

One who asks you a question with the apparent motive of wanting to hear your answer, but who cuts short your opening sentence by leaning forward and saying 'and I'll tell you why I ask' and then talking solidly for the next hour.
AINSWORTH (n.)
The length of time it takes to get served in a camera shop. Hence, also, how long we will have to wait for the abolition of income tax or the Second Coming.
AIRD OF SLEAT (n. archaic)
Ancient Scottish curse placed from afar on the stretch of land now occupided by Heathrow Airport .
AITH (n.)
The single bristle that sticks out sideways on a cheap paintbrush.
ALBUQUERQUE(n.)
A shapeless squiggle which is utterly unlike your normal signature, but which is, nevertheless, all you are able to produce when asked formally to identify yourself. Muslims, whose religion forbids the making of graven images, usealbuquerques to decorate their towels, menu cards and pyjamas.
ALDCLUNE (n.)
One who collects ten-year-old telephone directories.

ALLTAMI (n.)
The ancient art of being able to balance the hot and cold shower taps.
AMBLESIDE (n.)
A talk given about the Facts of Life by a father to his son whilst walking in the garden on a Sunday afternoon.
AMERSHAM (n.)
The sneeze which tickles but never comes. (Thought to derive from the Metropolitan Line tube station of the same name where the rails always rattle but the train never arrives.)
AMLWCH (n.)
A British Rail sandwich which has been kept soft by being regularly washed and resealed in clingfilm.
ARAGLIN (n. archaic)
A medieval practical joke played by young squires on a knight aspirant the afternoon he is due to start his vigil. As the knight arrives at the castle the squires attempt to raise the drawbridge very suddenly as the knight and his charger step on to it.
ARDCRONY (n.)
A remote acquaintance passed off as 'a very good friend of mine' by someone trying to impress people

ARDSCALPSIE (n.)
Excuse made by rural Welsh hairdresser for completely massacring your hair.
ARDSCULL (n.)
Excuse made by rural Welsh hairdresser for deep wounds inflicted on your scalp in an attempt to rectify whatever it was that induced the ardscalpsie (q.v.).
ARDSLIGNISH (adj.)
Adjective which describes the behaviour of Sellotape when you are tired.
ARTICLAVE (n.)
A clever architectural construction designed to give the illusion from the top deck of a bus that it is far too big for the road.
AYNHO (vb.)
Of waiters, never to have a pen.
BABWORTH
Something which justifies having a really good cry.

BALDOCK The sharp prong on the top of a tree stump where the tree has snapped off before being completely sawn through. **BALLYCUMBER** One of the six half-read books lying somewhere in your bed. **BANFF** Pertaining to, or descriptive of, that kind of facial expression which is impossible to achieve except when having a passport photograph taken. **BANTEER** A lusty and raucous old ballad sung after a particulary spectacular araglin (q.v.) has been pulled off. **BARSTIBLEY** A humorous device such as a china horse or small naked porcelain infant which jocular hosts use of piss water into your Scotch with.

BAUGHURST

That kind of large fierce ugly woman who owns a small fierce ugly dog.

BAUMBER
A fitted elasticated bottom sheet which turns your mattress bananashaped.
BEALINGS
The unsavoury parts of a moat which a knight has to pour out of his armour after being the victim of an araglin (q.v.). In medievalFlanders , soup made from bealins was a very slightly sought-after delicacy.
BEAULIEU HILL
The optimum vantage point from which one to view people undressing in the bedroom across the street.
BECCLES
The small bone buttons placed in bacon sandwiches by unemployed guerrilla dentist.
BEDFONT
A lurching sensation in the pit of the stomach experienced at breakfast in a hotel, occasioned by the realisation that it is about now that the chamber-maid will have discovered the embarrassing stain on your bottom sheet.
BELPER
A knob of someone else's chewing gum which you unexpectedly find your hand resting on under a deck's top, under the passenger seat of your car or on somebody's thigh under their skirt.

BENBURB
The sort of man who becomes a returning officer.
BEREPPER
The irrevocable and sturdy fart released in the presence of royalty, which sounds quite like a small motorbike passing by (but not enough to be confused with one).
BERKHAMSTED
The massive three-course midmorning blow-out enjoyed by a dieter who has already done his or her slimming duty by having a teaspoonful of cottage cheese for breakfast.
BERY POMEROY
1. The shape of a gourmet's lips. 2. The droplet of saliva which hangs from them.
BILBSTER
A pimple so hideous and enormous that you have to cover it with sticking plaster and pretend you've cut yourself shaving.
BISHOP'S CAUNDLE
An opening gambit before a game of chess whereby the missing pieces are replaced by small ornaments from the mantelpiece.

