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Historical dictionary of american slang

Lissome Slender and graceful. Summery Light, delicate or warm and sunny. The book is the handbook for lovers for it contains an essay on what makes words beautiful so that the reader may go beyond the book in beautifying his or her speech. Speed up you messaging immensely by memorizing this list. A fascinating mixture of the clever, the colorful, the crude, and the coarse, this first historical dictionary to be devoted exclusively to American slang has been in progress for more than two decades. Here is how we insulted each other when we were more civil. (v)To stop functioning.My car broke down and I had to walk home. Wafture Waving, Word Fun across the Web Find out about the longest words, palindromes, antagonyms—the greatest sideshow of language on earth. None of us receive salaries, so all donations will go for the costs of our internet servers. of Tennessee, Knoxville). If you have a question that is not covered here, simply send it to him via our contact page. (n)Nude, nudity.To ... A fascinating mixture of the clever, the colorful, the crude, and the coarse, this first historical dictionary to be devoted exclusively to American slang has been in progress for more than two ... An edition of Random House Historical Dictionary of American Slang (Vol 3: P-Z) (2002) Dictionary of American slang, covering all eras of American history with accurate definitions and extensive, dated citations. You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use. Ephemeral Short-lived. Murmurous Murmuring. Comely Attractive. Search for slang words, meanings, and dates from over 2200 terms in this unique dictionary. Incipient Beginning, in an early stage. See how many phobias you can name then peruse our newly corrected phobia, philia, and mania glossaries. Only a decade or so ago, many of the words in this work were considered taboo, not just in polite society but also in the mass media. The initial volume (A-G) comprises some 10,000 headwords, 20,000 definitions, and 90,000 citations. Archived from the original on 2012-10-17. Onomatopoeia A word that sounds like its meaning. Scintilla A spark or very small thing. Following the introduction, Lighter provides a useful, annotated bibliography of significant books and articles dealing with American slang and an admirably thorough guide to the dictionary.Defining slang as "an informal, nonstandard, nontechnical vocabulary composed chiefly of novel-sounding synonyms for standard words and phrases." Lighter notes that his intent in this compilation is to treat words and phrases that can be considered American slang, either presently or in the past. The 100 Most Beautiful Words in English Ailuraphed A cat-lover. Folk Etymology Did you know that crawfish started out as French *Â©crevisse*? work of profound lexicographical slang-scholarship ever published. In his excellent 27-page introduction, Lighter, a research associate in the English department of the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, traces the historical development of slang in the English language and discusses its sociological and cultural aspects. Epiphany A sudden revelation. Desultory Slow, sluggish. Slinging Slang from the Flappers to the Rappers Test you slang for the generation is represents. Dalliance A brief love affair. Becoming Attractive, even tombstones. We are just beginning to build our wordplay menu, so keep an eye on it. Limericks (G-Rated) We offer these glisteningly clean limericks just to prove it can be done. IngÂ©nue A naÂ©ve young woman. Preliminaries The Russian Verb The Russian Noun The Russian Adjective The Adjective Declensions Adjective Comparison Adverbs The Russian Pronouns The Russian Preposition The Russian Conjunction Russian Syntax Russian Word Formation Verbal Word Formation Noun Word Formation (Coming eventually) Adjective Word Formation (Coming eventually) Image not available forColour: To view this video download Flash Player It is currently Thu Apr 17, 2025 6:25 pm In total there are 233 users online :: 4 registered, 0 hidden and 229 guests (based on users active over the past 5 minutes)Most users ever online was 8477 on Fri Mar 14, 2025 3:11 am Registered users: Ahrefs [Bot], Bing [Bot], Google [Bot], Semrush [Bot] Legend: Administrators, Global moderators Total posts 62663 • Total topics 12406 • Total members 3172 • Our newest member michaelhaydon Dr. Goodword's Office is where we will keep articles about the nature of language, correct usage, and other fascinating linguistic tidbits. Lagniappe A special kind of gift. ^ Wentworth, Harold; Flexner; Stuart Berg (1975). Petrichor The smell of earth after rain. Langour Listlessness, inactivity. Simpson, Chief Editor, Oxford English DictionaryThe New York Times"Will do for nonstandard English what the Oxford English Dictionary did for the whole language".--William Safire"No one has ever created a scholarly work that is more fun."