 F
a stupid, incompetent or undesirable person. (WF)
From the plaything known as the yo-yo.
Reduplication.
351. Zany / zeyniy / n. S 4 F
crazy; idiotic; used in jocular ref., rather than in disapproval.
352. Zapped / zapt / vb. S 8 M
killed.
353. Zippy / zipiy / adj. S 4 F
peppy; snappy. (WF) (P)
Colloquial since c1945.
Formed by zip + -y suffix (see #31).

(ii) EDITORIALS

354. Across the board / əkrɔs ðə bɔrd / adj.phr. S 29 J
inclusive; pertaining in the same ratio to all members of a group, as in: "An across the board raise."
Labor union and political jargon.

355. Bad bind / bəd baɪnd / n. S 29 J

a predicament, as caused by conflicting obligations, an overfull work schedule or the like; a tight spot; a jam.

Note alliteration.

356. Bad-mouthing / bəd-maʊðɪŋ / vb. S 15 F

saying bad or nasty things, usu. of another person.

Cf. mudslinging #184, muckraking #584.

Compound.

357. Bagman / bæg mən / n. S 29 J

one who is assigned to collect bribe, extortion or kidnap money. (WF) (GOL)

Underworld use.

358. Baksheesh / bəkʃiːʃ / n. S 19 F

a tip; a gratuity; a bribe.

Near eastern and Anglo-Indian loan word popularized by the British army in India and Egypt.

Cf. #390, 509.

359. Beautiful person / bjuːtɪfəl pɜːsn / n. P 7 F

one who has the capacity to relate openly and warmly with others; does not have a physical connotation here.

Meaning change.

360. Beauts / byuːts / n. pl. S 29 J

an unusually beautiful or remarkable person, thing or plan. (WF) (P)

orig. used ironically.

Abbreviation by back-clipping: beaut/y/.

361. Beefed up / biːfd ʌp / adj. S 15 F

added strength; increased power and stamina, as in:

"The 450 is a beefed up version of the 325."

Poss. orig. from rural use where it meant lit., "to store up on beef by slaughtering a cow."

362. Biggies / bɪgiːz / n. pl. S 7 M

important, influential people, events or things.

-ie suffix, see #31.

- 362a. Black power / blák pàwər / n. S 15 F
 the influence or power of those people with black skin coloring, spec. the negroes.
 Fig. use of black.
 Cf. brown power #369.
363. Blackwash / blákwəš / n. S 18 F
 the covering up or glossing over of a misdeed performed by a member of the Afro-American group.
 Formed by direct analogy to whitewash see #340.
364. Blow the gaff / blòw ǝ gáf / vb. S 24 F
 to reveal the trick or secret which made something run; seem legitimate or the like. (WF) (P)
 Orig. carnival and pitchman use.
Gaff means gimmick (a concealed device or stratagem)
365. Blow your cool / blòw yorrkúwl / vb. P 12 F
 to become agitated, emotionally upset, tense, etc. over a situation rather than remaining calm, detached and unemotional, which is cool.
 Cf. #166.
366. Blue talk / blúw tòk / n. S 29 J
 swearing; talk involving a high content of taboo words.
 Compound.
367. Boggle / bógl / vb S 31 J
 to hesitate, stall, be reluctant to do something, as in:
 "Hē boggled at the sight of her."
368. Boondocks / búwndòks / n. S 3 F
 an isolated forest, swamp, mountain or jungle region; uncivilized country, wild terrain. (WF)
 Orig. f. WWII use; f. the Tagalog bundok meaning mountain.
369. Brown power / bráwn pàwər / n. S 15 F
 the influence or power of those people with brown skin coloring, esp. the Hawaiian people, as in: "Brown power is on the rise in the Hawaiian Islands."
 Prob. formed by analogy to black power, # 362a.

370. Brushoff / brʌsɔf / n. S 11 F

the act of brushing off, ignoring or rejecting a person or thing. (WF) (P)

Compound; by analogy to act of brushing clothes, etc.

-off suffix word, see #246.

371. Bubbly / bʌbli / n. S 7 F

champagne.

fig., after the effervescence of champagne.

Cf. #101.

372. Bugaboos / bʌgəbʊwz / n. S 29 J

a nemesis; a real or imagined obstacle that cannot be overcome; something that always causes failure or bad luck. (WF)

373. Bugs you / bʌgz yu / vb. S 29 J

makes you angry, bothers or irritates you.

Meaning change; Cf. #30.

374. Bum deal / bʌm diəl / n. S 6 M

a deal which has turned out to be inferior, unsatisfactory or not to be serving an intended purpose.

Cf. #32.

375. Canned / kænd / vb. S 5 M

fired or dismissed from one's job.

Poss. orig. f. fig. analogy to music or talk being canned, meaning recorded (theater and television use).

376. Carry the ball / kəri ɔ bɔl / vb. S 4 F

to do most of the work; to be responsible for the successful accomplishment of a specific task. (WF)

Lit., to carry the ball (or be the most responsible team member) in a ball game.

377. Cheek / ʃi:k / n. S 1 M

impudence; audacity; nerve.

Colloquial since c1830.

378. Chillers / ʃilərz / n.pl. S 3 F

spine-tingling; frightening, eerie movies or the like.

Fig. f. anything exciting which is said to send chills through the body; hence chill + -er suffix (see #32).

379. Clap-trap / kláp-trap / n. S 4 F
nonsense; lies; exaggerated talk; bull.
Rhyming reduplication.
380. Clean sweep / kliyn swiyp / n. S 11 F
the act of accomplishing something without faltering on any aspect of it. (WF)
Fig. use of sweep.
381. Climb-down / kláym-dawn / n. S 10 F
abandonment of a position, stand, assertion or boast previously taken.
Colloquial since c1880.
Fig. use of compound.
382. Clincher / klinčər / n. S 29 F
a deciding factor; the crux of an argument. (WF)
Functional shift.
-er suffix, see #32.
383. Come off it / kám of it / VB. S 3 F
to stop doing or saying what one is doing or saying, esp. because one's actions or words are meaningless or offensive. (WF)
Emphatic use; for use of it without antecedent, see #36.
384. Cop-out / kòp-áwt / vb. S 29 J
to renege or withdraw from involvement in some action, plan, task, etc; to cease to be actively engaged in an endeavour. (WF)
Cf. #54.
385. Cram-course / krám-kòrs / n. S 19 F
a course for which one packs information into one's mind, esp. in preparation for an examination to be held soon. (WF) (P)
Compound. Common college student use.
386. Crank / krank / n. P 29 J
a nut; an oddball; crazy; an insane person.

387. Credibility gap / kɾɛdɪbɪlɪtɪy gap / n. S 31 J

room for disbelief; an area in any situation, policy, or the like which is unsupported by facts and thus leaves an unqualified gap in information whose credibility is therefore open to question.

Cf. generation gap #98.

388. Crud touch / kɾʌd tʌtʃ / n. S 27 J

anything inferior, worthless, ugly or disgusting; hence anything with these qualities.

389. Crunch area / kɾʌnʃ ɛriyə / n. S 18 F

an area in any bill, policy, event or the like where there are inevitably going to be difficulties, disagreement or even violence, as in: "Within this contract as its set up, part 5 is going to be the crunch area."

Fig. use of crunch.

390. Cumshaw / kʌmʃəʊ / n. S 19 F

a tip; a gratuity.

Cf. 364, #478, 517.

391. Cure-all / kyʊr-əl / n. S 1 M

something which has a wide applicability for fixing faulty areas, usu. a medical application, as in:

"Try this cure-all of mine for that nasty cough."

392. Damn all / dʌm ɔl / n. S 7 F

little or nothing.

Colloquial since c1915.

A bowdlerization of fuck all.

393. Ding-a-ling / dɪŋ-ə-lɪŋ / n. S 1 M

a person who acts queerly or stupidly; an idiot; usu. a jocular application.

Rhyming reduplication.

394. Dim-witted / dɪm-wɪtəd / adj. S 4 F

dumb; dense-headed; dull; stupid.

Fig. use of dim.

395. Discotheque / dískətek / n. S 1 F

a night club for teenagers or young people where one can hear rock music, dance to it and watch the psychedelic gyrations.

Loanword from Fr.: a compound made up of disc- f. disque (phonograph record) and the second element of bibli/othèque.

396. Do a Diefenbaker / duw ə diyfənbəkər / vb. S 7 M

to groan, moan and otherwise indicate one has been hard done by, usu. implying that it is unjustified and totally unwarranted.

A Canadianism.

397. Down the drain / dəwn ðə dreyn / adj. S 29 J

lost; lost through wastefulness or carelessness.

Fig. use of drain.

398. Drop-in / drɒp-in / n. S 30 J

an occasion on which people casually arrive at a predetermined place without any great fuss and stay for a short while and subsequently leave with an equal lack of fuss.

-in suffix, see #271.

399. Dumb bunny / dʌm bʌniy / n. P 29 J

a person who is bewildered, confused or habitually perplexed, (WF)

Colloquial since c1925.

Application is usu. more in affection and sympathy than criticism.

400. Dumbell / dʌmbəl / n. S 24 F

a stupid person.

Orig. attributed to cartoonist T A. Dorgan.

401. Eat a helping of crow / iyt ə hɛlpiŋəv krɔw / vb. S 25 F

to find out that you are wrong about something and to be justly embarrassed and admit your mistake.

Crow here being about the lowest of edibles!

402. Egg-head / ˈɛɡ-hɛd / n. S 1 M

an intellectual; a person deeply interested in cultural or scientific affairs.

Prob. orig. through popular image of an academician.

Became popular during the presidential campaign for Adlai Stevenson, when it had a political connotation.

403. Egg on my face / ˈɛɡ on maɪ feɪs / vb. S 6 M

to have suffered a disgrace, a humility or embarrassment through one's own mistake or fault, intended or otherwise.

404. Euromart / yurowmɑrt / n. S 18 F

European common market.

Portmanteau word: Euro/pean common mark/et/.

405. Fade-outs / n.pl. S 18 F / feɪd-awts /

those people who are physically unfit and because of it have little or no endurance and lit. fade out soon through physical exhaustion.

-out suffix word, see #11.

406. Flapdoodling / flapdʊdliŋ / n. S 3 F

talking or acting nonsensically or foolishly; baloney.

Since c1830.

407. Flash fire / flɑʃ faɪər / n. P 27 F

a sudden fire; a fire that comes with no warning, fast and sensational.