BLEAN

Scientific measure of luminosity: 1 glimmer = 100,000 bleans. Usherettes' torches are designed to produce between 2.5 and 4 bleans, enabling them to assist you in falling downstairs, treading on people or putting your hand into a Neapolitan tub when reaching for change.

BLITHBURY

A look someone gives you by which you become aware that they're much too drunk to have understood anything you've said to them in the last twenty minutes.

BLITTERLESS

The little slivers of bamboo picked off a cane chair by a nervous guest which litter the carpet beneath and tell the chair's owner that the whole piece of furniture is about to uncoil terribly and slowly until it resembles a giant pencil sharpening.

BODMIN

The irrational and inevitable discrepancy between the amount pooled and the amount needed when a large group of people try to pay a bill together after a meal.

BOLSOVER

One of those brown plastic trays with bumps on, placed upside down in boxes of chocolates to make you think you're-getting two layers.

BONKLE

Of plumbing in old hotels, to make loud and unexplained noises in the night, particularly at about five o'clock in the morning.
BOOLTEENS
The small scatterings of foreign coins and half-p's which inhabit dressing tables. Since they are never used and never thrown away boolteens account for a significant drain on the world's money supply.
BOOTHBY GRAFFOE
1. The man in the pub who slaps people on the back as if they were old friends, when in fact he has no friends, largely on account of this habit. 2. Any story told by Robert Morley on chat shows.
BOSCASTLE
A huge pyramid of tin cans placed just inside the entrance to a supermarket.
BOSEMAN
One who spends all day loafing about near pedestrian crossing looking as if he's about to cross.
BOTCHERBY
The principle by which British roads are signposted.
BOTLEY

The prominent stain on a man's trouser crotch seen on his return from the lavatory. A botley proper is caused by an accident with the push taps, and should not be confused with any stain caused by insufficient waggling of the willy.
BOTOLPHS
Huge benign tumours which archdeacons and old chemisty teachers affect to wear on the sides of their noses.
BOTUSFLEMING
A small, long-handled steel trowel used by surgeons to remove the contents of a patient's nostrils prior to a sinus operation.
BRADFORD
A school teacher's old hairy jacket, now severely discoloured by chalk dust, ink, egg and the precipitations of unedifying chemical reactions.
BRADWORTHY
One who is skilled in the art of naming loaves.
BRECON
That part of the toenail which is designed to snag on nylon sheets.

BRISBANE

A perfectly reasonable explanation (Such as the one offered by a person with a gurgling cough which has nothing to do with the fact that they smoke fifty cigarettes a day.)

BROATS

A pair of trousers with a career behind them. Broats are most commonly seen on elderly retired army officers. Originally the brats were part of their best suit back in the thirties; then in the fifties they were demounted and used for gardening. Recently pensions not being what they were, the broats have been called out of retirement and reinstated as part of the best suit again.

BROMPTON

A bromton is that which is said to have been committed when you are convinced you are about to blow off with a resounding trumpeting noise in a public place and all that actually slips out is a tiny 'pfpt'.

