A STUDY OF SLANG AND INFORMAL USAGE IN THE NEWSPAPER

by

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ABSTRACT

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 substandard - 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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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.


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....

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.

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.
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.

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.
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 patriotism. 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 onomatopoetic, 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, *stomach* 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) **Onomatopoetic 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*).

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.
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.

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.
J January.
lit. literally.
M March.
n. noun.
N.B. Note.
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.
WWI World War I
WWII World War II
1 to 31 dates of newspaper edition.
+ and; combined with, added to.
# number.
(i) GENERAL AREAS

1. Acid /ˈæsəd/ n. P 12 M
   LSD(WF)
   Abbreviation through front and back-clipping, see #173,595.

2. Airlift /ˈærlɪft/ 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 /ˈɔltɛɪm/ adj. S 29 J
   understood to refer to being the best person or thing within a defined category thus far in recorded history.
   as inf. 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 /ˈækwənɔt/ 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 /æs/ n. P 6 F
   a fool; a stupid or foolish person.
   Colloquial. A meaning change.

6. Back up or shut up /bæk ʌp or sʌt ʌp/ 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 / bafəlɡæb / 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.


8. Bag / bag / n. S 13 F
one's special or current interest, obsession, talent, enthusiasm or liking; as in: "That's 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 / bændwæɡən / 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.

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 / bɪyfkeɪk / 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 / biyfyter / 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 up / 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

    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 / bekiyny / 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 / biliygowtød / 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 / bilkin / vb. S 28 J
    deceiving; cheating; defrauding; failing to pay; eluding. (P)
    Since c1750.

    negroes
    Currently gaining more prestige as the term for Afro-
    Americans through the recent civil strife.
   criticized. publicly; damned. (WF)
   -ed suffix, see #17

   having strongly puritanical moral convictions; ultra-conservative.
   Orig. in colonial times meaning: an aristocrat.

22. Boffin / bofɪn / 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 / buˈwbiə trap / 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 / bukt əf / 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 / breɪnwɔːst / 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!"

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 / bʌkət ˈʃʊps / n. S 4 M
offices where illegal, worthless or highly speculative stocks are sold by using misrepresentation bordering on swindling.
Financial jargon.

30. Bug / bɪg / 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.

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 / bəmər / 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 / bəmz / 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 / kænt 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 / kirpētbāyɡər / 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 /ˈkɛstərˌfiːld / 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 / ˈkɒmp / vb. P 24 F
to bite; chew; eat.
Cf. chompers #40.
Orig. champ becoming chomp; f. vowel models: stāmp/stomp,
tramp/tromp.

40. Chompers / ˈkɒmpərz / n. S 14 F
teeth, spec. a set of teeth.
Orig. champ becoming chomp + -er suffix, see #32, 39.

41. Chowline / kɔˈwlaɪn / 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)
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 / sɪˈtiː-sliːkər / 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 / klɑm 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 / klóts / 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 / kowld 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 / kołəgraf / 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 / kon ə artist / 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 / kon ə gɛym / 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 / kon ə job / 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 əwt / 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 / kʊk ər ɡuws / 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 / kůwl it / vb. S 8 F
   to remain calm, unpreturbed, 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 / kôper-ətərz / 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 / kɔps / 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 / kɔf ʌp / 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 c1400.
   -up suffix, see #6.

57. Cover / kəvər / 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 / krákdəwn / 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 / kræysəs-prən / 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 / krʌmi / 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 / krʌmi / adj. S 7 F
of poor quality; unsatisfactory.

From crumby, see #61, a variant.

63. Dead giveaway / dɛd ˈgɪvəweɪ / 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 / dɛdlɛyn / n. S 1 F
a specific time by which an effort towards a goal must be completed.
Compound.
Orig. newspaper jargon.

65. Dicker / dɪkər / 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 / dərt / n. S 28 J**

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

Colloquial. Fig. use.

67. **Dirty crack / dərti krāk / 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 / dogən 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 / dūw-gūdər / 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 / dōlər šɔp / n. S 4 F**

a bank.

Facetious or nonce usage.

72. **Doodled / dūwdəld / 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. Bottle / dótəl / n. P 28 F
slime; drool; saliva.
Orig. poss. from the dottle in a pipe.

74. Doublecross / dáblikrós / n. S 6 M
a betrayal or cheating by one's associates, esp. among criminals.
Orig. underworld slang usage. Cf. #60.

75. Dove / dív / 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 ɔutərz / 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)
-ex suffix, see #32; -out suffix, see #11.

77. Draft-dodger / draft-dəˈdʒər / 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 / drāg rɛɪs / 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 / drʌmʌp / 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 / ˈekspiər/ n. S 26 F
Exposition.
An abbreviation by back-clipping: expo/sition/
The reference is to the Exposition 1967 held at Montreal.

82. Failsafe / ˈfeɪlsɛɪf / 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 / ˈfɛkmənt / 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 / ˈfɔrəm əut / 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 / ˈfæt ˈkæt / 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 / ˈfɛdz / n. S 27 F
persons having strong support for the people who form the national government.
Abbreviation through back-clipping: federalists/

87. Fed up / ˈfɛd əp / 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 / ˈfiːdbæk / 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 / fiyed-forward / 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 / finkz / 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 / fogy / n. S 17 F
an older, conservative, moral type of person; a dullard. (P)
Since c1780.
-v suffix, see #31.
92. Foul-up / faul-up / n. S 13 M
a mix-up; a mess, esp. due to a blunder.
Compound.
For -up suffix word, see #6.
93. Flower children / flower children / 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 / funnymoney / n. S 27 F
counterfeit money; playmoney or something substituted for real currency.
Rhyming reduplication.
95. Fuzz / fuz / 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 / gan ap on / 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 / jenereysen gap / 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 / get o handel on / 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 / get of ðepot / 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 / get ðut fremnder / vb. S 30 J
   to extract oneself from an embarrassing or unpleasant
   situation, enterprise, job or relationship.
   Concatenation of the prepositional adverbs.

101B. Giggle Water / gigel woter / n. S 7 F
   Champagne or liquor generally.
   Fig. spkg. f. how it affects a person drinking it.

102. Gimmicks / gimiks / 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 / giv-awey / n. S 29 J
   anything that betrays or reveals unwittingly. (WF) (P)
   Colloquial since c1880. Cf. # 63.
104. Give the nod / gɪv ðə nəd / 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 / gləʊbtrɔːdərz / 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 / gluː snɪfɪŋ / 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 / gəblɪdiɡˈwʊk / n. S 14 F
   nonsense; gibberish.
   Onomatopoetic formation, perh. f. gobble, the noise made
   by a turkey. Cf. bafflegab #7.

108. Go-get / ɡəʊ-ɡɛt / n. P 14 M
   verve; vitality; ambition; inspiration.
   Abbreviation through back-clipping: go-get/ter/.