Prob. reinforced by the expression, flash in the pan.

Cf. #408.

408. Flash flood / flɑʃ fləd / n. P 27 F

a sudden flood, coming without warning.

Cf. flash fire #407.

409. Flu bug / flʊ bʌg / n. S 1 F

the virus or contagious aspect of the flu that travels from person to person thus infecting large groups. (WF)
Colloquial since c1840.

Abbreviation of Flu by back and front-clipping: in/flu/enza.

Bug, in this case, means insect in general and here means germ or virus.

410. Folksy / fowksiy / adj. P 27 F

having a down-to-earth homey quality; having an appeal to the folks or good common people, unsophisticated and unembellished. Slightly derogatory.

Formed from folks(pl.) + -y suffix (see #31).

411. Foul-up / fawl-ʌp / n. S 3 F

a mess made of things; a blunder; a mix-up. (WF)

Colloquial since WWII.

-up suffix word, see #6.

412. Gaga / gaga / adj. S 7 F

crazy, silly, irrational; having lost one's objectivity and perspective. (WF)

From the French.

Reduplication.

413. Gloom / gluw / vb. S 22 F

to go about being pessimistic over something; to be sad or downcast; depressed.

Functional shift f. noun to verb, extending its use.

414. Glue-blown / gluw-blown / adj. S 4 F

usu. in ref. to someone's mind or consciousness which is fig. blown beyond the normal boundaries by the sniffing of glue fumes from a paper bag.

415. Goon / guwn / n. S 4 F

a strong, stupid, unimaginative man; used both disparagingly and humorously.

Poss. orig. f. Goon, the name given to a Virgin Island negro.

416. Green light / griyn layt / n. S 27 J

approval; permission to proceed; a go-ahead sign.

From the traffic signal.

417. Grilled / grild / vb. S 29 J

questioned, usu. over a long period of time, in a rapid and rough manner; forcefully interrogated.

Fig. f. the idea of cooking over a hot grill.

-ed suffix, see #25.

418. Gut issue / gAt iʃyʊw / n. S 11 F
the solid substance; forceful or meaty contents of any issue after all the frills or ornaments are removed. (WF)
Derived f. guts, Cf. #115.
419. Hacks / haks / n.pl. P 7 M
a hack is a taxicab.
Colloquial.
Orig. f. a horse-drawn hackney coach used for public transportation years ago.
Abbreviation by back-clipping: hackney
420. Hammer out / hāmər əwt / vb. S 27 J
to formulate an idea, policy or procedure.
-out suffix, see #11.
421. Hangover / hāŋŏvər / n. S 10 F
the unpleasant physiological effects occurring after drinking too much of an alcoholic beverage. (WF)
Common since c1920.
422. Haywire / hēywayər / adj. S 24 F
broken; flimsy; poorly constructed or equipped; jumbled or confused. (WF)
Orig. prob. f. farmer, rancher and logger use, f. the use of baling wire to mend various implements, thus causing an association between haywire and dilapidated or jumbled things.
423. Helluva / hēləvə/ adj. S 7 F
exceptionally or exceedingly thorough or severe; anything remarkable, insulting, audacious or bold, as in: "One helluva time."
Contraction of hell of a substituting sound equivalents for the orthographic.
424. Hide-away / hāyd-əwēy / n. S 3 F
a retreat; a place to go to that is out of the way and known to no one or very few but yourself.
-away suffix word, see #63.
425. Hogwash / hōgwəʃ / n. S 15 F
insincere talk or writing; exaggerations; lies, etc.
A euphemism; colloquial use.

426. Hog wild / hɒg wayld / adj. P 7 M
to be wildly excited; temporarily irrational owing to excitement, anger or happiness.
427. Holed up / hɔʊld ʌp / vb. S 22 F
hidden away somewhere, usu. for purposes of secrecy.
-up suffix word, see #6.
428. Honkies / hɒŋkiys / n.pl. S 18 F
cheap saloons featuring gambling games and dancing;
cheap small town theaters or brothels.
Orig. p^oss. f. honky-tonk; also onomatopoeitic orig.
-ie suffix, see #31.
429. Horse and buggy operation / hɔrs ənd bʌgiy ɒpəreɪsən / n. S24F
an old-fashioned operation or business. (WF)
Fig. expression contrasting the old mode of transport against the current motorized form.
430. Horse feathers / hɔrs fɛðərz / n. S 27 J
bunk; baloney; nonsense.
A euphemism.
431. How does that grab you? / həʊ dəz ðæt grəb juw? / S 27 J
how do you like that? what's your response to that?
Orig. jazz and beat use, now general student and popular use.
Fig. use of grab.
432. Hucksters / hʌkstərz / n.pl. S 27 J
a huckster is a retailer of small goods in a small shop or booth at a stall; a pedlar; a hawker. (OED)
From hawks to hucks; now has a connotation of a dishonest trader.
-ster suffix, see #227.
433. Identikits / ʔyɪdɪntiɪkits / n. S 7 M
kits for "putting on" your identifying characteristics or traits, for creating one's image.
Formed by analogy to make-up kits which have the same connotation of applying an image other than your real self.
Portmanteau word: identi/fying / + kits.
Neologism.

434. Image-wise / ɪməʒ-ˈweɪz / adv. S 29 J
 as far as (your) image goes; e.g. the image of a person
 or the image that others have of him.
 Neologism.
 -wise, an adv. forming suffix meaning, in such and such a
 manner, way or respect (the equivalent of -ly: like), is
 currently a very productive word giving terms such as :
car-wise, liquor-wise, animal-wise, etc.; endless poss.
 applications.
435. In / ɪn / adj. S 29 J
 fashionable; popular.
 Contrary: out; Cf. in-group, out-group.
436. Jackpot / ˈdʒækpɒt / n. S 24 F
 success; money; winnings, as in: "I hit the jackpot."
 Sarcastic usage also.
437. Kit and caboodle / kɪt ənd kəˈbʊdəl / n. P 12 F
 the whole lot; everything; the works. (P)
 Orig. prob. f. the English kit: a set, a collection of things
 and U.S. boodle: a crowd (itself f. Portuguese cabedal)
 with the kit and being slurred to ca, hence caboodle; a
 retention of kit.
438. Kite-flown / ˈkaɪt-fləʊn / adj. S 11 F
 the past form f. to fly a kite meaning, to put out a
 feeler, to air an opinion or the like in order to test
 it out; hence, kit-flown means that a policy, opinion, etc.,
 has been tested and is sound.
439. Laugh-in / ˈlɑːf-ɪn / n. S 29 J
 a gathering or event at which the purpose is to laugh or
 enjoy oneself.
 Orig. f. the television program Laugh-In.
 -in suffix pattern, see #271.
440. Lay one's cards on the table / léy wanz kárdz on ðə téybəl /
 vb. phr. S 4 F
 to disclose one's plans. (P)
 From card game or gambling jargon.

441. Live-in / liv-in / n. S 25 F
 gathering at a place for the purposes of living in
 or on the premises, usu. to demonstrate against something,
 although now can be used generally to mean "live-in" at
 one's own house, etc.
 -in suffix, see #271.
442. Lose out on / lùwz awt on / vb. S 29 J
 to lose the chance or opportunity for something;
 to miss something, as in: "She lost out on her chance
 to get the prize."
443. Mace / meys / n. P 24 F
 an anti-riot gas similar to tear gas which, through
 its illness-producing effects, causes crowds to disperse.
 A tradename.
 Poss. f. mace meaning, a blackjack, a club.
444. Mags / magz / n.pl. S 17 F
 magazines.
 Abbreviation through bac^K-clippin: magazines.
445. Medicare / mèdiyker / n. S 17 F
 a program, introduced by the government, which takes
 care of the people's medical expenses for a small
 annual fee.
 Portmanteau word: medi/cal/ care.
446. Moneybags / m'niybàgs / n. S 7 F
 a wealthy person. (WF) (P)
 Fig. use; colloquial since c1915.
447. Muffed / m'ft / vb. S 1 M
 to muff means to fail to take advantage of an opportunity;
 to bungle; to fumble. (WF) (P)
 Orig. f. muff, an echoic word representing an inarticulate
 sound. (OED)
448. Mumbo-jumbo / m'umbow-j'umbow / n. S 19 F
 meaningless jargon. (P)
 Rhyming reduplication.

449. Nit-picking / nít-píkɪŋ / vb. S 1 F
looking for and finding minor errors. (WF)
450. No-no / nów-nów / n. S 1 M
a thing that should not have been done; a bad mistake.
Reduplication formation.
451. No-shows / nów-sówz / n.pl. S 3 F
a no-show is a person who fails to claim, use or cancel
his reservation for theater or the like. (WF)
Orig. commercial airline use; colloquial since c1950.
452. Now generation / nów gènréysən / n. S 3 F
the young generation that is most hep with modern
times, the most aware of modern music, fashions, art,
dance, etc.
Orig. with beat or jazz use.
Functional shift.
453. Numb-thumbs / ním-θəmz / n. S 1 M
one who is clumsy with his hands; a butter-fingers.
Rhyming reduplication.
454. Old codger / ówld kójər / n. S 29 J
an old man, with a connotation of a "character."
Colloquial since c1756.
old-prefix word which loosely means friend, suggests
familiarity, intimacy or sympathy.
455. On the up and up / on ðə ʌp ənd ʌp / adj. S 3 F
honest; trustworthy; fair-dealing or fair-minded;
legitimate; on the level. (WF)
456. Opt out / òpt ʌwt / vb. S 30 J
to choose to withdraw from participation in any
plan, occasion, job, etc.
Cf. cop-out, #384.
-out suffix word, see #11.
457. Outfall / ʌwtfɔl / n. S 7 F
the waste or runoff from any activity or production,
as in: "The outfall from the smelter is up ten percent."
Formed with out- prefix + fall.