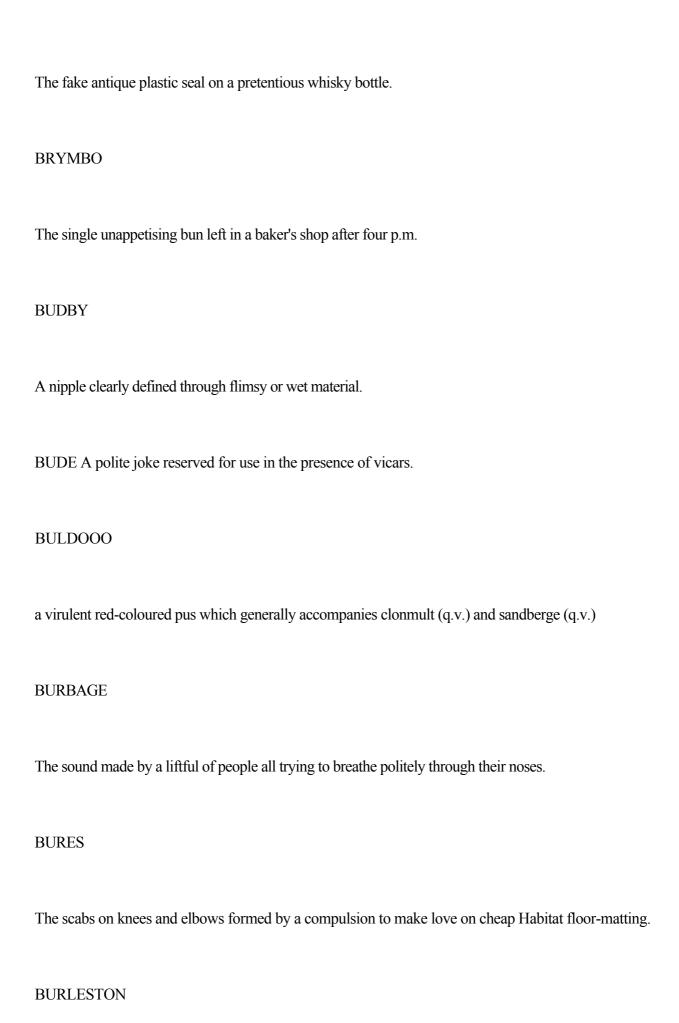
BROMSGROVE

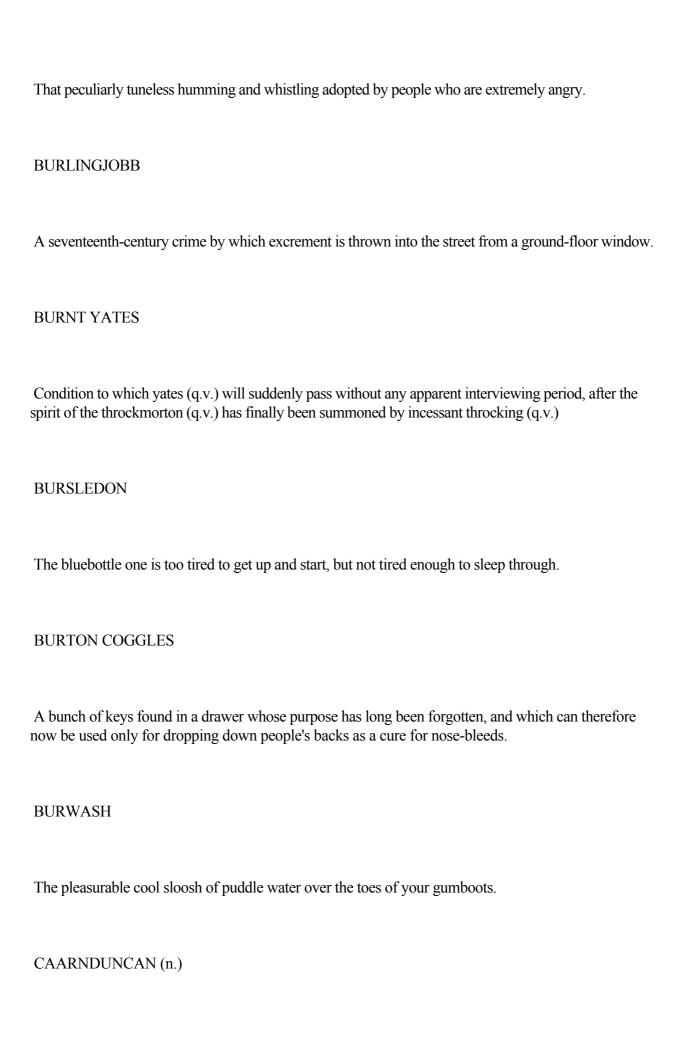
Any urban environment containing a small amount of dogturd and about forty-five tons of bent steel pylon or a lump of concrete with holes claiming to be sculpture. 'Oh, come my dear, and come with me. And wander 'neath the bromsgrove tree' - Betjeman.

BROUGH SOWERBY

One who has been working at that same desk in the same office for fifteen years and has very much his own ideas about why he is continually passed over for promotion.