109. Goodies / ɡʊdiyz / 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 / ɡræb-ˈbæɡ / 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 / greɪt ˈhweɪt həwp / 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 / gum up / 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 / gun for hiz job / 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 / guu ruu / 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 / gutlessness / n. S 14 F

the quality of having no courage. (P)
From guts (courage) + less + ness.


something given for free, without any qualifications.
Compound.

117. Hanky-panky / hanki-y-panki-y / 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 / happening / 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.


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 / hard-layn / 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 / hacat-job / 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 / hédshrinkərz / 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 / tehék wiθ / adj. S 1 F
indicates that the speaker wants to give up something; an expression of hopeless abandonment.
A euphemism for "to hell with!" ("heck" being a Deckwort for "hell")

125. Heist / háyst / 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 tø pey / n. P 12 M
a severe punishment; a severe penalty or bawling out. (WF) (P)
Since c 1890.

127. Hillbilly / hilbiliy / 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 / hiiiy / 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 / hiíc / n. S 7 M
a catch; a point of contention; a snag or difficulty. (OED)
Fig. f. c1948.

130. Hoedown / hówdáw / 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 / hówkɔm / n. S 8 M
insincerity; nonsense; bunk.
Colloquial use.
Orig. theater use; Cf. models like hocuspocus, hokey-pokey.

132. Hootch / huwc / 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 / hótlàyn / 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. Hotrodder / hotrədər / 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 / hόtset / 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 / hόtʃɔt / 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 / hοvərkraeft / 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 / hʌdrəfɔyl / 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 hόk / 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 ɪn bɛlək / 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 3œ hówl / n. P 12 F
    in debt. (P)
    Since c1760.
142. In the red / in 3œ red / 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 / 3ayərn-ən / adj. S 11 M
    affixed with a hot iron, usu. patches on pants, etc.
144. Jack-hammer / ják-həmər / vb. § 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 / jərk / 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 / jəri bilt / 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 / jətləynər / 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 fɨʃ / n. S 7 F
    a predicament or situation, esp. a confused one. (P)
    Poss. f. Scottish, kettle of fish, meaning a picnic.
150. **Keyholery** / ˈkiːhwələri / 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** / ˈkiːd / 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** / ˈkiːdiiz / n. pl. P 12 F
   children.
   Meaning shift, Cf. kids #151.
   -ie suffix, see #31.

153. **Kingpin** / ˈkɪŋpɪn / 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** / ˈnɒk / vb. S 4 F
   to find fault with; to give bad publicity to. (WF)
   Fig. use, functional shift.

155. **Land grab** / ˈlænd ˈɡræb / n. S 31 J
   a sudden acquisition of land, usu. near some area of new development.
   Compound.

156. **Lark it up** / ˈlɑrk ɪt ˈʌp / 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** / ˈlɛd ˈpeɪp ˈsɪŋtʃ / 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 / līpīy / adj. S 20 F
insolent; impertinent; talkative. (WF)
From lip in fig. sense: cheek, insolence.
-y suffix, see #32.

159. Lock-in / lōk-īn / 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 / lōwkōwz / n.pl. P 27 F
locomotives.
Abbreviation through back-clipping: loco/motives/.

161. Look-in / lūk-īn / 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 / lūksiy / n. S 4 F
a look; a visual inspection, whether cursory or protracted.
Colloquial since c1925.
Poss. orig. in pidgin English.

163. Loner / lōnər / 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 / lōnˈhərz / 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 lūt, but influenced by lootie, a native irregular of India, hence a bandit.
166. Lose your cool / lúwz yor kúwl / 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-liydr / 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 / lot on þé bol / 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 bhp and cool use, student use since c1935.
   Prob. derived f. baseball.

169. Lousy / lúisiy / adj. S 12 F
   bad; horrible; worthless; extremely inferior. (P)
   Colloquial since c1860.
   From louse + -y suffix (see #31).
   Cf. Ger. lansiɡ/lawziɡ/ with the same shift of meaning.

170. LP / ˈɛlpɪə / 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 / ˈɛləsiɡ / 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-diethylamid.
   Cf. acid #1.
   Common since c1962; student and addict use.
172. Megapolitan / məˈɡəpəlɪtən / adj. S 13 F
referring to a million person population of the metropolitan area of a city, etc.
Portmanteau word f. mega (prefix denoting, a million times) + (metro)politan.

173. Mickey / mɪki / 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 / mɪlk / 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 / məɪnd-ˈblæstɪŋ / adj. S 1 F
pushing your mind or conscious level of experience into the extra-concious level of experience.
Prob. a natural derivative f. mind-blowing and mind-expanding, which through repeated use and extended application have lost their descriptive power; all are based upon or translated from psychedelic (a neologism).

176. Mindsusded / məɪndsəˈdʒd / adj. S 12 F
Ego-scrubbed / ɪˈɡɡo-ˈskrʌbd / All are facetious synonyms
Libido-rinsed / ˈlɪbɪdo-ˈrɪnsɪd / for brainwashed, see #25.

177. Mish-mash / mɪʃ-ˈmɑʃ / 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 / məˈkɑsən təˈlɛɡrɑf / 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 / muwn̄ship / 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 móʊst / 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 / m̄dslaɪnɪŋ / 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 1890.

183. Multiversity / m̄tɪvɪvɛrsəti / 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 / nɪgər / n. S 13 F
negro; Afro-American. (P)

185. Nitty-gritty / nɪti~grɪti / n. S 13 F
the basics or essentials of any situation, predicament, action, etc.; the hard, unvarnished facts.
Rhyming reduplication.

186. No big sweat / nɔ bɪg swɛt / 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 / nəʊ gəʊ / 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 / nɔːθpəʊ / adj. P 22 F
a right-handed person.
Formed by analogy to southpaw, see #734.

189. Oddball / ədbəl / n. P 8 F
an eccentric, queer or odd person; a nonconformist. (WF)
A compound from odd + ball; Cf. screwball.

190. Off-the-cuff / əf-θə-kʌf / adj. S 20 F
informally; extemporaneously; unrehersed.
Orig. poss. f. the habit of writing brief notes on the
shirt cuffs.

191. Okayed / əʊkeɪd / pp. S 4 F
judged as satisfactory; approved.
From the standard O.K.

192. Ombudsman / ɔmˈbʌdzmən / 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 / ən ˈʌpmənʃɪp / 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 / ɒn ˈstʌmp / 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 / əˈpɛrəˌriːzn kliˈnuːp / n. P 7 F
an organized plan to clean or tidy up a place, area or
situation.
Modeled on wartime expressions such as "operation overload."
For -up suffix see #6.
196. Ornerly / ˈɔrnəri/ vb. P 18 F
stubborn; difficult; unmoveable on an opinion, principle, etc.
North American dial. f. ordinary.

197. Outage / ˈaʊtædʒ/ 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 / ˈaʊt əv hwæk or ˈkɪltər/ 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 / ˈaʊt əv yɔr ˈmɔɪnd/ S 29 J
ecstatic about something, so ecstatic that it fig. borders on insanity.
Cf. mind-blasting #175.