458. Out in the weeds / awt in ðə wiɪdz / vb. P 7 M
in an isolated, bushy, uncivilized region. (WF)
Cf. boondocks, #368.
459. Par for the course / par for ðə kɔrs / S 3 F
about what one could expect; a predictable average.
From the game of golf.
Meaning shift.
460. Payola / peɪwɒlə / n. S 29 J
graft; blackmail or extortion money. (WF)
-ola suffix of Italian orig.; a noun-forming suffix
usu. only a decorative lengthener giving flippant
connotations.
461. Peach on / piɪtʃ ɒn / vb. S 11 F
to inform; to blab; squeal on or tell on. (P)
Meaning and functional shift; Cf. # 471A.
Colloquial since c1860.
462. Peachy / piɪtʃi / adj. S 15 F
anything pleasing, excellent or admirable; wonderful. (WF) (P)
Frequent ironic use.
-y suffix, see #31.
463. Pip-squeak / pɪp-skwiɪk / n. S 22 F
an insignificant person or object. (P)
Poss. echoic orig. f. the noise made by a small Ger.
shell of high velocity during WWII.
464. Play down / pleɪ daʊn / vb. S 29 J
to underemphasize something or someone; to underrate.
-down suffix word, see #63.
465. Play it cool / pleɪ it kuəl / vb. S 31 J
to remain relaxed, calm, aloof and unemotional in any
situation; hip, but having a quiet, objective, aloof attitude.
Orig. with cool jazz players who were white musicians
with university training and a highly sophisticated
knowledge of musical techniques. As a result, the cool
movement has been characterized by the intellectual
approach to life in general.
Since c1948.

466. Play up / plèy ʌp / vb. P 24 F
to emphasize or glamorize anything or anyone, as in:
"He played up her housekeeping talents to the potential husband."
-up suffix words, see #6.
467. Pooh-pooh / puw-puw / S 4 F
to pass something off as nonsense; to disbelieve. (P)
Reduplication; onomatopoeic formation.
468. Poppings-off / pòpɪŋs-ɒf / n. S 7 F
situations in which one criticizes, complains, brags, rants or states opinions loudly and emotionally, with or without cause. (WF)
Colloquial since c1930.
-off suffix word, see #246.
469. Pourboire / puwrbwár / n. S 19 F
a tip; a gratuity.
Cf. cumshaw #390.
Orig. f. French.
470. Punks / pʌŋks / n. pl. S 13 F
a punk is a petty hoodlum; one who thinks he wants to be a hoodlum but lacks real toughness or experience.
Poss. orig. f. Hindustani via British army use where it meant, bread.
471. Pussyfoot / púsiyfùt / vb. S 18 F
to tread delicately or softly on a sensitive area;
to be very quiet while moving about an area or place.
Analogy to the way a cat walks.
472. Put up for grabs / pùt ʌp fɔr grábz / S 29 J
to open something for bids or offers from everyone.
as in: "He decided to put the contract up for grabs."
473. Raise hob / rèyz hób / vb. P 24 F
to celebrate wildly or to criticize or castigate thoroughly and in anger. (WF)
474. Red power / rèd páwər / n. S 6 M
the power or influence that the communists ("reds") have in any sphere of activity.
Formed by analogy to black power, see #362a.
Cf. brown power #369.

475. Rethresh their straw / riyθrés ðer straw / vb. S 27 J
to go over their thinking on a situation or task again.

Fig. use here.

476. Rib-tickler / ríb-tìklør / n. S 29 J
a joke; something that is amusing. (WF)
Since c 1850 .

-er suffix, see #32.

477. Schmo / šmów / n. S 5 M
a foolish, idle person; one easily deceived; a naive person; a goof. (WF)
From the Yiddish.

sch- suggests dislike, dishonesty, disinterest, mockery or is an attempt to deflate pomposity; a vocal way of shrugging one's shoulders.

478. Screwball / skrúwbòl / n. S 7 F
an eccentric person; one with unusual ideas or beliefs; a nut; a crackpot; a goofy person.
Orig. prob. f. baseball, which called a ball that moved in any unexpected way, a screwball.

479. Scum / skám / n. P 29 J
low; contemptible, trashy type of people. (WF)
Fig. use.

480. Shebang / šebán / n. S 3 F
a collection of all one's possessions; a collection of anything; an entire series of actions, as in: "The whole shebang."
Colloquial since c1870.

481. Slash / slaś / n. P 27 F
the waste or stubble material left over after a land-clearing project has been completed; usu. it is burned, thus, slash-burning.
Meaning and functional change f. vb. to slash or cut something.

482. Smackdab / smàkdáb / adv. S 4 F
directly; precisely; on the mark, as in: "Smackdab in the middle of things."
Onomatopoetic formation.

483. Smart-aleck / smárt-álək / n. S 7 F
 a know-it-all; a wise-guy; a wiseacre. (WF) (P)
 Orig. c1870 in USA; Colloquial.
484. Smidgeon / smijən / n. P 19 M
 a small amount. (WF)
 Colloquial since c1845.
485. Smokescreens / smókʃkriynz / n.pl. S 25 F
 cover-ups or diverters of attention, usu. away from the important issue which is presumably faulty in some respect. Thus, diversionary tactics (smokescreens) are employed to focus the attention elsewhere.
 Orig. prob. by analogy to the hazy smoke which a fire creates.
486. Spiel / spiyl / n. P 19 M
 a bonspiel.
 Abbreviation through front-clipping: /bon/spiel.
 From the German.
487. Snafu-in / snáfuw-in / n. S 1 M
 situation normal all fucked up -in; thus meaning an event in which there is a preponderance of bungling.
 Orig. WWII army use.
 An acronym combined with the -in suffix pattern (see #271).
488. Snappish / snápiš / adj. S 22 F
 nasty; quick to retort in an unpleasant and uncalled for manner.
 - ish suffix added to an adj. snappy, gives the meaning of rather or somewhat.
489. Snappy / snápiy / adj. S 24 P
 quickly; smartly; neatly, as in: "Make it snappy!"
 Colloquial use.
 -y suffix, see #31.
490. Snowball / snóból / vb. P 20 F
 to grow or increase rapidly.
 Fig., with ref. to how a snowball builds up in size as it rolled down a slope in wet, clinging snow.

491. Snowed under / snəʊd ʌndər / vb. S 24 F
burdened by an excess of work or responsibilities.
Fig. use.
492. Spitters / spɪtərz / n. S 22 F
bad times; bad luck, as in: "Last year was one full of spitters for me."
Prob. adapted f. the saying, "a spit in your eye."
-er suffix, see #32.
493. Square / skwer / n. S 29 J
a person scorned because he is not in the know or esp. not aware of modern interests, activities, groups, fashions or fads which the speaker considers vital.
Orig. used by bop and cool groups, now widely accepted; evolution f. such expressions as: square John, square-head, etc.
494. Starchy / stɑːtʃi / adj. S 29 J
stiff and unbending in one's attitudes, opinions, etc.
fig., f. starched white collars and cuffs.
-y suffix, see #31.
495. Stumblebum / stʌmblbʌm / n. S 11 F
an unemployed, homeless street beggar (esp. if alcoholic) who is usually in a dazed condition. (WF)
Now jocular application.
496. Stumping / stʌmpɪŋ / vb. S 29 J
campaigning for a political election.
From stump speech meaning, political speech.
Since c1850.
497. Suckered-in / sʌkəd-ɪn / vb. S 13 F
deceived; fooled or tricked by false promises. (WF)
-in suffix formation, see #271.
498. Superjet / suːpərjet / n. S 10 F
a jet airplane much larger and capable of carrying larger loads than normal jet airplanes existing today.
Super-prefix, see #304-09.

499. Supersonic / sùwpərsónik / adj. S 1 M

above the sound barrier.

Super- prefix, see #304-09.

500. Supertanker / súwpərtànkə / n. S 10 F

a tanker larger than most normal ships; one capable of carrying enormous loads.

Super- prefix, see #304-09.

501. Taps / taps / vb. S 27 J

to tap means to broach; to draw from, as in: "The Community Chest taps a new source of funds in the special services department of the government."

Orig. prob. f. tap meaning, to open up or penetrate something so as to extract something from it, as in to tap a cask of liquor and draw off the liquid from it.

502. Thing / θɪŋ / n. P 7 M

what pleases one most; what is more natural to one, as in: "Do your own thing, man."

Cf. bag #8.

503. Think-in / θɪŋk-ɪn / n. S 17 F

a gathering for the purposes of pooling intellectual abilities to solve or discuss certain subjects or problems.

Cf. think-tank #322.

-in suffix, see #271.

504. Throw the book at / θròw ðə bók àt / vb. S 4 F

to penalize, punish, reprimand or criticize a person severely. (WF) (GOL)

Orig. underworld use, f. the image of a judge sentencing a criminal to every penalty in the book of law.

505. Thug / θʌg / n. S 4 F

a hoodlum; a strong man acting or employed as a body guard or to commit acts of violence or intimidation. (WF)

From Hindi thag meaning, cheat or swindler; also associated with professional robbers and murderers in India who strangled their victims.

506. Tickey-tackey / tikiy-takiy / adj. S 17 F
messy; touchy; sensitive; unpleasant.
Reduplication with vowel change.
507. Ticking off / tikiŋ ɔf / n. S 3 F
a telling off; an upbraiding; a reproach; a reprimanding.
From the ticking off of a person's name on a list.
Partly influenced by the phr. to tell off.
-off suffix word, see #246.
508. Tosh / toš / n. S 4 F
nonsense; rubbish; ridiculous. (P)
Poss. f. dial. toshy meaning, over-dressed or tawdry.
Since c1890.
509. Trinkgeld / trɪŋkɐld / n. S 19 F
a tip; a gratuity.
Cf. cumshaw #390.
510. Troubleshooters / trɪbl suwtɔrz / n. S 3 F
persons employed to seek out areas of difficulty in
any situation, with the purpose of dealing with any
troubles before they become serious.
-er suffix, see #32.
511. Uppity / ʌpətiy / adj. S 3 F
snobbish; aloof; having a superior manner; presumptuous. (WF)
From up + -ity suffix.
Orig. f. the sense of having a lot of money (c1680).
Colloquial.
512. Wash-trading / wɔs treɪdɪŋ / n. S 12 F
quick stock market manipulation.
Financial jargon.
513. Wasp / wɔsp / n. S 27 F
white anglo saxon protestant, designating the general
middle class American; also waspish, adj.
An acronym.
Mainly hippy and civil rights use.
-ish suffix, see #488.
514. Where its at / hwɛr its ət / S 4 F
the place or time where all the best, most modern or
hip things are happening.

515. Wised up / wáyzd Áp / vb. S 13 F
 informed; able to see the point of something, to realize the realities of a situation. (WF)
-up suffix word, see #6.
516. Zillion / zilyən / n. P 17 F
 an exceedingly large indeterminate number.
 Note the rhyme with the models: million, billion.