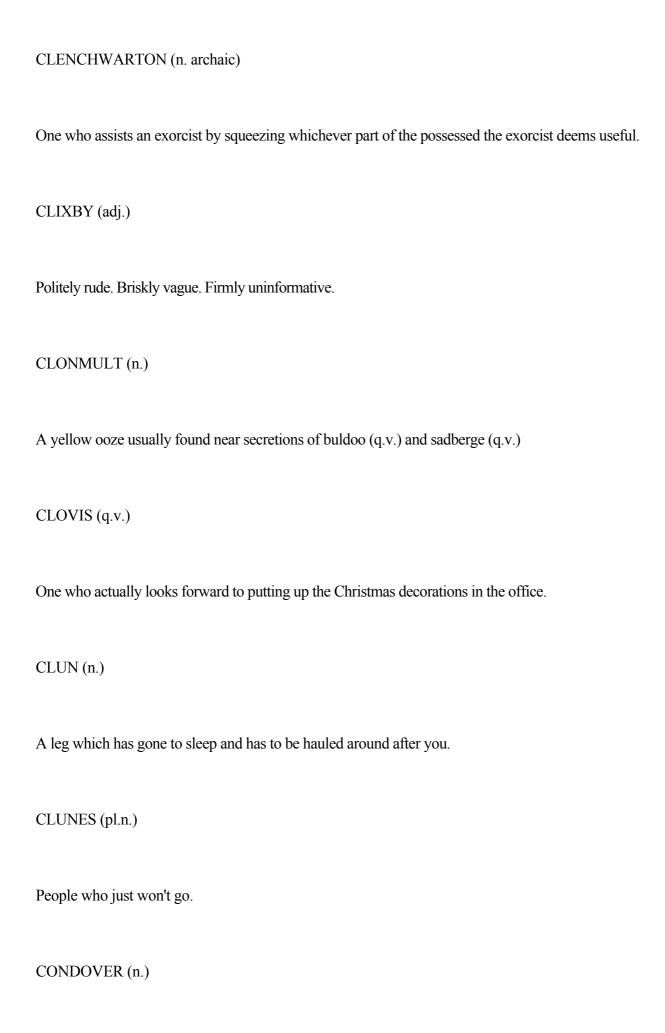
BRUMBY





The high-pitched and insistent cry of the young female human urging one of its peer group to do something dangerous on a cliff-edge or piece of toxic waste ground.
CAIRNPAT (n.)
A large piece of dried dung found in mountainous terrain above the cowline which leads the experienced tracker to believe that hikers have recently passed.
CAMER (n.)
A mis-tossed caber.
CANNOCK CHASE (n.)
In any box of After Eight Mints, there is always a large number of empty envelopes and no more that four or five actual mints. The cannock chase is the process by which, no matter which part of the box often, you will always extract most of the empty sachets before pinning down an actual minot, or 'cannock'. The cannock chase also occurs with people who put their dead matches back in the matchbox, and then embarrass themselves at parties trying to light cigarettes with tree quarters of an inch of charcoal. The term is also used to describe futile attempts to pursue unscrupulous advertising agencies who nick your ideas to sell chocolates with.
CHENIES (pl.n.)
The last few sprigs or tassels of last Christmas's decoration you notice on the ceiling while lying on the sofa on an August afternoon.
CHICAGO (n.)

The foul-smelling wind which precedes an underground railway train.
CHIPPING ONGAR (n.)
The disgust and embarrassment (or 'ongar') felt by an observer in the presence of a person festooned with kirbies (q.v.) when they don't know them well enough to tell them to wipe them off, invariably this 'ongar' is accompanied by an involuntary staccato twitching of the leg (or 'chipping')
CLABBY (adj.)
A 'clabby' conversation is one stuck up by a commissionaire or cleaning lady in order to avoid any further actual work. The opening gambit is usually designed to provoke the maximum confusion, and therefore the longest possible clabby conversation. It is vitally important to learn the correct, or 'clixby' (q.v.), responses to a clabby gambit, and not to get trapped by a 'ditherington' (q.v.). For instance, if confronted with a clabby gambit such as 'Oh, mr Smith, I didn't know you'd had your leg off', the ditherington response is 'I haven't' whereas the clixby is 'good.'
CLACKAVOID (n.)
Technical BBC term for a page of dialogue from Blake's Seven.
CLACKMANNAN (n.)
The sound made by knocking over an elephant's-foot umbrella stand full of walking sticks. Hence name for a particular kind of disco drum riff.
CLATHY (adj.)
Nervously indecisive about how safely to dispose of a dud lightbulb.



One who is employed to stand about all day browsing through the magazine racks in the newsagent.
CONG (n.)
Strange-shaped metal utensil found at the back of the saucepan cupboard. Many authorities believe that congs provide conclusive proof of the existence of a now extinct form of yellow vegetable which the Victorians used to boil mercilessly.
CORFE (n.)
An object which is almost totally indistinguishable from a newspaper, the one crucial difference being tart it belongs to somebody else and is unaccountably much more interesting that your own - which may otherwise appear to be in all respects identical. Though it is a rule of life that a train or other public place may contain any number of corfes but only one newspaper, it is quite possible to transform your own perfectly ordinary newspaper into a corfe by the simple expedient of letting somebody else read it.
CORFU (n.)
The dullest person you met during the course of your holiday. Also the only one who failed to understand that the exchanging of addresses at the end of a holiday is merely a social ritual and is absolutely not an invitation to phone you up and turn up unannounced on your doorstep three months later.
CORRIEARKLET (n.)
The moment at which two people approaching from opposite ends of a long passageway, recognise each other and immediately pretend they haven't. This is to avoid the ghastly embarrassment of having to continue recognising each other the whole length of the corridor.

CORRIECRAVIE (n.)

To avert the horrors of corrievorrie (q.v.) corriecravie is usually employed. This is the cowardly but highly skilled process by which both protagonists continue to approach while keeping up the pretence that they haven't noticed each other - by staring furiously at their feet, grimacing into a notebook, or studying the walls closely as if in a mood of deep irritation.

CORRIEDOO (n.)