200. Over-provocation / ˈəʊver-ˈprəʊvəˌkeɪʃən/ 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 / ˈəʊver-ˈriːækʃən/ n. S 13 M
a response to something more energetic than normally called for.
Prefix -over, see #200.

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 / pās ˈbək / 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 / ˈpɛyləwd / 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 / ˈpɪkər / 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 / ˈpɪdlɪŋ / 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 / ˈpeɪpdriːm / 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 / ˈplʌstər / 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 / ploʊks / n. S 22 F
the doldrums; in a state of mild depression.
Onomatopoetic formation.
212. PM / -pagination / n., S 7 M
Prime Minister.
an acronym; the first letter in each word.

213. Pop culture / -pagination-kalger / 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 / -pagination-bastard / S 1 M
Australian slang nickname for an Englishman.
Cf. north American terms: blimey, kipper, brit.

215. Poppycock / -pagination-kokk / n., S 30 J
nonsense.
A euphemism.

216. Posties / -pagination-styz / 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 / -pagination-g sidewalk / vb., S 1 F
to walk the streets in search of a job or in order to
beg from passers by. (WF)

218. Pranksters / prank-stersz / 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-fabbd / adj., S 26 F
custom cut and ready to assemble.
Abbreviation: fabricated.
-ed is a pp. or an adj. forming suffix.

220. Prexies / prék-siyz / 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: professional/.
222. Psyche out / ˈsəʊk æwt / 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 / ˈpʊlər kərk ən / 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 / ˈpʊləut / n. S 6 F
a departure; a complete withdrawal from a situation. (P)
Compound; colloquial since c1880.
-out suffix see #11.

225. Punch out / ˈpʌŋk əwt / 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 / ˈpʌŋk θruː / 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 / ˈpʌnstər / n. P 29 M
a person who tells puns. (WF)
-ster suffix see #218.

228. Push on / ˈpʊʃ ən / 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 / ˈpʊt ən / n. S 28 J
a purposeful deception, often done in an affected manner.
230. Put one over on / *put wən òver ən / 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 / *put on āys / 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 / rənsəm rəkət / 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 / rətɪŋ ən / vb. S 6 M
   informing or squealing on.
   Orig. the rat that leaves a sinking ship is a symbol of
   treachery.

236. Redeye / réddəy / 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 redeye!

237. Regulars / régələrz / n. S 1 F
   those persons who frequent a place on a regular basis.
   Cf. habitues (French).
   Functional shift.

238. Ring / riŋ / 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 / rəkətˈɪər / 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 / rɔˈfɪŋ it / 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 / ˈrʌfnɛk / n. S 13 F
an ill-mannered, uncouth, rough person, esp. if burly. (WF)(P)
Orig. circus use; colloquial.

242.Rubber checkery / ˈrʌbər ˈtʃɛkəri / 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: cheque for cheque.
-ery suffix see #150.

243.Rubby-dub / ˈrʌbiːdʌb / n. P 15 M
a bum; a worthless tramp; a down and outer, often with a connotation of a drunkard.
Abbrviation 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 / ˈsævi / n. P 15 M
understanding; knowledge; worldliness.
Orig. in pidgin English, f. the Portuguese saver, to know.
Colloquial since c1865.
246. Sawed-off / sŏd-ôf / adj. S 11 F
annoyed or disgusted (with someone or something).
Cf. browned-off, cheesed-off, brassed-off, etc.
-off suffix word with connotation of ending an action
or relation; Cf. famish-off, sign-off, etc.

247. Seepage / sîypŏj / 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 / sel dàwn ñà rivør / 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 / sel âwt / 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 / sêt-tûw / 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 / saktawn / 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. Shaky / sáki / adj P 27 F
rundown; dilapidated. (WF)
Formed by shack + -y suffix (see #31).
253. Shake-up / ʃéyk-ʌp / n. S 30 J
   a reorganization of personnel or work methods. (P)
   Since c1885; colloquial.
   -up suffix word see #6.

254. Shamuses / ʃeɪməsəz / n.pl. P 19 M
   investigators; detectives.
   From Irish gaelic: Séamus, meaning James.

255. Shanty town / ʃænti:tɔn / 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 / ʃən t̪i̯/ (an old house).

256. Shape up / ʃeɪp ʌp / vb S 1 M
   to pull oneself together; to organize oneself and begin
   working properly.
   -up suffix word, see #6.

257. Sharks / ʃɑːks / 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 / ʃɪər-ɪn / 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 / ʃɪnɪ ʌp / vb. S 7 M
   to climb.
   From shin + -y suffix (see #31).
   -up suffix word, see #6.

   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 / ſuʁ / vb. S 31 J
   to chase away.
   From shoo!(used with imperative force.)

262. Shoot off your mouth / ſuʁ`t ɔf yɔr  màwθ / 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 / ſuʁt-àwθ / 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 / ſuʁt 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 / ſɔrt ənd əv  stik / 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 / ʃɔts, kal də / 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 / ſɔwbiz / n. S 8 M
   showbusiness.
   Abbreviation by back-clipping: showbus/iness/; then -us
   sequence changed to phonetic spelling and pronunciation.
268. Shut up / šət ʌp / vb. S 1 P
   to cease talking or making noise of any kind. (P)
   -up suffix word, see #6.

269. Side-effect / sāyd-ə-iy-fɛkt / n. S 11 M
   a result of any event other than the main effect or result.
   Compound.

270. Sidestep / sāyd-stɛp / S 1 P
   to deviate from meeting a situation head on; to ignore
   a situation altogether, as in: "To sidestep an issue..."

271. Sit-in / sit-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 / skɪd rəd / n. S 12 P
   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 / skɪndavər / n. S 26 P
   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 / skəldəgəri / 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 / skə́yjəkər / 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 / skə́ypə́yrəts / 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 / skə́yraı́d / 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 / skə́yskrə́ypə́rz / n.pl. P 30 J
a skyscraper is a very tall building; fig., one so tall that it scrapes the sky. (WF)
Colloquial since c.1920.

280. Slam-bam-thank-you-maam /slə́m-bə́m-thə́nk-yuː-mə́m / S 12 F
a pretty rough thank you to a woman! an abrupt, rapid way of thanking someone.
Rhyming formation.

281. Slide-prone / slə́yd-prə́wn / 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 / sloyd it 'aft / 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 / smiyr 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 / smowkær / 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 / snowmowbiyl / 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'ow.biyz. / n. P 12 M
   S.O.B. stands for son of a bitch.
   An acronym.

287. Spacecraft / spéyskraft / 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 / spéyssip / 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 / spe̍yəswōkij / n. S 6 M
leaving a spacecraft and lit. floating in outer space.
Fig. use of walking.
Neologism.

290. Speak garbage / spi̍k garbj / vb. P 12 M
to talk nonsense.

291. Spice up / spəj / 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 / spilaj / 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 / spivz / n.pl. S 7 F
a street vendor often selling stolen or (during WWII) black market goods.
British wartime slang.

294. Squatters / skwotərz / 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 / ˋsərəw / P11 F
gold right out.
An acronym. Tradesmen's jargon.