(iii) HEADLINES

517. All fired up / òl fayrd Áp / vb. S 30 J
 angry or annoyed; all enthused or worked up and ready to do something. (WF)
-up suffix, see #6.
518. Après-ski / áprey-skiy / adj. S 29 J
 after-ski, in ref. to clothes, boots, fashions, etc.
 A French loan word.
519. Astronaut / ástrənòt / n. S 30 J
 a person who mans the spaceships on flights to outer space or interstellar explorations.
 Lit. a navigator of the stars.
 Compound f. word elements astro- (star) + -naut (sailor, navigator).
 Cf. aquanaut #4.
520. A-sub / éy-sÁb / n. S 31 J
 atomic submarine.
 Portmanteau word: a/tomic/-sub/marine/.
 Orig. WWII use.
521. Axed / akst / vb. S 31 J
 severed; cancelled; cut off; usu. with some connotation of force, retaliation, unpleasantness, etc.
 By analogy to chopping with an axe.
522. Belly-laugh / béliy-láf /
 a deep, loud, long uninhibited laugh-said to be coming from the belly. (WF)
 Colloquial.

523. Bit of a bind / bít əvə báynd / adj. S 29 J
a predicament, as caused by conflicting obligations;
a tight spot; a jam. (WF)
524. Bit of a choker / bít əv ə čówkər / adj. S 29 J
Orig. any big, solid article of food which lit. would
choke one when swallowed; now sarcastic, in the sense
that any event causes mock choking or heartbreak,
sadness and the like. (WF)
525. Blow one's top / blòw wànz tóp / vb. S 7 F
to lose one's temper; to become violently angry; to have
a tantrum as a result of uncontrollable rage.
Colloquial use.
Cf. the phr. blow one's stack.
526. Blow-up / blów-ʌp / n. S 31 J
an explosion; an uproar; a quarrel; a fight.
-up suffix word, see #6.
527. Bonanza of benefits / bənánzəv bənəfíts / n. P 4 F
a fortune, or windfall of benefits. (P)
From the Spanish bonanza meaning prosperity.
528. Boost / buwst / vb. S 29 J
to increase; advance; etc.
529. Brain drain / bréyn-dreyn / n. S 29 J
the loss of intellectuals (or lit. their brains) to
another place or company.
Rhyming reduplication.
530. Breakthrough / bréykθrúw / n. S 28 J
an important or critical advance toward completion or
the success of a project or endeavour.
Orig. f; the frequent WWII military aim of breaking through
the enemy's defense lines.
Compound.
531. Brunch-time / brʌŋč-taym / n. S 29 J
a combined breakfast and luncheon, usu. because its
eaten mid-way between the normal times for breakfast
and lunch.
Portmanteau word: br/eakfast/ +/l/unch.

532. Buffs / bʌfs / n.pl. S 30 J
devotees; fans who have a passion for collecting things,
going to spec. events or associating with spec. occupational
groups. WF)
533. Bushwhacked / bʊʃwʌkt / vb. P 13 F
attacked by surprise; fig., f. the idea of someone
jumping out from behind bushes in a surprise attack.
Orig. western jargon.
534. Bust / bʌst / adj. S 8 F
broke; penniless.
Fig. use.
535. Cash cache / kʌʃ kʌʃ / n. P 6 F
a secreted sum of cash.
Punning reduplication.
536. Chew out / ʃuː ɔʊt / vb. S 5 F
to reprimand a person severely; to bawl out. (WF)
Orig. to chew or bite someone's ear, nose, finger, etc.
in a frontier fight; hence, angry enough to chew him up.
-out suffix word, see #11.
537. Conglom / kɒŋɡləm / n. P 6 F
a conglomerate.
Abbreviation through back-clipping: conglom/erate/.
538. Cops 'n cheetah chase / kɒps ən ʃiːtə ʃeɪs / n. P 1 F
the chasing of a wanted man by the police who also
have a cheetah.
Alliteration.
539. Countdown / kaʊntdaʊn / n. P 29 J
the act of counting down from a given number to zero
at equal intervals in preparation for the launching of
an event, a spaceship or the like.
Compound of count + -down.
-down suffix word, see #63.
540. Decorama / dəkɒrəmə / n. S 4 F
a long, expensive, spectacular commercial entertainment
or show, having to do with interior decorating. (WF).
-ama, a recent noun-forming suffix (c1950) f. panorama, which
referred to an occasion in movies where an exceptionally
wide screen is used.

541. Der tag / dər tag / n. P 8 F

the day...

Ger. loan word; Hitler's supporters used rumors of der tag (the day) as a means of terrorizing potential victims of the Nazis.

542. Devil-beaters / dévəl-biytərz / n.pl. S 12 F

those persons who seize upon some sin, scandal or problem and bring it up over and over again in order to get good "mileage" out of it for their own profit or attention, as in: "The NDP are nothing but a lot of devil-beaters over this Commonwealth issue."

Mainly political use; metaphorical.

543. DMZ / diy èm zéd / n. S 4 F

demilitarized zone.

An acronym.

544. Eurodollar / yúrowdòlər / adj. S 10 F

European dollar market.

Portmanteau word: Euro/pean/ dollar.

545. Eye / ay / vb. S 31 J

to examine; to look at, as in: "He eyes the new Block 42 contract."

Fig. use; part of speech change.

546. Fall guy / fól gay / n. S 6 F

an easy victim; a loser; a scapegoat (WF)

Orig. theater and stage use.

Cf. stooge #300.

547. Fallout / fólawt / n. S 29 J

radioactive particles distributed by an aerial nuclear explosion, falling from or floating in the atmosphere.

Colloquial; now more general application to other types of particle distribution.

-out suffix word, see #11.

548. Find our freeze a breeze / fáynd awr friyz ə briyz / S 14 F

to find the cold weather spell easy to adapt to.

...a breeze from phr. to breeze through.

Rhyming and alliteration.

549. Flack / flak / n. S 29 J

a professional publicity man or press agent.

Orig. theater and Madison ave. use.

Metaphorical formation.

550. Flays / fleyz / vb. S 1 F

criticizes; lambastes; rakes over the coals; causes to suffer publically, as in: "Dowding flays government over...."

Fig. usage.

551. Free-wheeling / frīy-hwīylin / adj. S 8 F

spending money liberally; independent; unrestricted. (WF)

Metaphor, f. cars.

552. Fringe benefits / frīŋ bēnəfīts / n.pl. P 7 M

extra attractions and benefits added to any job, offer, or event in order to make it more appealing; usu. in connection with employment.

553. Go-ahead / gōw-əhéd / n. S 29 J

the green light; the sign to advance or proceed.

From the traffic light; Cf. #553.

554. Gotta / gōdə / vb. S 31 J

got to.

Note the telescoping of the two words and the weakening of the final vowel to a schwa, together with the reduction of the intervocalic double /t/ to a /d/.

555. Gunnappers / gʌnnəpərz / n.pl. P 4 F

those persons who steal guns; to seize and take away guns.

Formed by analogy to kidnappers.

-er suffix, see #32.

556. Hardware / hārdwèr / n. P 2 F

weapons, guns, etc.

Orig. implied rifles and knives which could be bought in hardware stores.

557. Hassle / hásəl / n. P 18 F

a disagreement, dispute, quarrel or argument; a struggle or fight. (WF)

558.Hedge / hej / vb. P 5 F

to be indecisive or act indecisively.(WF)

Functional shift.

559.Hijacker / hayjakər / n. S 28 J

one who forces, coerces or steals; one who holds up or robs, esp. of goods being transported in quantity, often illicitly; as one who hijacks a truck, plane, etc.

-er suffix, see #32.

560.Hike / hayk / vb S 27 J

to increase the amount of something.(WF); to raise wages or prices.

561.Hits / hits / vb. S 29 J

to hit means to arrive at or reach; to attain, as in :

"The death toll hits 500." or "A storm hits Vancouver."

Meaning change; fig. usage.

562.ID cards / ay diy kardz / n. S 30 J

identification cards.

An abbreviation by back-clipping: id/entification/ cards.

563.Kickback / kikkək / n. S 29 J

money returned unethically to a firm, purchasing agent, manager or buyer by a seller in order to increase sales or gain favors.(WF)

Orig. underworld use.

564.Kickoff / kikɔf / n. S 30 J

the beginning of anything, as a meeting, campaign or game.

From the football term.

-off suffix word, see #246.

565.Kidnapping / kidnəpiŋ / vb. S 27 J

seizing people for the purposes of extortion.

Formed from kid(child) + nap(prob. f. nab) + -ing.

566.Latch on to / ləʃ ɔn tuw / vb. S 27 J

to get ahold of something or someone.

567.Late flashes / leyt fləʃəz / n. pl. S 30 J

news items of interest, as in: "Late flashes from the pentagon report...."

568. Laundromat / lóndrəmət / n. S 8 F

a public washing place for clothes; a washhouse containing coin-operated washers and dryers.

Portmanteau word: laund/ry//aut/omat/ic/.

Also, by analogy with other -omat words: drinkomat, etc.

569. Line up / láyn ʌp / vb. S 27 J

to arrange for; to organize something or someone, as in:

"He lined up a deal with United Steel."

-up suffix, see #6.

570. Lowdown / lódaʊn / adj. S 30 J

unfair; unethical; degraded; vile; low. (WF) (P)

Colloquial since c1900.

-down suffix word, see #63.

571. Maxi / máksi / adj. P 7 F

maximum.

Abbreviation by back-clipping: maxi/mum/.

Formed by analogy to mini, see #573.

572. Micro / máykroʊ / adj. P 7 F

microscopic.

Abbreviation by back-clipping: micro/scopic/.

573. Mini / míní / adj. P 7 F

minimum.

Abbreviation by back-clipping: mini/mum/.

574. Mini-minis / míníy-míníyz / n. pl. P 18 F

extra short dresses which are already very short.

Reduplication.

575. Move in on / muʊv ín ɒn / vb. S 29 J

to take over; to push out, either with or without violence.

576. Muckraker / mákreɪkər / n. S 12 F

one who searches out and broadcasts scandals, esp. in order to ruin another's reputation.

Colloquial; prob. coined by Teddy Roosevelt.

Cf. mudslinging #182.

577. Nab / nab / vb. S 27 J

to catch or seize in arrest; to seize suddenly, as in:

"The police nabbed the suspect."

Colloquial since c1685.

578. Okay / ɔw key / S 28 J

assent or approval(P)

Cf. okayed #191.