--Newsweek"The funnest. The licensor cannot revoke these freedoms as long as you follow the license terms. Offing The sea between the horizon in the offshore. Dulcet Sweet, sugary. Plethora A large quantity. They were chosen by Robert Beard, who has been making dictionaries, creating word lists, and writing poetry for 40 years. We will focus on the questions that Dr. Goodword (AKA Robert Beard, PhD, Linguistics) has been asked over the past 20 years: from the days of his Web of Online Dictionaries, through his stint as Dr. Language at yourDictionary, and up until now. What happened? Ineffable Unutterable, inexpressible. Zany Sentences Made from Movie Titles Hilarious sentences made out of movie titles strung together. Dear Patron: Please don't scroll past this. The 100 Funniest Words in English >> The 100 Most Interesting Words in English >> Can You Chip In?Dear Patron: Please don't scroll past this. We appreciate your support of alphaDictionary and the Good Word word of the day series. Susquehanna A river in Pennsylvania. The increasing usage and heightened awareness of such terms are not only reflected in this volume, but also make its publication even more timely and appropriate.When completed, Lighter's dictionary will be, without a doubt, the most definitive and scholarly treatment of American slang ever published. Ravel To knit or unknt. The HDAS is not to be confused with the DAS, the Dictionary of American Slang (1975).[2][3] ^ "Historical Dictionary of American Slang: Project History". Read the surprising conclusions of Dr. Goodword, then peruse his growing collection of these funny little words. Evocative Suggestive. Retrieved 2014-03-28. (Featured on PBS Morning Edition.)The alphaDictionary Game Room Word games that will tickle and test your language skills. Each entry includes representative quotations, including the earliest quotation using the word. Opulent Lush, luxuriant. Nemesis An unconquerable archenemy. Only \$9.95 plus \$2.55 shipping in North America. These quotations, which are the true heart of each entry, serve not only to document a word's usage at a particular time but also to further elucidate its meaning. Lagoon A small gulf or inlet. Outside the United States Buy The 100 Most Beautiful Words in English through your local Amazon.com. Ratatouille A spicy French stew. For a signed copy with a special message, click "special instructions to seller" and write your short message, including the name of the person to whom the book will be autographed. The first two volumes, Volume 1, A – G (1994), and Volume 2, H – Q (1997), were published by Random House, and the work then was known as the Random House Historical Dictionary of American Slang, sometimes abbreviated as RHHDAS. In short, it's awesome, fantabulous, rad, the cat's meow! "A landmark publication, at on estroke sweeping its predecessors into the shade. Surreptitious Secretive, sneaky. Glossary of Fortune-Telling Words Fortune-telling is built into our way of life. It belongs in every serious reference collection. Conflate To blend together. Embrocation Rubbing on a lotion. Evanescent Vanishing quickly, lasting a very short time. It is one of those rare books that prompts the realization that you have never seen the subject in such sharp focus before."--John A. Funny Personal Names Meet the people from New Monia, Pennsylvanis, who appear in so many Good Words. The 100 Most Beautiful in English ere are the 100 most beautiful words in English. For example, other rights such as publicity, privacy, or moral rights may limit how you use the material. Emollient A softener. Lighter: Editor: Jonathan E.... See if you can come up with one funnier and we will publish it. ed., reviewed above.-Ed.)-Ken Kister, author of "Best Encyclopedias," Tampa, Fla.--Ken Kister, author of "Best Encyclopedias," Tampa, Fla.Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. Paraprosdokians Enjoy this peculiar type of humor in our speech—sentences that lead us down the garden path. We understand that not everyone can donate right now, but if you can afford to contribute this Thursday, we promise it will be put to good use. We will tell you if your slang comes from the 50s, the 2000s, or any generation in between. (v)To stop resisting.He broke down after 20 hours of grilling and confessed. Usage and status labels are used to indicate other aspects of a term, for instance, whether it is usually considered vulgar or offensive or whether it is generally used jocularly or derisively.The approximately 20,000 definitions included in this volume are models of succinctness. Untoward Unseemly, inappropriate. Linguistic Glossary for the Good Words Puzzled by the terminology used in the daily Good Words? Love Deep affection. It is sometimes compared to Green's Dictionary of Slang, which takes a generally similar approach but is not focused specifically on American slang. International Tongue Twisters Have a ball with our tongue-twisters from around the world in the original language with translations into English. Thank you. Gambol To skip or leap about joyfully. Hold down "Ctrl" when you click if you have a popup blocker on. For example Nathan McCall's Makes Me Wanna Holler is referred to as "N. Browse by letter or use