The crucial moment of false recognition in a long passageway encounter. Though both people are perfectly well aware that the other is approaching, they must eventually pretend sudden recognition. They now look up with a glassy smile, as if having spotted each other for the first time, (and are particularly delighted to have done so) shouting out 'Haaaaaallllloooo!' as if to say 'Good grief!! You!! Here!! Of all people! Will I never. Coo. Stab me vitals, etc.'

CORRIEMOILLIE (n.)

The dreadful sinking sensation in a long passageway encounter when both protagonists immediately realise they have plumped for the corriedoo (q.v.) much too early as they are still a good thirty yards apart. They were embarrassed by the pretence of corriecravie (q.v.) and decided to make use of the corriedoo because they felt silly. This was a mistake as corrievorrie (q.v.) will make them seem far sillier.

CORRIEVORRIE (n.)

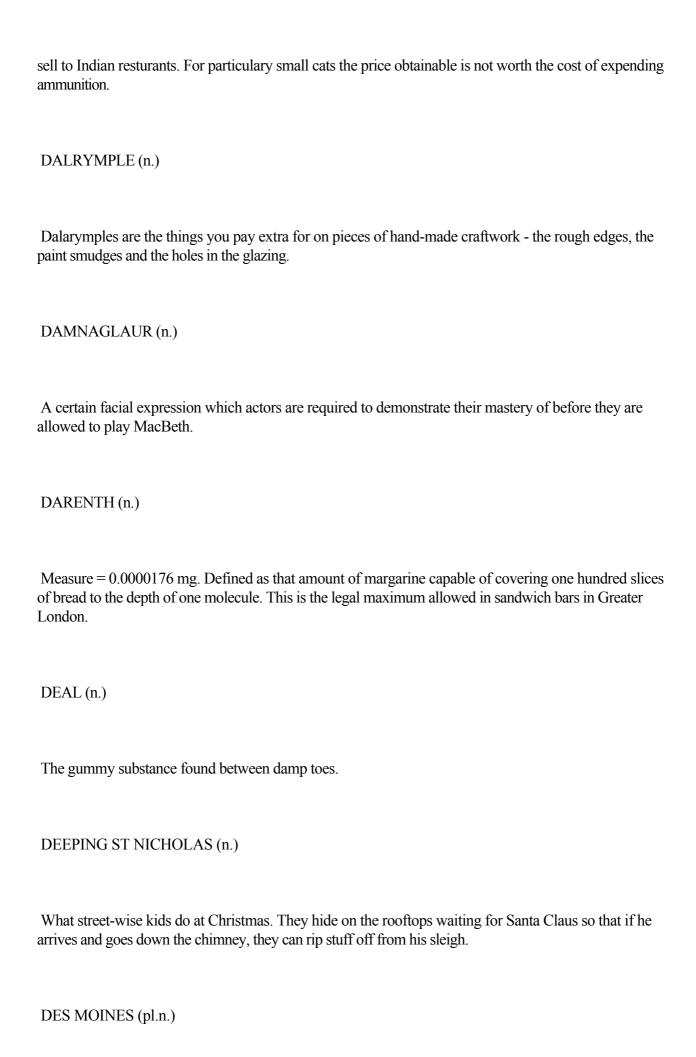
Corridor etiquette demands that one a corriedoo (q.v.) has been declared, corrievorrie must be employed. Both protagonists must now embellish their approach with an embarrassing combination of waving, grinning, making idiot faces, doing pirate impressions, and waggling the head from side to side while holding the other person's eyes as the smile drips off their face, until with great relief, they pass each other.

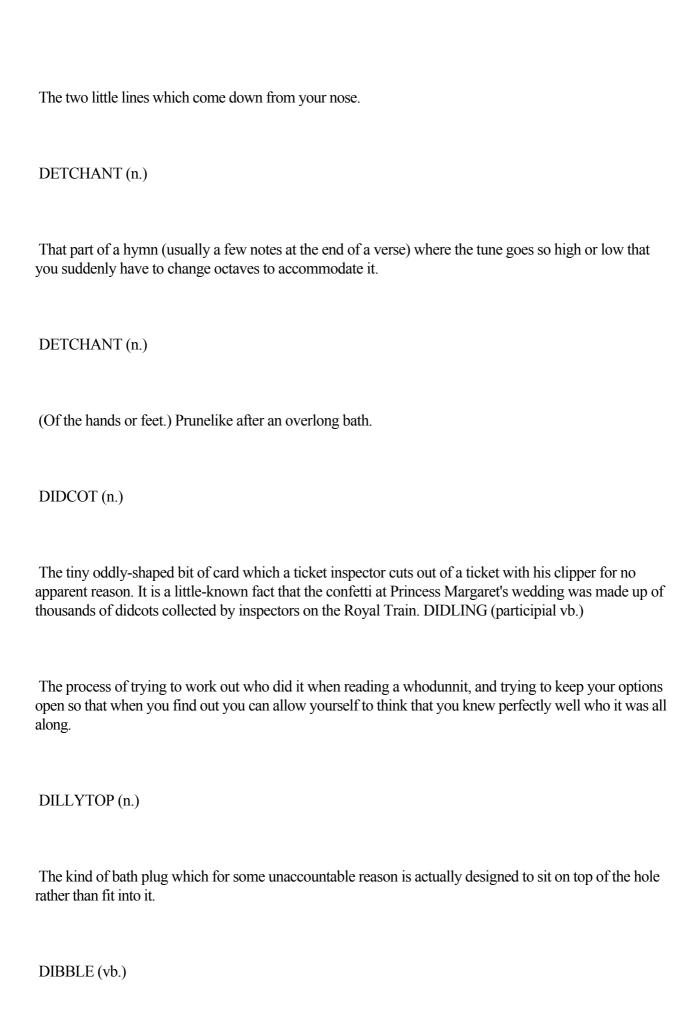
CORRIEMUCHLOCH (n.)