579. One-two punch / wɔn-túw pɔnč / n. S 3 F

two blows in rapid succession.(P)

From boxing jargon.

Fig. use to mean two setbacks in any plan, etc., one after the other.

580. Ouster / ɔwstər / n. S 31 J

a rejection; a forceful purge of someone, as in: "Jones can expect an ouster from his job as chairman if he doesn't shape up."

-er suffix, see #32.

581. Outdraw / ɔwtɔró / vb. S 29 J

to gain superiority in attracting numbers of people or things, as in: "This year's PNE will outdraw last year's."

out-prfix word, see #457.

582. Overbought / ɔwvərbót / vb. S 29 J

purchased more than necessary of anything.

583. Over-the-counter / ɔwvər-ðə-kawntər / adj. S 29 J

stock market term ref. to cheap, unregistered stock of a highly speculative character.

Orig. prob. f. produce sold over the counter which were cheaper and of more doubtful quality than those on special order.

584. Paper leader / pəypər líydər / n. P 12 F

a false leader; superficial boss; not the true, effective leader but appearing to be so.

Formed by analogy to paper tiger, #202.

585. Perma-plates / pərma-plēyts / n. P 1 M

licence plates which stay permanently on the car, adding only a small year-tag sticker to the plate each year.

Portmanteau word: pərma/nent/ plates.

586. Pollutimatum / pəlùwtiméytəm / n. S 19 F

an ultimatum handed down on the topic of pollution in the atmosphere.

Portmanteau word: pollu/tion/ /ul/timatum.

587. Pot / pot / n. S 29 J

marijuana.

Orig. jazz use, now general student and beat use.

Cf. LSD #171.

588. Pop art / póp àrt / n. S 30 J

popular art.

Abbreviation by back-clipping: pop/ular/ art.

Cf. #213.

589. Psst / pst / n. S 14 F

an attention getting sound meaning excuse me, hey, come here, etc.

Onomatopoetic formation.

590. Punch line / pānč lāyn / n. S 3 F

the last line, sentence or part of a joke that gives its meaning and humor. (WF)

Lit. the line which packs the punch; now used in a wide number of situations, not all jokes.

591. Pushers / púšərz / n. pl. S 6 F

that party, group or organization which sells drugs to users for a profit. (P)

-er suffix, see #32.

591a Put something on ice / pút səmθiŋ ɔn áys / vb. S 6 F

to postpone or procrastinate an event, plan, etc.

Fig usage.

592. Put something on the line / pút səmθiŋ ɔn ðə láyn / vb. S 6 F

to risk job, reputation, money or the like in order to

back up or show serious support for your contentions, etc.

593. Quiz / kwiz / n. S 29 J
a short examination, or set of questions.
Colloquial since c1860.
594. Quizzed / kwizd / pp. S 29 J
to be questioned lengthily; to be examined.
Colloquial .
595. Raps / raps / vb. P 18 F
rebukes or reprimands; blames; criticizes. (WF)
Fig. usage.
596. Ring / riŋ / vb. S 27 J
to circle about; to encircle something or someone.
597. Road jam / rōwd jam / n. P 7 M
a crowd or collection of cars on the road, the sheer
number of which stalls all traffic causing delays, confusion
and the like. (WF) (P)
Since c1900 with the buggies.
598. Rookie / rūkiy / n. S 30 J
a beginner; an apprentice; one who is inexperienced;
a recruit.
Usu. used in ref. to policemen, athletes or army recruits.
-ie suffix, see #31.
599. See-saw / síy-sò / adj. S 1 F
up and down; fluctuating, as in: "See^s-~~s~~aw prices hit the stock
market today."
Alliteration with vowel change.
By analogy to children's see-saw in a playground.
600. Shysters / šaystərz / n.pl. S 30 J
a shyster is a crooked, conniving, small-time money
lender or lawyer; one who is not very particular on
how he conducts his business. (WF) (P)
Since c1880.
-ster suffix, see #218.
601. Ski bum / skiy bəm / n. P 17 F
a ski enthusiast who changes his job location frequently
in order to be near the ski slopes.

602. Slams /slamz / vb S 1 F

criticizes; severely reprimands; accuses, as in : "Berger slams the government over Commonwealth fiasco."

Cf. raps #595.

Fig. use.

603. Smash / smaʃ / n. S 31 J

a popular success; a hit; usu. applied to a play, movie or the like.

Loanword from British slang.

604. Smash-up / smaʃ-ʌp / n. S 8 F

an accident; a crash, as in an automobile crash where both cars are smashed or heavily damaged.

-up suffix word, see #6.

605. Sneak preview / sniːk priːvjuː / n. S 31 J

a preview of an event, show, play or the like, before anyone else and on the quiet, so no one knows about it; some connotation of exclusiveness.

606. Soft-pedal / sɒft-pédəl / n. S 28 J

de-emphasization of an opinion or idea that will evoke an unfavorable response. (WF)

Orig. f. the soft pedal on a piano.

607. Spaceball / speɪsbɔːl / n. S 11 F

a game of baseball played in outer space.

Portmanteau word: space /base/ball.

Note the rhyme: space - /base - / -ball.

608. Spyjack / spɔːjæk / n. S 8 F

a hijacker, usu. of a plane, who is thought to be a spy getting his way to a foreign power with information gathered.

Portmanteau word: spy /hi/jack/er/.

Cf. #276.

609. Squeeze / skwiːz / n. S 29 J

extortion; graft.

Functional shift.

610. Stiff / stif / adj. S 27 J

tough; unbending; allowing no exceptions, as in: "Stiff liquor laws."

611. Superblock / súwpərblɔk / n. S 27 J
 an apartment block or a block in a city, which is larger in fact and in concept than any other.
Super- prefix, see #304-09.
612. Super-consumers / súwpər-konsyúwmərz / n. P 18 F
 consumers of a wide variety of goods, with the emphasis on wide.
Super- prefix, see #304-09.
613. Tab / tab / n. S 29 J
 a bill; an amount of money owed on an unpaid bill. (WF)
 Colloquial; Cf. phr. to pick up the tab.
614. Take a powder / tɛyk ə páwðər / vb. P 2 F
 to depart; to run away. (WF)
 From the earlier, take a run-out powder.
615. Take off / tɛyk ɔf / vb. S 30 J
 to leave or depart rather hastily.
-off suffix word, see #246.
616. Takes tumble / tɛyksátámbəl / vb. phr. S 3 F
 falls rapidly in value; usu. said of stocks, real estate or the like. (P)
 From the lit. sense of fall to the ground.
 Financial jargon.
617. Telly / tɛliy / n. P 8 F
 television.
 Abbreviation by back-clipping: tel/evision/.+ -ly.
 Orig. British slang.
618. Tie-in / táy-ín / n. S 27 J
 a connection, a relationship. (WF)
-in suffix, see #271.
619. Tizzy / tíziy / n. S 4 F
 a fit or period of nervousness, anxiety or confusion.
 Dialectal.
620. Transplants / tránsplánts / n. S 27 J
 transfers of human organs from one person to another.
 By analogy to the gardening process.

621. Two-gun / túw-gʌn / adj. S 29 J

said of a town with few and small defenses, usu.
denoting inferiority and impotency.

622. UFO / yúw ɛf ów / n. P 7 F

unidentified flying objects.

An acronym.

623. Whipping-boy / hwipin-bóy / n. S 29 J

a person in any group or organization generally used
as the one to take the brunt of any criticism aimed
at the group from without or within.

Mainly political use.

624. Wind-drinker / wínd-drínkər / n, S 4 F

one who is always behind the others in competitions
or the like.

Lit., one who drinks the wind of another in front of
him- sports use.

-er suffix, see #32.

625. Wiped out / wáypt-ɔwt / vb. S 1 F

eradicated; obliterated; cleaned out of all possessions.

-out suffix word, see #11.

Cf. #344.

626. Witchhunt / wíçhʌnt / n. S 15 F

a seeking out of wrong-doers, usu. in politics. (WF)

627. Write-up / wráyt-ʌp / n. S 31 J

a written account or article, as in a newspaper, esp. a
written review of a product, celebrity, entertainment, etc.

-up suffix word, see #6.

628. Zap / zap/ vb. P 27 F

to defeat decisively. (WF)

(iv) ENTERTAINMENT, SOCIAL and WOMEN'S

629. Backroom butcher / bákrúwm búćər / n. S 27 J

an illegal, untrained abortionist.

By gruesome analogy to a butcher cutting meat.

630. Bang-up / bāŋ-ʌp / adj. S 27 J

excellent; first-rate; exciting, etc. (said of people or things). (WF) (P)

Since c1810.

-up suffix word, see #6.

631. Behind the eight ball / bəhəɪnd ðə ˈeɪt bɔːl / vb S 31 J

to be in trouble or in a difficult situation. (WF)

Orig. f. a popular pocket billiards game in which one loses if the no. 8 ball is hit into a pocket.

632. Blockbuster / blɒkbʌstər / n. S 5 F

a difficult situation or problem.

From the name given to the largest high-explosive bombs dropped by the Western allies towards the end of WWII. One such bomb was capable of demolishing a city block.

633. Boob-tube / buːb-tyuːb / n. S 14 F

television.

This term implies that only idiots waste time watching television.

Rhyming reduplication.

Cf. #660.

634. Brainteaser / breɪntiːzər / n. S 27 J

some chore or job that teases the intellectual powers or stimulates them.

-er suffix, see #32.

635. Broad / brɒd / n. S 27 J

a girl; a woman.

By or from the chest area of a female where they are broad in measurement.

636. Camp / kɑmp / adj. P 24 F

Orig., having spec. ref. to pictures which portray common everyday objects, now generally to anything so made up. From a picture by the Pop artist Andy Warhol, on which a Campbell's soup can appears in such a way that only the first four letters of the name Campbell's are visible.