the search engine to find slang from different centuries and regions. Serendipity Finding something nice while looking for something else. Imbrication Overlapping and forming a regular pattern. No warranties are given. Here is a helpful glossary. List of Funny Company Names Some are real, most are concocted but all are funny. Woebegone Sorrowful, downcast. Lewin's The Thesaurus of Slang, rev. How do we know we have the most beautiful? Glamour Beauty. Palimpsest A manuscript written over earlier ones. But there is much, much more. Mellifluous Sweet sounding. Another good use of singlets. Retrieved 2016-05-17. For instance, the entry "ace" as an adjective meaning expert (as in ace reporter) is embellished with 11 citations, the first from Sob Sister (a novel published in 1930) and the last from the TV program 21 Jump Street in 1988. Crowell. Desuetude Disuse. Panacea A solution for all problems Panoply A complete set. Glossary of Useless Latin Phrases OK, here is what everyone has been asking for: a glossary of useless Latin phrases for home, school, work and your favorite garbage dump. Join over 2.5 million Americans who have taken this test and loved it. The book is printed in large easy-to-read type, great for travel since you may start and stop on any page. Volume 1 of the projected three-volume set covers A-G; volumes 2 (H-R) and 3 (S-Z) are scheduled for publication in 1996 and 1997, respectively. Riparian By the bank of a stream. Can You Chip In? When Random House discontinued publication, Oxford University Press announced in 2003 that it would publish the two remaining volumes, Volume 3, P – S (Part 1), ISBN 978-0-19-517418-2, and Volume 4, S (Part 2) – Z,[1] As of 2020, however, those volumes have not yet been published. The Lexiteria account has now run out of funds. Chinese, Japanese, Hebrew, Tagalog, Eskimo—and more. Most academic and large public libraries will want to add this work, since its historical treatment complements the coverage of slang terms in the Dictionary of American Regional English and The Oxford English Dictionary. RHHDAS also furnishes an extensive annotated bibliography of other important slang dictionaries, including Wentworth and Flexner's classic Dictionary of American Slang (1J 8/75), which RHHDAS complements and largely replaces. Pastiche An art work combining materials from various sources. Vestigial In trace amounts. Getting down to the nitty-gritty, Lighter evidently is cooking with gas because he has done a bang-up job in compiling this tome. Redolent Fragrant. Pyrrhic Successful with heavy losses. The words in this book will decorate your articles, essays, blogs, term papers, memos, love letters—even conversations with those we love. Useless Measurement Conversions alphaDictionary's Conversion Table converts nonstandard measurements not included in regular tables. The book belongs on every patriotic coffee table."--Nicholson Baker, The New Reviews of Books"A browser's joy. Word Fun for Kids in our Word Wizard Club This area is designed for pupils and teachers of K-12, with emphasis on 3rd through 7th grades. When completed, the dictionary will provide detailed lexicographic information on all major slang (words and phrases) used in the United States from Colonial times to the present; no effort has been made to cover purely Canadian terms. Brood To think alone. Today the infamous f word and words and phrases of similar ilk are cropping up in song lyrics, films, television programs, literary works, and mainstream magazines. Names of the US States The origins of the names of the US states by Dr. Beard based on the latest linguistic research (2007). Fugacious Fleeting. Ebullience Bubbling enthusiasm. Inglenook A cozy nook by the hearth. Effervescent Bubbly. Talisman A good luck charm. This delay may prove problematic for users trying to locate the source of a quotation because titles are provided in abbreviated form. Harbinger Messenger with news of the future. Click Here for the Best Deal Both Books only \$17.95 + shipping. Write your Name in Many Different Languages. Below is a select list of his favorite words that he used in his poetryâ©t or wishes he had. Mondegreen A slip of the ear. Dr. Beard's book is a collection of the loveliest words in the English language, carefully researched and well written up in small one-page essays designed to help increase the beauty of our conversations and our understanding of how and why we speak the ways we do. If you do not have a PayPal account, just click "continue" on the PayPal page. LighterLanguageEnglishSubjectSlangGenreReference workPublisherRandom HousePublication date1994 (v.1), 1997 (v.2)Publication placeUnited StatesMedia typePrintPages1742 (first 2 vols.)ISBN0-394-54427-7OCLC30029055Dewey Decimal427.973LC ClassPE 2846 .H57 1994 The Historical Dictionary of American Slang, often abbreviated HDAS, is a dictionary of American slang. We build and maintain all our own systems, but we don't charge for access, sell user information, or run ads. Chatoyant Like a cat's eye. Fetching Pretty. Therefore, some of the entries are for terms now considered colloquial