296. Stacked / stakt / adj. P 1 F
having a sexually attractive body, usu. said of a girl or woman. (WF)

297. Standpatism / stəndpətism / 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** / stīkiy stīkiy stīkiy stīkiy stīkiy stīkiy stīkiy stīkiy stīkiy stīkiy stīkiy stīkiy stīkiy stīkiy stīkiy stīkiy stīkiy stīkiy stīkiy stīkiy stīkiy stīkiy stīkiy stīkiy / 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** / stīnkər / n. S 4 F
   a contemptible person. (P)
   From *stink* + -er suffix (see #32).

300. **Stooge** / stūwj / 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** / stūwlə / 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. **Stromgarm** / strōrmərm / 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** / stakt-in / vb. S 7 F
   deceived by false promises. (WF) (P)
   From suck-in: to engulf in a whirlpool.

304. **Superbowl** / suwpərbəwl / n. S 15 F
   a larger-than-ever-before stadium for sports.
   Prefix *super*- currently a very productive pattern. Cf. #305, 309.

305. **Superliner** / suwpərləynər / n. S 14 F
   a passenger ship larger than any other known before.
   Prefix *super*- see #304–309.
306. Superport / suwprərport / n. S 30 J
   a port much larger and more grandiose than anything yet existing.
   Prefix super-, see #304-09.

307. Superpower / suwprəpəpwər / 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 / suwpərsəvvrər / 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 / suwpərtaks / 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 / sɑːrfz 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 / swɪnɪŋ / 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 / swɑːyp / 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 / teýk ā stab `at / vb. S 1 F
to try to do something; to take a chance. (WF)(P)
Fig. use of stab.
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 / tok-`in / 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 / tiyc-`in / 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-šiyt / n. P 21 F
a kleenex; a handkerchief used to wipe away tears.
Compound.
319. Teenology / tiynoàĭjiy / 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 / tiynιy-boʊpərz / 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 / teflon / 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 / ˈθɪŋk-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 /-tank/.
323. Thumbs-down / ˈθʌmbz-dɔn / 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 / təˈkeɪnizm / 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 / tɛnˈdi / 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 / tɔrn-ɔn / 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 / tuw-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 / juˈw ɛf ɔw / n. S 7 F
unidentified flying object.
An acronym.
330. Uncle Tomism / ˈʌŋkəl təˈmizəm / 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 / ɪnˈhɔːrst / 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 / ʌpswɪŋ / n. S 30 J
a movement upwards as against downwards, positive as against negative, as in: "The economy is on the upswing."

333. Waffling / ˈwɔflɪŋ / adj. S 20 F
vague and meaningless, as in: "Waffling statements about my involvement with....".

334. Walkie-talkie / wɔkiˈtɔki / 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 / wɒkˈɪn / n. S 1 F
an action whereby the participants walk in and occupy a place.
-in suffix, see #271.

336. Walkout / wɔkˈaʊt / n. S 30 J
a strike by union employees against an employer.
Technical jargon.
-out suffix word, see #11.

337. Wet behind the ears / wet bɛhˈɛɪnd ˈɛə ɪrəs / 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 / hwɛrwiˈðɔl / n. S 30 J
the money with which to buy something. (WF) (P)
Colloquial use since c1910.

339. White collar crooks / hwʌt kɔlər 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 / waytwesin / 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 / waytiy / 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 / hwizban / 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!
Onomatopoetic formation.
343. Wide blue yonder / wayd bluw yonder / n. S 31 J
infinite space; nothingness.
Phr. quoted from a popular song.
344. Wipe out / wayp awt / 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 / wayz-krakin / 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 / wørkt ówvør / vb. S 1 F
beaten up, usu. in order to gain information or in retaliation; roughed up.

348. Work-to-rule / wèrk-to-rúvl / 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. Yo yo /yôw yôw / n. S 14 F
a stupid, incompetent or undesirable person. (WF)
From the plaything known as the yo-yo.
Reduplication.

351. Zany / zéyniy / n. S 4 F
crazy; idiotic; used in jocular ref., rather than in disapproval.

352. Zapped / zapt / vb. S 8 M
killed.

353. Zippy / zípiy / adj. S 4 F
peppy; snappy. (WF) (P)
Colloquial since c1945.
Formed by zip + -y suffix (see #31).

(ii) EDITORIALS

354. Across the board / ákros ós bôrd / 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 / bād bāynd / n. S 29 J
   a predicament, as caused by conflicting obligations, an over-
   full work schedule or the like; a tight spot; a jam.
   Note alliteration.

356. Bad-mouthing / bād-māwting / vb. S 15 F
   saying bad or nasty things, usu. of another person.
   Cf. mudslinging #184, muckraking #584.
   Compound.

357. Bagman / bāgmān / n. S 29 J
   one who is assigned to collect bribe, extortion or
   kidnap money. (WF) (GOL)
   Underworld use.

358. Baksheesh / bākshi / 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 / būwtēfæl persen / 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 / būwts / 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 / bīyfdip / 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 / bīgiyz / n. pl. S 7 M
   important, influential people, events or things.
   -ie suffix, see #31.
362a. Black power / blak powәr / 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 / blakwaәs / 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 / blow әә gaf / vb. S 24 F
to reveal the trick or secret which made something
run; seem legitimate or the like. (WF)(F)
Orig. carnival and pitchman use.
Gaff means gimmick (a concealed device or stratagem)

365. Blow your cool / bәow ыәr kәul / 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 / bluw toәk / n. S 29 J
swearing; talk involving a high content of taboo words.
Compound.

367. Boggle / bogәl / vb S 31 J
to hesitate, stall, be reluctant to do something, as in:
"HE boggled at the sight of her."

368. Boondocks / boәndoks / 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 / brawn powәr / n. S 15 F
the influence or power of those people with brown skin
coloring, spec. 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 / brəˈsoʊf / 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 / bəˈblɪə / n. S 7 F
champagne.
fig., after the effervescence of champagne.
Cf. #101.

372. Bugaboos / bəˈɡəbwəz / 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 /bəɡz yuw / vb. S 29 J
makes you angry, bothers or irritates you.
Meaning change; Cf. #30.

374. Bum deal / bəm ˈdiəl / 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 / kənd / 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 /kəˈriə ˈbəl / 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 / ˈciək / n. S 1 M
impudence; audacity; nerve.
Colloquial since c1830.

378. Chillers / ˈkɪlərz / 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 / klâp-trâp / n. S 4 F
nonsense; lies; exaggerated talk; bull.
Rhyming reduplication.

380. Clean sweep / kliïn swïyp / n. S 11 F
the act of accomplishing something without faltering on
any aspect of it. (WF)
Fig. use of sweep.

381. Climb-down / klâym-dâwn / n. S 10 F
abandonment of a position, stand, assertion or boast
previously taken.
Colloquial since c1880.
Fig. use of compound.

382. Clincher / klînčær / n. S 29 F
a deciding factor; the crux of an argument. (WF)
Functional shift.
-er suffix, see #32.