637. Childrenese / ˈçɪldrənɪz / n. P 24 F
 children's talk; children's vocabulary. (WF)
 -ese, noun-forming suffix denoting the vocabulary
 peculiar to an occupation, individual, etc.
 Cf. journalese, officialese.
638. Chipper / ˈtʃɪpər / adj. S 31 J
 well; fit; lively. (P)
 Colloquial since c1880.
639. Clincher / ˈklɪnʃər / n. S 27 J
 the conclusive statement, event, fact or argument. (P)
 From vb. phr. to clinch a bargain, a deal, etc.
 -er suffix, see #32.
 Colloquial since c1804.
640. Combo / ˈkɒmbəʊ / n. S 5 F
 a combination of people or instruments making up a
 small jazz band. (WF)
 Abbreviation by back-clipping: comb/ination/, + -o suffix,
 giving the word a familiar, slangy connotation.
 Pop and cool use since c1945.
641. Come-on / ˈkʌm-ɒn / n. S 19 M
 an invitation; the act of enticing someone to enter
 into a situation in which he will be victimized, usu.
 financially. (WF)
 Orig. f. theater and radio use; cool use since c1950.
642. Creepies / ˈkriːpiːz / n. S 3 F
 shellfish of any kind.
 From the idea that they crawl or creep along the
 bottom of the sea.
 -ie suffix, see #31.
643. Flub / flʌb / vb. P 1 F
 to bungle; to blunder; to make a mistake, esp. an
 embarrassing one; to make a faux pas. (WF)
644. Foot-stomping / ˈfʊt-stɒmpɪŋ / adv. S 4 F
 enough to make one stamp one's foot, usu. in excitement, as
 in a dance or approval, as in: "Foot-stomping good."
 Compound; Note the alternation stamp/stomp.
 Cf. #39.

645. Get with it / ɡet wiθ it / vb.phr. S 3 F
 to get on the ball; to get going; to get busy. (WF)
 Cf. current phr. with it in expression like "He's not with it."
646. Goof off / ɡuɒf ɒf / vb. P 1 F
 to make a mistake, blunder or faux pas; (WF); to idle away time; to dodge work.
 -off suffix word, see #246.
647. Goof / ɡuɒf / n. S 15 M
 a person that is silly, soft or stupid. (P)
 From dial. goof, goff meaning, a fool.
 Since c1920.
648. Grass / ɡrɑs / n. P 18 F
 marijuana.
 Cf. pot #587 and similar substitute words used by drug addicts, orig. as part of a secret in-group language.
 Now widely known and used esp. by students, hippies, etc.
649. Guffaws / ɡʌfəʊz / n. pl. S 27 J
 loud, derisive laughter.
 Onomatopoetic formation.
650. Half-baked / hʌf-beɪkt / adj. S 7 F
 lacking in intelligence; silly; half-witted; also with connotation of a lacking in culture. (P)
 as in; "That was a half-baked idea."
 Orig. poss. f. British proverb (Cornwall) "He is only half-baked; put in with the bread and taken out with the cakes."
651. Hangups / hʌŋʌps / n. pl. P 19 F
 mental blocks; special enthusiasms or interests, or fig., that a person is obsessed by.
 -up suffix word, see #6.
652. Hard edge / hɑrd eɪʃ / adj. S 31 J
 clearly separated, as in hard edge painting, meaning a canvas with clean, clear separations of colors, areas, etc.
 Neologism; technical jargon of artists.

653. Hard-rock / hɑrd-rɒk / n. S 20 M

a tough guy; a sneery, unemotional man who has little concern for others.

Fig. use of rock.

654. Heart-tugging / hɑrt-tʌgɪŋ / adj. S 3 F

sad; emotionally upsetting; heart-breaking.

Fig., to tug the strings of one's heart.

655. Hydro / haɪdrəʊ / n. P 24 F

the electricity and gas company; hence, electricity or gas. (A)

A Canadianism: hydro-electric power; Niagara Falls provides hydro for many factories; hence, a company or commission producing or distributing electricity as a utility.

From Greek hydro meaning water.

656. Hydroplane / haɪdrəpleɪn / n. S 1 F

a special type of boat that moves so fast over the water it almost flies.

Portmanteau compound of word elements: hydro and /air/plane.

657. Kick / kɪk / n. P 18 F

a thrill, excitement or satisfaction. (WF)

658. Kick the habit / kɪk ðə həbɪt / vb. phr. P 12 F

to drop or stop the habit of doing something, presumably bad or worthless; to force oneself to stop.

Orig. drug addict jargon.

659. Louse up / laʊs ʌp / vb. S 17 M

to spoil, ruin, botch or mess up something. (WF)

Fig. f. louse as a word of abuse; Cf. #169.

-up suffix word, see #6.

660. Magic tube / məʃɪk tʊb / n. S 27 J

television.

Fig., magic in the sense that it brings other parts of the world and even outer space to our homes.

Cf. boob tube #633 for a negative attitude.

661. Markdowns / mɑrkdaʊnz / n. pl. S 15 F

articles in a store that have been marked down in price.

Trade jargon. -down suffix word, see #63.

662.Minimal art / *miniməl ɔrt* / n. S 31 J

art which uses the minimum of components to express its message.

Artists' jargon.

663.Mock-up / *mɔk-ʌp* / n. S 27 J

a model;a mock version of a real thing,usu. for the purposes of study,display,etc. as in : "He unveiled the mock-up of the new Block 42 center."

-up suffix word,see #6.

664.Needle / *niydəl* / vb. S 31 J

to irritate;annoy.(P)

Fig. use of needle.

665.N.G. / *ən ʃi* / adj. S 27 J

no good .

An acronym.

666.Nifty-looking / *niftiy-lʊkiŋ* / adj. P 19 F

stylish;smart;attractive;etc.

Common since c1930.

667.Purchaselease / *pərʃaliys* / n. S 20 F

leasing something with the intention of purchasing it in the end;the plan to do this - spec. ,a car.

Portmanteau word: purcha/se/ lease.

668.Quickies / *kwikiyz* / n.pl. S 27 J

anything done or made quickly.(WF)

-ie suffix,see #31.

669.S.A. / *ès éy* / n. S 27 J

sex appeal.

An acronym.

670.Scratch / *skrač* / n. P 24 M

money;available cash.(WF)

lit. that which has to be scratched for,like a chicken scratches for food.

Since c1915.

671.Scratchy clatter / *skrāčiy klātər* / n. P 21 F

a rasping voice;chatter in an irritating voice.

672. Shot down in flames / šot dāwn in fléymz / pp.adj. S 5 F
 beaten in an argument.(P)
 Orig. airforce slang from WWI.
673. Sidekick / sáydkik / n. S 5 M
 a close companion;a mate.
 From theater and stage use;Cf. stooge #300 and fall guy #546.
 Canadianism since c1915.
674. Slashed to / slášt tùw / vb. S 5 F
 cut down to;reduced to(as in prices of articles in a store.)
 Trade jargon;fig. use.
675. Sopwith-skimmer / sòpwiθ - skimər / n. S 31 J
 a snow skidoo(humorous application).
 Prob. after Snoopy's(Peanuts comic strip)airplane,
 which was itself named after the Sopwith airplane in WWII.
 Cf. snowmobile #285.
676. Soulmate / sówlmèyt / n. S 30 J
 a companion,lover or partner who is attuned to your soul
 as you are to his or hers.
 Cool and jazz use.
Soul-,adj. prefix,now usu. pertains to Negroes or things
 basically Negro;since c1962 it has also expanded to
 indicate authentic sensibility,emotional sincerity,
 honesty,etc.,esp. as relating to cool and beat people.
 Cf. soul food,soul music,soul brother,etc.
677. Sound off / sàwnd óf / vb. P 12 M
 to talk,esp. to complain or expostulate at length;
 to list one's complaints or opinions verbally.(WF)
 Orig. army use.
 -off suffix word,see #246.
678. Spin-off / spín-òf / n. S 6 F
 an extra idea or thing resulting from a major idea or
 thing(as a by-product);as in: "Your idea for the
 production waste is a spin-off from our main product
 market orientation."
 -off suffix word,see #246.
 Business jargon.

679. Stag / stag / adj. P 12 M

a situation or event meant only for men without female companions. (WF) as in: stag party.

Fig. use.

680. Store teeth / stór tîyθ / n. S 31 J

false teeth; not natural but bought, as in a store.

Prob. by analogy to store clothes, store bought (general application), and so on.

681. Staightman / streytman / n. S 27 J

a comedian's accomplice who acts as his foil; a stooge. Theater and stage use.

Cf. stooge #300, fall guy #546 and sidekick #673.

682. Stuff / stʌf / n. S 30 J

implies vagueness in the speaker's mind or ignorance of the precise term or name; generally used as the name for anything through laziness to use the proper name, etc. Colloquial since c1860.

683. Stung / stʌŋ / vb. S 8 F

cheated, esp. by a merchant; overcharged. (WF) (P)

Fig. use of stung.

684. Supermarket / súwpərmàrkət / n. S 27 J

a large self-service store selling groceries, produce and often household articles.

Super- prefix, see #304-09.

685. Swingles / swíngəlz / n. S 30 J

swinging single people.

Portmanteau word: swing/ing/ /sing/les.

Neologism.

686. Tatty / tătîy / adj. S 8 F

worn; threadbare, unkempt and dirty, as in: "Tatty clothes."

Cf. British dial. tat meaning, tangle.

687. Telethon / téləθòn / n. S 27 J

a long, continuous social transaction carried out by the telephone.

Portmanteau word: tele/phone/ /mara/thon.

688. Textbooky / tekstbukiy / adj. P 8 F
 resembling a textbook; having the same approach and style as a textbook; derogatory application.
 -y suffix, see #31.
689. Tops / tops / adj. S 27 J
 the best of anything, either people or things; rated highest; wonderful, as in: "She's tops!"
690. Tube / tyuwb / n. S 27 J
 television.
 From television tube.
 Cf. #633 and #660.
691. Uptight / uptayt / adj. P 18 F
 conventional; set in one's ways; square; tense; hung-up; upset and frustrated over something.
 Mainly student use.
692. Vocaldom / vokəldəm / n. P 24 M
 the realm of speech; wherever the voice is heard.
 -dom suffix, noun-forming means fig., the realm or era or time of.
693. Zesty / zestiy / adj. S 27 J
 vitality; animation; energy; etc., said of people or food.
 -y suffix, see #31.
694. Zing / ~~zin~~ / n. P 27 F
 vitality; zest; animation.
695. Bankroll / ^wbankrol / vb. S 19 F (v) SPORTS
 to subsidize, support or pay for an event, etc.
 Functional shift.
696. Blades / bleydz / n.pl. S 28 J
 ice skates.
 Synecdoche.
697. Blitzed / blitst / vb. S 30 J
 to have forced one's way through rapidly.
 From blitz/krieg/meaning, lightning(war), a massive, devastating, overpowering attack. Now used in English as vb.