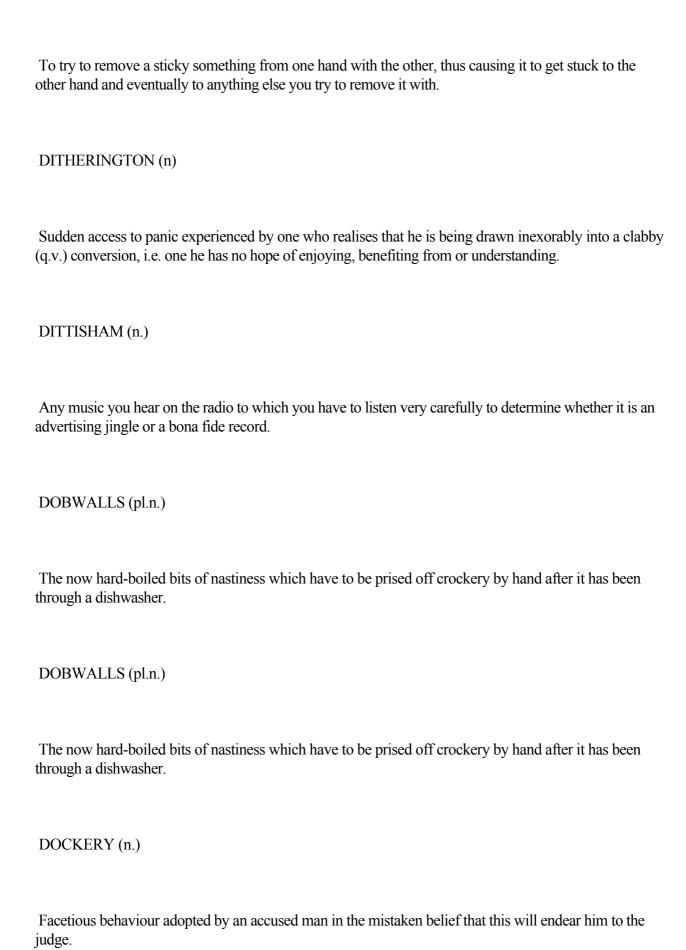
Word describing the kind of person who can make a complete mess of a simple job like walking down a corridor.

CORSTORPHINE (n.)
A very short peremptory service held in monasteries prior to teatime to offer thanks for the benediction of digestive biscuits.
COTTERSTOCK (n.)
A piece of wood used to stir paint and thereafter stored uselessly in a shed in perpetuity.
CRAIL (n. mineral)
Crail is a common kind of rock or gravel found widely across the British Isles. Each individual stone (due to an as yet undiscovered gravitational property) is charged with 'negative buoyancy'. This means that no matter how much crail you remove from the garden, more of it will rise to the surface. Crail is much employed by the Royal Navy for making the paperweights and ashtrays used inside submarines.
CRANLEIGH (n.)
A mood of irrational irritation with everyone and everything.
CROMARTY (n.)
The brittle sludge which clings to the top of ketchup bottles and plastic tomatoes in nasty cafes.
CURRY MALLET (n.)