383. Come off it / kəm 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 / kəp-awt / 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 /krâm-kârs / 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 / kraŋk / n. P 29 J
a nut; an oddball; crazy; an insane person.
387. Credibility gap / krédǐbiliitiy 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 / krăd tăč / n. S 27 J
anything inferior, worthless, ugly or disgusting; hence anything with these qualities.

389. Crunch area / krănc ęriyə / 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 / kümšə / n. S 19 F
a tip; a gratuity.
Cf. #478, #517.

391. Cure-all / kyur-öl / 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 / đam əl / n. S 7 F
little or nothing.
Colloquial since c1915.
A bowdlerization of fuck all.

393. Ding-a-ling / dźi^n̩-əlǐŋ / n. S 1 M
a person who acts queerly or stupidly; an idiot; usu. a jocular application.
Rhyming reduplication.

394. Dim-witted / ˈdim-wɪtəd / adj. S 4 F
dumb; dense-headed; dull; stupid.
Fig. use of dim.
395. Discotheque / diskətɛk / 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 dis- f. disque (phonograph record) and the second element of bibliothèque.

396. Do a Diefenbaker / duw ə diəfənˈbɛɪkər / 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 / dən ə drent / adj. S 29 J
lost; lost through wastefulness or carelessness.
Fig. use of drain.

398. Drop-in / drop-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 bəni / 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. Dumbbell / dʌmbbɛl / n. S 24 F
a stupid person.
Orig. attributed to cartoonist T.A. Dorgan.

401. Eat a helping of crow / ɪyt ə ˈhelpiŋəv krɔː / 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 /ˈeɪg-hed/ 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 /ˈeɪg ən maɪ fɛɪs/ 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 /ˈjuərəʊmɑrt/ n. S 18 F
European common market.
Portmanteau word: European common mark/et/.

405. Fade-outs /ˈfeɪdˌaʊts/ n.pl. S 18 F
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 /ˈflæpduwdliŋ/ n. S 3 F
talking or acting nonsensically or foolishly; baloney.
Since c1830.

407. Flash fire /ˈflæʃ fəˈɛr/ 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 /ˈflæʃ fləd/ n. P 27 F
a sudden flood, coming without warning.
Cf. flash fire #407.

409. Flu bug /ˈflu ˌbaŋ/ 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 / fəwksiy / 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 / gəɡə / adj. S 7 F
crazy, silly, irrational; having lost one's objectivity and perspective. (WF)
From the French.
Reduplication.

413. Gloom / glúwm / 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 / glúw-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 / ɣʌt ɪˈʃyuː / 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 / ʰæks / 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 / ʰæmər ˈɔːt / vb. S 27 J
to formulate an idea, policy or procedure.
-out suffix, see #11.

421. Hangover / ˈhæŋəvər / n. S 10 F
the unpleasant physiological effects occurring after drinking too much of an alcoholic beverage. (WF)
Common since c1920.

422. Haywire / ˈheɪwɪər / 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 / ˈhɛluvə / 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 / ˈhɔɪd-əwɛ / 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 / ʰɔɡwɔʃ / n. S 15 F
insincere talk or writing; exaggerations; lies, etc.
A euphemism; colloquial use.
426. Hog wild / hòg wàyld / adj. P 7 M
to be wildly excited; temporarily irrational owing to
excitement, anger or happiness.

427. Holed up / hòld ëp / vb. S 22 F
hidden away somewhere, usu. for purposes of secrecy.
-up suffix word, see #6.

428. Honkies / hònkiyès / n.pl. S 18 F
cheap saloons featuring gambling games and dancing;
cheap small town theaters or brothels.
Orig. pòss. f. honky-tonk; also onomatopoetic orig.
-ie suffix, see #31.

429. Horse and buggy operation / hòr ënd bùgiy òpérëysën / n. S 24 F
an old-fashioned operation or business. (WF)
Fig. expression contrasting the old mode of transport
against the current motorized form.

430. Horse feathers / hòr ëfèèrrz / n. S 27 J
bunk; baloney; nonsense.
A euphemism.

431. How does that grab you? / hòw dëz ët gràb yuw? / 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 / hùkstèrz / 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 / ìdëntièykitëz / 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.
Image-wise / ɪmˈeɪ-ˈwʌɪz / 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.

In / in / adj. S 29 J
fashionable; popular.
Contrary: out; Cf. in-group, out-group.

Jackpot / ˈjækпот / n. S 24 F
success; money; winnings, as in: "I hit the jackpot."
Sarcastic usage also.

Kit and caboodle / ˈkit ənd ˈkæbuwdəl / 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.

Kite-flovn / ˈkɑɪt-ˈfləʊn / 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, kite-flovn means that a policy, opinion, etc., has been tested and is sound.

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.

Lay one's cards on the table / ˈleɪ wʌnz ˈkɑːrdz ən ˈeteybl / vb. phr. S 4 F
to disclose one's plans. (P)
From card game or gambling jargon.
441. **Live-in** / live-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** / lose out 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 back-clippin: magazines.

445. **Medicare** / medi-ker / 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** / money bags / n. S 7 F
a wealthy person. (WF) (P)
Fig. use; colloquial since c1915

447. **Muffed** / maff / vb. S 1 M
to muffed 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** / mombow-jambow / n. S 19 F
meaningless jargon. (P)
Rhyming reduplication.
449. Nit-picking / nit-pikin' / 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 géneréyshən / 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 / n'əm-əlmz / n. S 1 M
one who is clumsy with his hands; a butter-fingers.
Rhyming reduplication.

454. Old codger / ówld kòjør / 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 òp ənd òp / adj. S 3 F
honest; trustworthy; fair-dealing or fair-minded; legitimate; on the level. (WF)

456. Opt out / ópt ówt / 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 / ówtfəl / 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 ſe vïydz / vb. P 7 M
in an isolated, bushy, uncivilized region. (WF)
Cf. boondocks, #368.

459. Par for the course / par for ſe kors / S 3 F
about what one could expect; a predictable average.
From the game of golf.
Meaning shift.

460. Payola / peyowla/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 / piyč on / 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 / piyciy / adj. S 15 F
anything pleasing, excellent or admirable; wonderful. (WF)(P)
Frequent ironic use.
-y suffix, see #3f.

463. Pip-squeak / pip-skwiyk / 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 / pley dawn / vb. S 29 J
to underemphasize something or someone; to underrate.
-down suffix word, see #63.

465. Play it cool / pley it kuwl / 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 / plèy̞ ñp / 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 word, see #6.

467. Pooh-pooh / puw-puw / S 4 F
   to pass something off as nonsense; to disbelieve. (P)
   Reduplication; onomatopoetic formation.

468. Poppings-off / popings-of / 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 / puwrba̞ r / n. S 19 F
   a tip; a gratuity.
   Cf. cumshaw #390.
   Orig. f. French.

470. Punks / pánks / 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 / pusiyfut / 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 / put ñp for 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 páwr / 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 / riərəs ðər strəw / vb. S 27 J
to go over their thinking on a situation or task
again.
Fig. use here.