698. Blower / blōwər / n. S 4 M
a telephone.
Orig. prob. f. blower, meaning a talkative person.
699. Blubber-boy / blābər-bōy / n. S 4 F
a fat man.
From blubber, the fat of a whale (a gross animal).
700. Buddies / bʌdiyz / n.pl. S 31 J
close friends; pals; companions.
701. Champ / čamp / n. S 4 F
champion.
Abbreviation by back-clipping: champ/ion/.
702. Clobbered / klōbərɔrd / vb. S 31 J
beaten thoroughly.
703. Coastwise / kōwstwāyz / S 4 F
for the coast; as far as the coast goes, as in: "Speaking coastwise, the Vancouver Canucks will host Portland...."
(the Coast here implying the B.C. coast.)
-wise suffix word, see #434.
704. Dollop / dóləp / n. S 28 F
a lump; a sum; the lot; a portion of something. (P)
Dial. poss. f. Norwegian dolp meaning, a lump.
705. Donnybrook / dōniybɹʊk / n. S 29 J
a loud noisy argument, fight, brawl, riot, etc. (WF)
From Donnybrook fair, held annually in the Republic of Ireland. The 1855 fair was suppressed because of wild brawls.
706. Doubleheader / dʌblhédər / n. S 1 F
two games played on the same day, one immediately after the other.
707. Dumb-dumb / dʌm-dʌm / n. P 4 M
a very stupid or foolish person.
Dumb in the sense of stupid shows the influence of Ger. dumm (stupid) and of similar words in other Ger. languages.
Rhyming reduplication.
708. Dumped / dʌmpt / vb. S 27 J
to be thoroughly beaten, as in a sport or game; won handily over; left way behind in points.

709.Faceoff / fěysɔf / n. S 27 J

a situation in which two members of a team stand face to face to hit the ball(basketball) or puck(hockey)to their respective teams,when its to be the deciding point in the game.

-off suffix word, see #246.

710.Floormanship / flórmənsɪp / n. S 13 F

ability while on the floor playing in a basketball game. Prob. formed by analogy to -ship pattern originated by Stephen Potter.(e.g.brinkmanship,one-upmanship.)

711.Greased the skids for win /gríyst ðə skídʒ for wín / vb.phr.

made smart and successful preparations in advance S 27 F which secure a favorable set-up when its time to win.(P) Orig. naval colloquialism c1880.

712.Hoop / huwp / n. S 13 F

in basketball,the metal circle from which the net hangs and through which the ball is thrown to score.

713.K.O. / key ów / n. S 1 F

a knockout.

Boxing jargon.

An acronym:knock out,now used as a word.

714.Kooks / kuwks / adj. S 30 J

crazy;nutty;stupid people.

Poss. f. cuckoo.

715.Laugh it up / ləf it ʌp /vb.phr. P 7 M

to take events laughingly,with a nonchalant attitude.

For use of it without antecedent, see #36.

-up suffix word, see #6.

716.Meat-grinder / miyt-gráyndər / n. S 22 F

tough,rough action,as in:"That game was a real meat-grinder."

By analogy to the action of a meat-grinder.

717.Mooch / muwč / vb. S 30 J

to beg food,money or the like;to borrow,esp. a small amount without intending to repay it.(WF)

718. Old-hat / ˈowld-hat / adj. S 28 J
 well-known; routine; easy. (P)
old-prefix word, see #454.
719. Oodles / ˈuɔdəlz / n. S 4 M
 many; great quantities, as in: "Oodles of money."
720. Oomph / uwmf / n. S 30 J
 sex appeal; power; excitement; enthusiasm. (WF)
 Onomatopoetic formation.
721. Out of one's hair / ˈəwt əv wʌnz hɛr / vb. phr. S 29 J
 to keep out of one's hair means to stop annoying or irritating him; to keep out of his way. (WF)
722. Pee-wee / piy-wi / n. S 4 F
 usu. said of sports played by young boys, as in: "Pee-wee baseball league."
 Rhyming reduplication.
723. Pratfall / prátfɔl / n. P 14 F
 a defeat; a pitfall; fig., from falling on the backside.
 From earlier prat (buttocks) and fall.
724. Pull for / pul fɔr / vb. S 29 J
 to root for; to hope for the best for; to support.
725. Push-over / puʃ-ɔvər / n. S 27 F
 any person, group or team easily defeated in a contest. (WF)
726. Scattergat / skátərgət / n. S 4 M
 shotguns; the type of gun that scatters shot pellets.
 From scatter and gat (gun), an abbreviation for Gatling gun.
727. Shaded / ʃéyd d / vb. S 27 J
 won (a game) by a very small margin. (P)
728. Shamateur / ʃámačər / n. S 10 F
 a phoney amateur; a person who retains amateur status but plays professional or accepts money.
 Portmanteau word: sh/am/amateur.
729. Shocker / ʃókər / n. S 31 J
 an event, result or circumstance that really surprises one.
-er suffix, see #32.

730. Shutout / šátawt / n. S 29 J

a game in which one team is completely excluded from scoring, as in: " It was a complete shutout."

-out suffix word, see #11.

731. Socked-in / sðkt-in / vb. S 4 F

kept in or stationary; stopped from preceeding with plans, usu. because of foul weather or the like. (WF)

From WWII airforce slang in ref. to an airfield unusable because of fog.

-in suffix, see #271.

732. Southpaw / sawəpə / n. S 13 F

a left-handed person.

Orig. f. baseball or boxing jargon where it meant a left-handed player or boxer.

Cf. northpaw #188.

733. Subbed for / sʌbd fər / vb. S 19 F

substituted for.

Abbreviation by back-clipping: sub/stituted/.

-ed an adj. forming suffix.

734. Trimmed / trimd / vb. S 27 J

in games, means beat easily.

735. Triviera / triviyərə / n. S 11 M

the realm of trivia; the spot or area given over to the discussion of minor things.

Formed by analogy to model Riviera.

Portmanteau word: triv/ia/ + /riv/iera.

736. Under the table deals / ʌndər ðə təybəl diylz / n.pl. P 12 F

deals or arrangements made secretly and often illegally, regarding the outcome of a game, a player's moves, etc.

737. Whomp / hwomp / vb. S 26 F

to beat soundly or thoroughly.

738. Wrap-up / wráp-ʌp / adj. S 28 F

the concluding, completing or finishing unit in any event or series of events.

-up suffix word, see #6.

(vi) COMICS

739. Bobbles / bóbəlz / vb. S 20 F

to bobble means to fumble; to mess up; to ruin (something).

740. Bow out / baw awt / vb. S 12 F

to leave; to break off a situation or relationship by departing.

-out suffix word, see #11.

741. Buck / bʌk / n. S 11 M

a dollar.

Poss. f. the animal buck; wide colloquial use since c1850.

742. Cop / kop / vb. S 28 F

to win; to carry off catch or capture (a prize) as in:

"Cop the money, John."

Cf. #54, 55, 384.

743. Creep / kriyp / n. S 11 M

a person who gives one the "creeps"; an odd, loathsome or objectionable person. (WF)

744. Cruisers / krúwzərz / n.pl. S 5 M

taxicabs, which cruise the streets in search of fares.

Meaning change.

-er suffix, see #32.

745. Demo / demow / n. S 22 F

a demonstrator model (of a car, etc.)

Abbreviation by back-clipping: demo/nstrator/.

746. Doll / dol / n. P 17 F

a pretty girl or woman, esp. one who simply graces the scene rather than make an active contribution. (WF)

By direct analogy to toy doll.

747. Don't hand me that / dɔwnt hænd miy ʃat / S 22 F

don't give me that; don't tell me such lies; don't try to con me with elaborate stories.

748. Floored / flórd / vb. S 18 F

shocked or surprised (to the point where one almost faints and falls on the floor). (WF)

749. Flunkeroo / flʌnkəruw / n. S 15 F

a bad failure.

-eroo suffix orig. f. the Spanish -ero and indicates hyperbole in English.

750. Go jump in the lake / gòw jʌmp in ðə léyk / S 3 M

an expression meaning: go to hell; take off.

A euphemism.

751. Go nuts / gòw nʌts / vb. phr. S 7 M

to go crazy; to go out of one's mind due to an intolerable situation.

From the "talkies" c1929.

752. Groovy / grúwviy / adj. S 12 F

excellent; satisfying; in keeping with one's desires.

Orig. c1935 swing use by musicians and devotees. Some cool and far-out use since c1955.

From in the groove, when a phonograph plays its needle is in the groove of the record.

In the groove, prepositional phr. gives:

Groovy adj., a groove n., and to groove vb.

753. Idiot card / ídiyət kɑrd / n. S 20 F

a prompter card, usu. used in entertainment (TV, etc.)

to tell the m.c. what to say next; hence, treating him as if he was an idiot.

754. Kid / kid / n. S 17 F

a child, esp. a young child. (P)

From the young of a goat. Cf. #152.

755. Level with someone / lévəl wiθ sʌmwʌn / vb. S 5 F

to be honest with someone; to give the facts to someone. (P)

756. Live it up / liv it ʌp / S 17 F

to have a good time; to really enjoy living up to the hilt at any particular time.

-up suffix word, see #6.

757. Make a play for / mèyk ə pléy for / vb. S 30 J

to use one's charms to impress one of the opposite sex;

to show a romantic interest in one of the opposite sex. (WF)

758. Out / awt / adj. S 7 M

unconscious. (P)

Meaning change.

759. Pussycat / púsiykàt / n. S 1 M

a girl; an endearing name for a girlfriend.

760. Rat on / rāt òn / vb. S 27 F

to inform on; to tell on.

Cf. # 764, 235.

761. Sharp / šarpiy / n. S 11 M

a person self-consciously alert; a shrewd, alert person. (WF)

-y suffix, see #31.

762. Smashing / smašin / adj. S 22 F

good; great; marvellous; excellent.

From British slang.

Cf. a smash hit, the U.S. version, a back-clipped form.

763. Sock it to me / sók it tùw miy / S 1 F

deliver it to me; give it to me with zest, as in: "Sock it to me baby!" requested of any good, exciting or impressive thing.

From sock meaning, a hard blow with the fist; hence, fig. use.

764. Squeal on / skwiyl òn / vb. S 25 F

to inform on; to tell secret things about someone. (P)

Cf. #760.

765. Stoke up / stòk ʌp / vb. S 26 F

to eat; nourish oneself; fill up on food.

From stoking an engine.

-up suffix word, see #6.

766. Sudden case of the smarts / sādən kéys əv ðə smárts / S 22 F

a sudden realization of the truth about a situation or person; a wising up to something.