or even Standard English (e.g., bamboozle, cliffhanger, dandy, flapper, fluke), but which were at one time viewed as slang. Paraprosdokians Enjoy this peculiar type of humor in our speechâ©t sentences that lead us down the garden path. Afraid to Take our New Phobias Test? If you find our work useful, please pitch in. Seraglio Rich, luxurious oriental palace or harem. Felicity Pleasantness. There is a word for it no matter what it is. Abbreviated field labels indicating that a particular group of people uses the word (e.g., military, underground) precede the definition when appropriate. We'd be deeply grateful if you'd join the one in a thousand users that support us financially. The Internet Archive is working to keep the record straight by recording government websites, news publications, historical documents, and more. here at alphaDictionary. ^ "Dictionaries and Works Cited: Dictionary of Newfoundland English". an awesome tribute to the American popular imagination."--Boston Globe ly historical dictionary of slang – spanning three hundred years of slang use in America. Gossamer The finest piece of thread, a spider's silk Halcyon Happy, sunny, care-free. Attribution — You must give appropriate credit , provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made . Efflorescence Flowering, blooming. Predicting bad luck from a black cat crossing our path, pulling petals from a flower to tell if someone loves us, believing a four-leaf clover brings good luckâ©t all this is fortune-telling. Glossary of Philias We also have words for every kind of love there is: pick yours here. Because of the nature of slang (nonstandard English), entries include many obscenities the "F" word alone accounts for a dozen pages-as well as racial epithets and other taboo or potentially offensive language. Lassitude Weariness, listlessness. ISBN 9780690006704. No additional restrictions — You may not apply legal terms or technological measures that legally restrict others from doing anything the license permits. Why wake up your brain just to write a masterpiece? Other entries range from informal, inoffensive words and phrases that make our language more lively and interesting (e.g., can of worms, circular file, foodaholic, goof off, grungy) to terms that are generally considered offensive or vulgar, such as racial and ethnic epithets and expressions pertaining to sexual relations and body functions.Entry headwords are arranged letter by letter (e.g., bassackwards precedes bass fiddle), with phrases usually appearing within the entry for the main word of the phrase. Glossary of Manias Crazy about something? Elixir A good potion. Assemblage A gathering. We plan to collect them all. Elision Dropping a sound or syllable in a word. Ripple A very small wave. Bucolic In a lovely rural setting. Sempiternal Eternal. Cynosure A focal point of admiration. Culled from a wide variety of written and oral sources, including literary works, popular novels, other dictionaries, magazines, newspapers, motion pictures, television programs, and anonymous conversations, the more than 90,000 quotations in this volume range from the seventeenth century to the 1990s. Supercool Company Names Names of companies that are particularly appropriate for the business they conduct, such as The Reid and Wright Learning Centre, Bush and Hedges Landscaping, to mention but two. Click any of the first four for a free sample of the book. When we closed Lexiteria in 2014 I left the profits in the PayPal account and have been paying for the web server out of that account. Oxford University Press. The license may not give you all of the permissions necessary for your intended use. Labyrinthine Twisting and turning. Our resources are crucial for knowledge lovers everywhere—so if you find all these bits and bytes useful, please pitch in. Historical Dictionary of American Slang A 2500 searchable dictionary of slang with dates that tell you when the slang first appeared. Diaphanous Filmy. Lik! To move musically or lively. Erstwhile At one time, for a time. A bodacious undertaking. Lighter's dictionary represents a major contribution to lexicographic scholarship. Lite Slender and flexible. Retrieved from " aj)Emphatic adjective.He didn't say a blessed word all night. Click the PayPal "Donate" button below and you will be taken to a page where you can express your appreciation for our efforts. The Morty Skusting Writing Avoidance Center A classless room of automatic writing machines that generate memos, essays, country songs, band names, haiku poetry . Demure Shy and reserved. Glossary of Quaint Southernisms Dr. Goodword plays with his own original version of English in an attempt to preserve it. Forbearance Withholding response to provocation. Rhyming Compounds in English Have you ever wondered about those sing-song words in English like, well, sing-song, not to mention fuddy-duddy and lickety-split? Denouement The resolution of a mystery. Furtive Shifty, sneaky. Language Jokes: Our Laughing Stock Puns, palindromes, and every other type of wordplay: a one-stop trove of all the fun in language. Umbrella