A large wooden or rubber cub which poachers use to despatch cats or other game which they can only





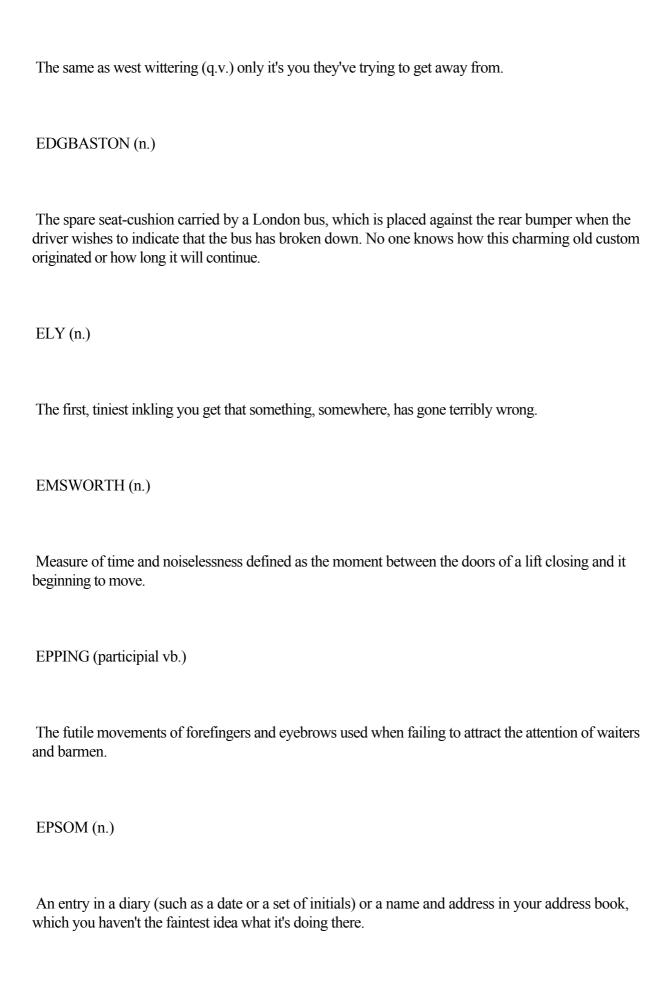


DOGDYKE (vb.)
Of dog-owners, to adopt the absurd pretence that the animal shitting in the gutter is nothing to do with them.
DOLEGELLAU (n.)
The clump, or cluster, of bored, quietly enraged, mildly embarrassed men waiting for their wives to come out of a changing room in a dress shop.
DORCHESTER (n.)
A throaty cough by someone else so timed as to obscure the crucial part of the rather amusing remark you've just made.
DORRIDGE (n.)
Technical term for one of the lame excuses written in very small print on the side of packets of food or washing powder to explain why there's hardly anything inside. Examples include 'Contents may have settled in transit' and 'To keep each biscuit fresh they have been individually wrapped in silver paper and cellophane and separated with corrugated lining, a cardboard flap, and heavy industrial tyres'.
DRAFFAN (n.)
An infuriating person who always manages to look much more dashing that anyone else by turning up unshaven and hangover at a formal party.

DREBLEY (n.)

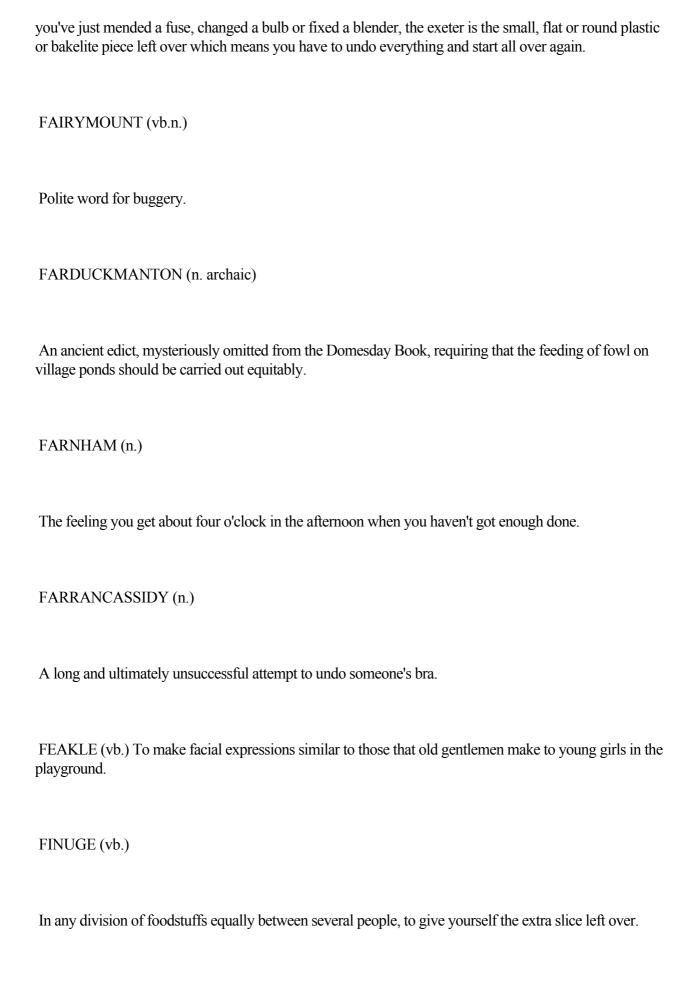
Name for a shop which is supposed to be witty but is in fact wearisome, e.g. 'The Frock Exchange', 'Hair Apparent', etc.
DROITWICH (n.)
A street dance. The two partners approach from opposite directions and try politely to get out of each other's way. They step to the left, step to the right, apologise, step to the left again, apologise again, bump into each other and repeat as often as unnecessary.
DUBUQUE (n.)
A look given by a superior person to someone who has arrived wearing the wrong sort of shoes.
DUDOO (n.)
The most deformed potato in any given collection of potatoes.
DUGGLEBY (n.)
The person in front of you in the supermarket queue who has just unloaded a bulging trolley on to the conveyor belt and is now in the process of trying to work out which pocket they left their cheque book in, and indeed which pair of trousers.
DULEEK (n.)
Sudden realisation, as you lie in bed waiting for the alarm to go off, that it should have gone off an hour ago.