767. Third degree / θārd diygrìy / n. S 27 F

prolonged questioning and/or rough handling of a person as by the police, in order to obtain information or force a confession of guilt. (WF)

768. This one's on you / ðís wànz on yúw / S 11 M

this is your treat; this order (of drinks, food, etc.) you will pay for; it's your turn to pay.

769. Tip off / tɪp ɒf / vb. S 28 F
 to give private information about; to supply inside information to someone. (P)
 Colloquial since c1890.
 -off suffix word, see #246.
770. Topside / tɒpsaɪd / n. S 19 F
 on top of; above.
 top-prefix word means, in command of or in control.

(vii) FINANCE

771. Bearish / bɛrɪʃ / adj. P 14 F
 tending to favor low values of stocks; speculation for a fall; financial jargon.
 Orig. phr. was prob. "sell the bear skin" such bargainers being called bear-skin jobbers, in ref. to the proverb: "to sell the bear's skin before one has caught the bear." Hence, sell a bear, to sell what one does not possess. (P)
 -ish suffix, see #773; an adj. forming suffix meaning, like.
772. Brainchild / brɛɪnˈtʃaɪld / n. S 20 F
 any product of one's intellect or imagination, as a plan, invention, work of art or the like.
 Colloquial.
773. Bullish / bʊlɪʃ / adj. S 18 F
 tending to favor high values and prices of corporate stocks; a strong market trend; positive speculation for a rise in prices. (P)
 Financial jargon.
 Prob. formed by bull, a strong beast.
 -ish suffix, see #771.
774. Catch / kætʃ / n, S 14 F
 a problem; a difficulty; a flaw or the part of an otherwise good plan or easy task that causes difficulty.
 Functional shift.
775. Deadbeats / dɛdˈbiːts / n. S 31 J
 worthless idlers, esp. if spongers.
 Colloquial since c1875.

776. Freeze / friyz / n. S 5 F

a holding fast or remaining stationary; remaining at one level, as in: "They put a freeze on prices."

Colloquial since c1880.

777. Peppy / pépiy / adj. S 14 F

energetic; spirited. (P)

-y suffix, see #31.

778. Soft market / sɔft mɑrkət / n. S 3 F

weak; unreliable market with prices poor and fluctuating.

Financial or stock market jargon.

779. Takeover / téykòwvər / n. S 5 F

the taking of control of something by transfer from
or in succession to another.

780. Up-powered / ʌp-pəwərd / n. S 12 F

beefed-up; increased in power.

Prob. formed by analogy to model up-tempo.

CONCLUSIONS AND SUMMARY

The concept of pure or standard language is by definition based upon a prescriptive approach deriving its potency largely from the written tradition. The introduction of this standardizing concept simultaneously created the non-standard, the slang, and assigned it chiefly to vocaldom.

Newspapers, of course, are pre-eminently users of the written word, but they are, I believe, occupants of a special place in the realm of the written word - a place not far from the spoken word. Their predecessor, the book, while also the written word, was and is, with regard to lexicon, chiefly exclusive rather than inclusive. That is, as Marshall McLuhan points out,¹⁰ the book is a private confessional form that provides a point of view for the author and reader alike. The newspaper, on the other hand, is a group confessional form that promotes communal participation. McLuhan terms the press a communal mosaic offering corporate images of society in action in which the reader becomes very involved in the making of meanings for the corporate image. The format reveals the inside story of a community in action and interaction, presenting the discontinuous variety and incongruity of ordinary life. All is unified by a dateline. It is, in contemporary terms, a hot medium.

While the approach of the newspaper has always been largely this way, its appeal is complementary to the relatively recent phenomenon of television, whose low visual orientation and high involvement are apparent. Next to the television, the newspaper is the fastest gatherer and disseminator of news and as such is,

...not merely a repetition of occurrences and reports
but a direct cause of events.¹¹

It is through the medium of the newspaper that our experience is translated into a new medium whereby we receive a playback of earlier awareness.

The news is a near approximation to the grapevine....¹²
having an intensely graphic and base character.

With this in mind, it seems reasonable to state that daily newspapers are, in fact, bordering closely upon the oral tradition of dissemination, based as they are upon the immediate experience. We also know that slang, in great part, is also characteristically based upon immediate experience and is perhaps, as S. I. Hayakawa termed it, "the poetry of everyday life." We must recognize that slang is therefore an ingredient essential to the news media format. It is also important because the newspaper is taking the social sub-groupings that make up the mosaic of everyday society and by direct transposition making them into McLuhan's newspaper mosaic on a daily basis.

For this reason categorization was carried out (see page eleven) as explained earlier, within the lexicon above in order to examine more closely the evidence for slang in each area.

Initial observation proves the contention that the slang usage found in each category indicates at least a basic attempt at developing an "in" jargon. This supports one of the original reasons for the evolution of slang. Even when the popularity of a particular group's slang terms increases until a large segment of the public at large comprehend them, evidence indicates that it still remains fully intelligible only to that group's members.

Much of this sub-group usage apparently has a conscious element of social stratification built into it, whereby if you are in the entertainment business, for example, you must use the "in" jargon to be considered "in" yourself. Similarly for people in Sports, Business and so on. There is a distinct social pressure, both group and self imposed.

While each group or category does have its own peculiar slang there is inevitably a good deal of crossover influence between these speech communities. This has occurred, of course, because of the vast mobility of society at large and through the intermingling of individual group members. Overlapping terms tend to be those with a wide field of application, such as bag, bandwagon, blasted, crackdown, guts and bum.

The major factors influencing the choice of slang items in any of the divisions examined were brevity and impact: brevity, because of the very spatial limitations of the newspaper format as well as of its being a special quality of slang; impact, because of its eye-catching appeal so necessary in the crowded juxtapositions of the newspaper.

Thus, in Headlines, brevity and impact are of crucial importance—we must be able to scan them quickly and they must "grab" our attention. Other devices are often used, such as rhyme, alliteration and purposeful but interesting confusion, but chiefly the headline needs to stand out.

In Sports, a dramatic quality in usage is important, relating to the frenzy in the game or contest.

Financial usage, while not dramatic, does lean distinctively more towards a definite "in" jargon which is much less generally or widely known.

Quite surprisingly, Editorials prove to have a high content of slang and informal usage and are often of an overall colloquial character and tone.

Entertainment and social pages are especially laden with more unusual terminology, due perhaps to their broad coverage of all the pure and applied arts. Generally speaking, these areas represent the segment of life that has wide tolerances for the unusual, and this is naturally reflected in their slang.

Comics contain a basic and quite consistent level of slang, perhaps because it is such a highly participational form of expression, leaving wide limits for individual interpretation. Of additional importance is the fact that comic strips are often syndicated, thus widely read, and therefore themselves a source of slang. Through psychological participation one experiences laughter by language in following the situation responses of comic strip characters, as well as character by language through caricatures and so on. (e.g. the comic strip Peanuts by Charles Schultz is a prime example)

The most productive division comes, of course, from the general areas where there is the greatest overlap between sub-group usage.

Like almost anything else devised and used by human beings, languages are subject to the whims of fashion. This is particularly true of slang and informal usage, where formation patterns are clearly discernable. Compound formations, for example, are an extremely prevalent means of forming new words. Productive formations with -in as a suffix word have become very popular since about 1960 when civil rights protests began to gain national attention. Sit - in was the first word to gain currency and many others have since been formed by analogy to it. Hence, be-in, laugh-in, love-in and swim-in to name some. Other prepositions have also followed the same pattern formation giving: ps^ych^e-out, come-on, freak-out, camp-up and others.

-ster has recently become a notably popular suffix, forming such terms as: punster and prankster.

A recent and increasingly frequent productive prefix is super-; thus, superbowl, superport and superblock, all deriving ultimately from the model of superman.

As well as the relative popularity of compound formations in slang usage, an important trend worth noting is that slang is generally receptive to monosyllabic words more than polysyllabic, not only because of the factor of conciseness but also because it is that very brevity that makes it effective. Additionally, words beginning with a fricative or explosive were by far the most popular in all divisions. Thus, words beginning with p, b, c, f, s, and h gave consistently higher counts than all others.

Finally, vivid metaphor was found to be a frequent characteristic of slang, perhaps due to slang's tendency to base new formations on old content (e.g. to pull the cork on).

In the introductory paragraphs of this thesis it was noted that the Renaissance saw a marked increase in the awareness of language. Similarly today, our age seems to have a distinctive consciousness regarding language. However, whereas the seventeenth and eighteenth century lexicographers and grammarians adopted an authoritarian approach, today's movement indicates a general permissiveness in language.

Now we seem to know enough to enjoy perceiving how the language of a sub-culture may enrich the mainstream of language. In particular, it is important to realize that news media-tied to world syndication as they are-now help to disseminate these sub-culture variants immediately. The adoption of slang and informal usage in the newspapers studied reflects the multiplicity of social sub-groups, the mark of immediacy in transmission and the permissive quality in our approach to language today.

Perhaps this permissiveness in language is another aspect of the far more inclusive phenomenon characteristic of our age; namely, the doubt that any one thing is in itself better than another. Many sociologists seem to assert that what men ought to do is merely what they can be shown that they do do; then, feasibly, by extension, what men do say or write is what they should say or write. Thereby "observed usage" gains daily on standard usage.

FOOTNOTES

1 James Sledd and Wilma Ebbitt, Dictionaries and That Dictionary (Chicago:Scott, Foresman and Co., 1962), p.28.

2 Sledd and Ebbitt, p.30.

3 James Sledd and G. Kolb, Dr. Johnson's Dictionary (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1955), p.36.

4 Harold Wentworth and Stuart Berg Flexner, "Preface," Dictionary of American Slang (New York:Thomas Y. Crowell Co., 1967), p.vii.

5 Charlton Laird, The Miracle of Language (Greenwich, Conn.: Fawcett Publications Inc., 1963), p.68.

6 Leonard Bloomfield, Language (New York:Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1961), pp.402-403.

7 Wentworth and Flexner, p.xi.

8 This outline of the linguistic processes involved in the creation of slang relies heavily upon Wentworth and Flexner, p.596.

9 Edward Sapir, Language (New York:Harcourt, Brace and World Inc., 1949), p.18.

10 Marshall McLuhan, Understanding Media: The Extensions of Man (New York:Signet Books, 1964), p.183.

11 McLuhan, p.190.

12 McLuhan, p.189.

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