Protection from sun or rain. We have a variety of word games and other entertainments for you to enjoy while learning new words and their meanings. Tintinnabulation Tinkling. Beleaguer To exhaust with attacks. And French got *Â©crevisse* from English crab? You may contribute using any of the five credit cards listed below or your PayPal account. You do not have to comply with the license for elements of the material in the public domain or where your use is permitted by an applicable exception or limitation . Lighter of the University of Tennessee. Susurrous Whispering, hissing. Oxymerons Phrases that seem to contradict themselves. alphaDictionary is run by a voluntary commune of people who love words. The table of contents below will tell you what the book contains; just remember that the definitions below are not those found in the book and each essay in the book just begins with the definition. Glossary of Phobias Don't go without a phobia another day: Dr. Goodword has one for every occasion. For five years he wrote the Word of the Day at yourDictionary.com and since 2004 he has written up 1500 words in the series, So, What's the Good Word? Demesne Dominion, territory. Both volumes used the same ISBN. ISBN 0-394-54427-7; the paperback editions are ISBN 978-0-394-54427-4 for Volume 1 and ISBN 978-0-679-43464-1 for Volume 2. Historical Dictionary of American Slang Volume 2 of Random House Historical Dictionary of American Slang, Jonathan E. Ambrose Bierce's Devil's Dictionary Mark Twain's competitor defines words for their actual meanings in the real world. What sets RHHDAS apart from other slang dictionaries is its systematic historical approach—that is, terms are not only defined but their etymological development is traced chronologically through dated citations. Are you a Rebel or a Yankee—or something in between? Ethereal Gaseous, invisible but detectable. Lighter: Author: Jonathan E. Penumbra A half-shadow. Persiflage: Intelligent Insults We weren't always awash in crudity even though insults have always been with us. A complete list of the approximately 8,000 sources cited throughout the dictionary will not appear until volume 3. No writing skills required. Sniglets Words not in the dictionary that should be there. Heritage.nf.ca. New Meanings for Old Words The latest kind of wordplay: attaching new meanings that almost make sense to old words. Imbue To infuse, instill. Quintessential Most essential. Leisure Free time. Glossary of IMGLISH - Texting Talk A list of acronyms, abbreviations, and emoticons used in chat and IM shorthand. You know this is what they mean. Inure To become jaded. Following each definition are illustrative quotations, which are arranged chronologically, beginning with the earliest documented use. HDAS is edited by Jonathan E. The Internet Archive is a nonprofit fighting for universal access to quality information. A game you can play, too. Dissemble Deceive. Insouciance Blithe nonchalance. Slang dictionaries abound, but none offers the linguistic depth, historical range, and scholarly verve of the new Random House Historical Dictionary of American Slang (RHHDAS), principally the work of Lighter (English, Univ. Eloquence Beauty and persuasion in speech. Dictionary of American slang - Harold Wentworth, Stuart Berg Flexner - Google Books. Volume 2 (H-R) is scheduled for publication in 1996, with Volume 3 (S-Z) to follow in 1997. Bungalow A small, cozy cottage. Read all about it here. Share — copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format for any purpose, even commercially. Click here for the full story. You can contribute. Sumptuous Lush, luxurious. Instead, we're powered by online donations averaging about \$15. McColl, Wanda Holler: "While there is no denying that perusing the pages of this volume can rattle one's sensibilities, the increasing permissiveness regarding language in today's society cannot be ignored. Commonly Confused Words in English Otherwise known as "false cognates", words English speakers commonly confuse plus quizzes that will help you avoid confusing them. The degree of currency is particularly impressive since a number of 1993 sources, and at least one 1994 publication, are represented. People helped it along by trying to change a foreign word into a perfectly English one. Historical Dictionary of American Slang Volume 1AuthorJonathan E. (For another resource on slang, see Esther Lewin and Albert E. Wherewithal The means. Adapt — remix, transform, and build upon the material for any purpose, even commercially. Glossary of Eponyms Here is the authoritative glossary of words from people's names compiled by Dr. Goodword himself. Propinquity An inclination. ShareAlike — If you remix, transform, or build upon the material, you must distribute your contributions under the same license as the original. . Moiety One of two equal parts. Imbroiglio An altercation or complicated situation. It also explains how English is interrelated with other languages in the world and why so many of our most beautiful words are borrowed from them.

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