476. Rib-tickler / rɪb-ˈtɪklər / n. S 29 J
a joke; something that is amusing. (WF)
Since c 1850.
-er suffix, see #32.

477. Schmo / ˈsməʊ / 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 / ˈskruːbəl / 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 / ʃkʌm / n. P 29 J
low; contemptible, trashy type of people. (WF)
Fig. use.

480. Shebang / ˈʃeɪbæŋ / 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 / slaʃ / 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 / sməkˈdæb / adv. S 4 F
directly; precisely; on the mark, as in: "Smackdab in the
middle of things."
Onomatopoeic formation.
483. Smart-aleck / smart-àlèk / n. S 7 F
   a know-it-all; a wise-guy; a wiseacre. (WF)(P)
   Orig. c1870 in USA; Colloquial.
484. Smidgeon / smíjénn / n. P 19 M
   a small amount. (WF)
   Colloquial since c1845.
485. Smokescreens / smówkskrìynz / 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 /spìyl / 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 preponderence 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 / snówból / vb. P 20 F
   to grow or increase rapidly.
   Fig., with ref. to how a snowball builds up in size
   as its rolled down a slope in wet, clinging snow.
491. Snowed under / sn̂vdy n̂dər / vb. S 24 F
burdened by an excess of work or responsibilities.
Fig. use.

492. Spitters / sp̤tərz / 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 / st̤rk̤tiy / 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 / st̤mblb̤m / 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 / st̤mp̤ŋ / vb. S 29 J
campaigning for a political election.
From stump speech meaning, political speech.
Since c1850.

497. Suckered-in / s̤k̤rd-in / vb. S 13 F
deceived; fooled or tricked by false promises. (WF)
-in suffix formation, see #271.

498. Superjet / suw̤p̤r̤jet / 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 / suwpərsənɪk / adj. S 1 M
above the sound barrier.
Super- prefix, see #304-09.

500. Supertanker / suwpərˈtæŋkər / 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 / thing / 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 / think-in / 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 / θraʊ ðə bʊk ət / 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 / thʌg / 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 / tìkiy-takiy / adj. S 17 F
messy; touchy; sensitive; unpleasant.
Reduplication with vowel change.

507. Ticking off / tìkiij 6f / 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 / toş / n. S 4 F
nonsense; rubbish; ridiculous. (F)
Poss.f. dial. toshy meaning, over-dressed or tawdry.
Since c1890.

509. Trinkgeld / trìngkeld / n. S 19 F
a tip; a gratuity.
Cf. cumshaw #390.

510. Troubleshooters / trùbl suwtərz / 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 / əpətiy / 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 / wəs treydɪŋ / n. S 12 F
quick stock market manipulation.
Financial jargon.

513. Wasp / wɒsp / 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 / hwer its ət / S 4 F
the place or time where all the best, most modern or hip things are happening.
515. Wised up / wâyzd āp / 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 / zîlyən / n. P 17 F
   an exceedingly large indeterminate number.
   Note the rhyme with the models: million, billion.

(iii) HEADLINES

517. All fired up / əl fâyrd āp / 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 / âpré-skîy / adj. S 29 J
   after-ski, in ref. to clothes, boots, fashions, etc.
   A French loan word.

519. Astronaut / âstrənət / 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 / əy-səb / n. S 31 J
   atomic submarine.
   Portmanteau word: a/tonic/-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 / beli-y-ləf /
   a deep, loud, long uninhibited laugh—said to be coming
   from the belly. (WF)
   Colloquial.
523. Bit of a bind / `bit əvə bānd / adj. S 29 J
a predicament, as caused by conflicting obligations; a tight spot; a jam. (WF)

524. Bit of a choker / `bit əvə chōkər / 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 / bl¯ow w¯ānz t¯op / 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.

an explosion; an uproar; a quarrel; a fight.
- up suffix word, see #6.

527. Bonanza of benefits / b¯onanzə əv b¯enefıts / 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 / br¯éyn-dreyn / n. S 29 J
the loss of intellectuals (or lit. their brains) to another place or company.
Rhyming reduplication.

530. Breakthrough / br¯eikθrəw / 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 / brʌnθ-ˈtəym / 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.
devotees; fans who have a passion for collecting things, going to spec. events or associating with spec. occupational groups. (WF)

attacked by surprise; fig. f. the idea of someone jumping out from behind bushes in a surprise attack. Orig. western jargon.

broke; penniless.

a secreted sum of cash.

Punning reduplication.

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.

Abbreviation through back-clipping: conglomerate.

the chasing of a wanted man by the police who also have a cheetah.

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.

a long, expensive, spectacular commercial entertainment or show, having to do with interior decorating. (WF).

-a recent noun-forming suffix (c1950) of panorama, which referred to an occasion in movies where an exceptionally wide screen is used.

-ama
541. Der tag / dər tæg / 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 / dēvəl-biətərz / 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 /diˈɛm zɛd / n. S 4 F
demilitarized zone.
An acronym.

544. Eurodollar / yurowˈdələr / adj. S 10 F
European dollar market.
Portmanteau word: Euro/pean/ dollar.

545. Eye / aɪ / 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 / fɔl gəy / n. S 6 F
an easy victim; a loser; a scapegoat (WF)
Orig. theater and stage use.
Cf. stooge #300.

547. Fallout / fɔlˈaut / 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 / fайнд ər friːz / bриːz / 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 / flayz / 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 / friy-bwiylin / adj. S 8 F
spending money liberally; independent; unrestricted. (WF)
Metaphor, for cars.

552. Fringe benefits / frinj benefits / 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 / gow-ahed / n. S 29 J
the green light; the sign to advance or proceed.
From the traffic light; Cf. #553.

554. Gotta / godə / 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 / gənnəparz / 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 / hardwer / n. P 2 F
weapons, guns, etc.
Orig. implied rifles and knives which could be bought in hardware stores.

557. Hassle / həsəl / 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 / hayjakær / 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 / kikbæk / 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 / kikof / 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 / kidnapj / vb. S 27 J
   seizing people for the purposes of extortion.
   Formed from kid (child) + nap (prob. f. nab) + -ing.
566. Latch on to / lāč ḏon tuw / vb. S 27 J
   to get ahold of something or someone.
567. Late flashes / leyt flāˈʃez / n. pl. S 30 J
   news items of interest, as in: "Late flashes from the
   pentagon report...."
Laundromat / lɔndrəˈmæt / 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.

Line up / laɪn 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.

Lowdown / ləˈdɔrn / adj. S 30 J
unfair; unethical; degraded; vile; low. (WF)(P)
Colloquial since c1900.
-down suffix word, see #63.

Maxi / mæksɪ / adj. P 7 F
maximum.
Abbreviation by back-clipping: maxi/mum/.
Formed by analogy to mini, see #573.

Micro / mɪˈkrəʊ / adj. P 7 F
microscopic.
Abbreviation by back-clipping: micro/scopic/.

Mini / mɪnɪ / adj. P 7 F
minimum.
Abbreviation by back-clipping: mini/mum/.

Mini-minis / mɪnɪ-ˈmɪnɪs / n. pl. P 18 F
extra short dresses which are already very short.
Reduplication.

Move in on / muv in on / vb. S 29 J
to take over; to push out, either with or without violence.

Muckraker / mʌkrəˈkrɛrkər / 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 / ő̂w key / S 28 J

assent or approval(P)
Cf. okayed #191.

579. One-two punch / wən-túw pʌnʃ / 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 / ő̂wstər / 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."
ex suffix, see #32.

581. Outdraw / ő̂wtdro / 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-prefix word, see 457.

582. Overbought / ő̂wərbót / vb. S 29 J

purchased more than necessary of anything.

583. Over-the-counter / ő̂wər-ə-kəntər / 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 / peypər liydər / 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-pləyts / 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: *perma/nent/ plates*.

586. **Pollutimatum** / peləwˈtɪmətəm / 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** / pəp ərt / 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** / pʌŋk ˈlaɪn / 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** / pʊʃərz / n.pl. S 6 F

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

-er suffix, see #32.

591a **Put something on ice** / pʊt ˈsʌməɪŋ ɒn ˈaɪz / vb. S 6 F

to postpone or procrastinate an event, plan, etc.

Fig usage.

592. **Put something on the line** / pʊt ˈsʌməɪŋ ɒn ˈkəʊ ˈlaɪn / 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 / rinj / vb.** S 27 J
   to circle about; to encircle something or someone.

597. **Road jam / rod w 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 / rukiy / 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 / sky-saw / adj.** S 1 F
   up and down; fluctuating, as in: "See-saw prices hit the stock market today."
   Alliteration with vowel change.
   By analogy to children's see-saw in a playground.

600. **Shysters / saystorz / 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 / sky bám / 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-up/ 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 / sniək prɪˈvjuː/ 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 / sɔft-pɛdəl/ n. S 28 J
   de-emphasis 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 / spaiˈjak/ 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 / stɪf/ adj. S 27 J
   tough; unbending; allowing no exceptions, as in: "Stiff liquor laws."
611. Superblock / suwpərblək / 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 / suwpər-kənsumərz / 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 pədər / vb. P 2 F
to depart; to run away. (WF)
From the earlier, take a run-out powder.

615. Take off / tɛyk əf / vb. S 30 J
to leave or depart rather hastily.
-off suffix word, see #246.

616. Takes tumble / tɛysktəmbəl / 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 / teliy / n. P 8 F
television.
Abbreviation by back-clipping: tel/evision/+ -ly.
Orig. British slang.

618. Tie-in / tɛi-in / n. S 27 J
a connection, a relationship. (WF)
in suffix, see #271.

619. Tizzy / tiziy / n. S 4 F
a fit or period of nervousness, anxiety or confusion.
Dialectal.

620. Transplants / trənsplɔnts / n. S 27 J
transfers of human organs from one person to another.
By analogy to the gardening process.
621. Two-gun / tuw-gin / adj. S 29 J
said of a town with few and small defenses, usu.
denoting inferiority and impotency.

622. UFO / yuw ef ow / n. P 7 F
unidentified flying objects.
An acronym.

623. Whipping-boy / hwipin-boy / 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 / wind-drinker / 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 / waypt-out / vb. S 1 F
eradicated; obliterated; cleaned out of all possessions.
-out suffix word, see #11.
Cf. #344.

626. Witchhunt / witchunt / n. S 15 F
a seeking out of wrong-doers, usu. in politics. (WF)

627. Write-up / wayt-up / 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 / bakruwm bu'or / n. S 27 J
an illegal, untrained abortionist.
By gruesome analogy to a butcher cutting meat.
630. Bang-up / ban-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 / behaɪnd əˈeɪt bol / n. 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 / blokˈhʌstər / 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 / bʊb-ˈtjuːb / n. S 14 F
television.
This term implies that only idiots waste time watching television.
Rhyming reduplication.
Cf. #660.

634. Brainteaser / braɪntɪˈziːər / n. S 27 J
some chore or job that teases the intellectual powers or stimulates them.
er suffix, see #32.

635. Broad / brod / 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 / kamp / 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** / ˈkɪldrəniːz / 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. **journalesse, officialese.**

638. **Chipper** / ˈshipər/ adj. S 31 J
well; fit; lively. (P)
Colloquial since c1880.

639. **Clincher** / ˈklinچər / 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** / ˈkɔmbəʊ / 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-ən / 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** / ˈflʌb / 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 / get 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 / guwf of / 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 / guwf / n. S 15 M
   a person that is silly, soft or stupid. (P)
   From dial. goof, goff meaning, a fool.
   Since c1920.

648. Grass / gras / 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 / gefɔz / n. pl. S 27 J
   loud, derisive laughter.
   Onomatopoetic formation.

650. Half-baked / haf-beykt / 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 / hæŋps / 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 / hard ˈɛdʒ / 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 / hārd-rōk / n. S 20 M
a tough guy; a sneery, unemotional man who has little concern for others.
Fig. use of rock.

654. Heart-tugging / hart-tāgin / adj. S 3 F
sad; emotionally upsetting; heart-breaking.
Fig., to tug the strings of one's heart.

655. Hydro / hāydrow / 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 / hāydrepłēyn / 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 / kik / n. P 18 F
a thrill, excitement or satisfaction. (WF)

658. Kick the habit / kík ë hēbit / 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 / lāws āp / 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 / majik tūwb / 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 / markdawnz / 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 / minimal art / n. S 31 J
    art which uses the minimum of components to express
    its message.
    Artist's jargon.

663. Mock-up / mok-up / 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 / niydæl / vb. S 31 J
    to irritate; annoy. (P)
    Fig. use of needle.

    no good.
    An acronym.

666. Nifty-looking / níftiy-lúkiniŋ / adj. P 19 F
    stylish; smart; attractive; etc.
    Common since c1930.

667. Purchalease / pórčalíys / 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 / kwíkiyz / 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 / skračiy klatær / n. P 21 F
    a rasping voice; chatter in an irritating voice.
672. Shot down in flames / sōt down in fleymz / pp. adj. S 5 F
beaten in an argument. (P)
Orig. airforce slang from WWI.

673. Sidekick / saydkik / 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 / slash tuw / vb. S 5 F
cut down to; reduced to (as in prices of articles in a
store.)
Trade jargon; fig. use.

675. Sopwith-skimmer / sōpwiθ - skimør / n. S 31 J
a snow skido0 (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 / sowlmeyt / 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 / sawnd of / 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 / spin-of / 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 / stor têytθ / 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. Straightman / 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 / stAf / 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 / stAŋ / vb. S 8 F
cheated, esp. by a merchant; overcharged. (WF) (P)
Fig. use of stung.

684. Supermarket / suwpdrmarket / n. S 27 J
a large self-service store selling groceries, produce and often household articles.
Super- prefix, see #304-09.

685. Singles / swingels / n. S 30 J
swinging single people.
Portmanteau word: swing/ing/ /sing/les.
Neologism.

686. Tatty / tåtiy / adj. S 8 F
worn; threadbare, unkempt and dirty, as in: "Tatty clothes."
Cf. British dial. tat meaning, tangle.

687. Telethon / têleeθɔn / 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 / āptāyt / adj. P 18 F**
   conventional; set in one's ways; square; tense; hung-up; upset and frustrated over something.
   Mainly student use.

692. **Vocaldom / vokāldom / 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 / zing / n. P 27 F**
   vitality; zest; animation.
   (v) SPORTS

695. **Bankroll / bankröll / vb. S 19 F**
   to subsidize, support or pay for an event, etc.
   Functional shift.

696. **Blades / bléydz / 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 / bl̩wər / n. S 4 M
a telephone.
Orig. prob. f. *blower*, meaning a talkative person.

699. Blubber-boy / bl̩bər-boy / 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 / ʃamp/ n. S 4 F
champion.
Abbreviation by back-clipping: *champ/ion*.

702. Clobbered / kloberd / vb. S 31 J
beaten thoroughly.

703. Coastwise / kowstwāyz / 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 / doləp / 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 / dənɪbrʊk / 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 / dəblhêdər / 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 / dəmppt / vb. S 27 J
to be thoroughly beaten, as in a sport or game; won handily over; left way behind in points.
709. Faceoff / fɛysəf / 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 it's to be the deciding point in the game.
-off suffix word, see #246.

710. Floormanship / flɔrmənʃip / 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 / griːst ðə skɪdz for win / vb. phr.
made smart and successful preparations in advance which secure a favorable set-up when it's 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. / keɪ ˈəʊ / 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 / lɑːf 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-ɡræyndər / 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 / muwʃ / 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 / ˈudəlz / n. S 4 M
many; great quantities, as in: "Oodles of money."

720. Oomph / ˈuwmf / n. S 30 J
sex appeal; power; excitement; enthusiasm. (WF)
Onomatopoetic formation.

721. Out of one's hair / ˈawt əv wʌnz hər / 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 / ˈpi-ˈwi / n. S 4 F
usu. said of sports played by young boys, as in: "Pee-wee
baseball league."
Rhyming reduplication.

723. Pratfall / ˈprætfəl / n. P 14 F
a defeat; a pitfall; fig., from falling on the backside.
From earlier prat (buttocks) and fall.

724. Pull for / ˈpʊl fɔr / vb. S 29 J
to root for; to hope for the best for; to support.

725. Push-over / ˈpuːʃ-əvər / n. S 27 F
any person, group or team easily defeated in a contest. (WF)

726. Scattergat / ˈskætərgæt / 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 / ˈʃeyd əd / vb. S 27 J
won (a game) by a very small margin. (P)

728. Shamateur / ˈʃəmeɪtər / 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 / ˈʃəkər / n. S 31 J
an event, result or circumstance that really surprises one.
er suffix, see #32.
730. **Shutout / ʃʌtəwt / 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. **Sockedin / sɔkt-in / vb.** S 4 F
   kept in or stationary; stopped from proceeding with plans, usu. because of foul weather or the like. (WF)
   From WWII airforce slang in ref. to an airfirelfd unusable because of fog.
   -in suffix, see #271.

732. **Southpaw / sawθpə / 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 fɔr / vb.** S 19 F
   substituted for.
   Abbreviation by back-clipping: substituted/.
   -ed an adj. forming suffix.

734. **Trimmed / trimd / vb.** S 27 J
   in games, means beat easily.

735. **Triviera / triviyə/ / 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 / ʔʌnder ʔə tɛybel dʒiylz / 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 / wrәp-әp / 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 / bōbəlz / vb. S 20 F
   to bobble means to fumble; to mess up; to ruin (something).

740. Bow out / bōw əw ər t / vb. S 12 F
   to leave; to break off a situation or relationship by departing.
   -out suffix word, see #11.

741. Buck / bək / n. S 11 M
   a dollar.
   Poss. f. the animal buck; wide colloquial use since c1850.

742. Cop / kəp/ 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 / kruwarz / n. pl. S 5 M
   taxicabs, which cruise the streets in search of fares.
   Meaning change.
   -er suffix, see #32.

745. Demo / dəməw / n. S 22 F
   a demonstrator model (of a car, etc.)
   Abbreviation by back-clipping: demo/nstrator/.

746. Doll / dəl / 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 / dən t hænd mi ə t / 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 / flərd / vb. S 18 F
   shocked or surprised (to the point where one almost faints and falls on the floor). (WF)
749. Flunkeroo / flīnkərəw / 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 / gəw jəm in ðə lēık / S 3 M
   an expression meaning: go to hell; take off.
   A euphemism.

751. Go nuts / gəw nəts / 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 / grūwviy / 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 / īdīət kərd / 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 / kɪd / n. S 17 F
   a child, esp. a young child. (P)
   From the young of a goat. Cf. #152.

755. Level with someone / lēv əl wɪθ səmˌmən / vb. S 5 F
   to be honest with someone; to give the facts to someone. (P)

756. Live it up / lɪv ət əp / 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 / mək ə pləˈfər / 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. (WP)
758. Out / awt / adj. S 7 M
    unconscious. (P)
    Meaning change.

759. Pussycat / pusiykæt / n. S 1 M
    a girl; an endearing name for a girlfriend.

760. Rat on / ræt ɒn / vb. S 27 F
    to inform on; to tell on.
    Cf. # 764, 235.

761. Sharpy / særpiy / n. S 11 M
    a person self-consciously alert; a shrewd, alert person. (WF)
    -y suffix, see #31.

762. Smashing / smæsiŋ / 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 / sɔk it təw mi / 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 ɒn / vb. S 25 F
    to inform on; to tell secret things about someone. (P)
    Cf. # 760.

765. Stoke up / stɔk 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 / sʌdən keɪs əv ə smærts / S 22 F
    a sudden realization of the truth about a situation or person; a wising up to something.

767. Third degree / əʊrd diəɡri / 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 / dɪs wænz on yu / 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** / tip off / 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** / topsayd / n. S 19 F
on top of; above.
top-prefix word means, in command of or in control.

(vii) **FINANCE**

771. **Bearish** / beris / 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** / breyncayld / 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** / bulis / 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** / kac / 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** / dedblyts / n. S 31 J
worthless idlers, esp. if spongers.
Colloquial since c1875.
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.

Peppy / pepiy / adj. S 14 F
energetic; spirited. (P)
-y suffix, see #31.

Soft market / soft markæt / n. S 3 F
weak; unreliable market with prices poor and fluctuating.
Financial or stock market jargon.

Takeover / tækəʊvər / n. S 5 F
the taking of control of something by transfer from or in succession to another.

Up-powered / ʌp-pɔʊərd / 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, 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: psych-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


2 Sledd and Ebbitt, p. 30.


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.


11 McLuhan, p. 190.

12 McLuhan, p. 189.
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