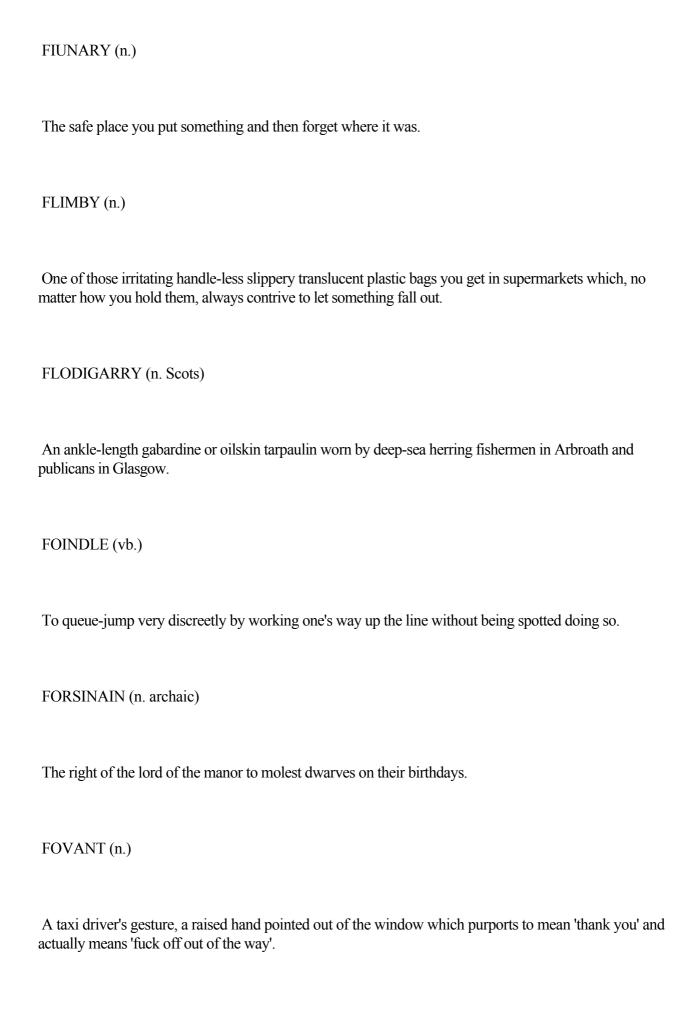
DULUTH (adj.)
The smell of a taxi out of which people have just got.
DUNBAR (n.) A highly specialised fiscal term used solely by turnstile operatives at Regnet's Part zoo. It refers to the variable amount of increase in the variable gate takings on a Sunday afternoon, caused by persons going to the zoo because they are in love and believe that the feeling of romance will be somehow enhanced by the smell of panther sweat and rank incontinence in the reptile house.
DUNBOYNE (n.)
The moment of realisation that the train you have just patiently watched pulling out of the station was the one you were meant to be on.
DUNCRAGGON (n.)
The name of Charles Bronson's retirement cottage.
DUNGENESS (n.)
The uneasy feeling that the plastic handles of the overloaded supermarket carrier bag you are carrying are getting steadily longer.
DUNTISH (adj.)
Mentally incapacitated by severe hangover.
EAST WITTERING (n.)



EPWORTH (n.)
The precise value of the usefulness of epping (q.v.) it is a little-known fact than an earlier draft of the final line of the film Gone with the Wind had Clark Gable saying 'Frankly my dear, i don't give an epworth', the line being eventually changed on the grounds that it might not be understood in Cleveland.
ERIBOLL (n.)
A brown bubble of cheese containing gaseous matter which grows on welsh rarebit. It was Sir Alexander Flemming's study of eribolls which led, indirectly, to his discovery of the fact that he didn't like welsh rarebit very much.
ESHER (n.)
One of those push tapes installed in public washrooms enabling the user to wash their trousers without actually getting into the basin. The most powerful esher of recent years was 'damped down' by Red Adair after an incredible sixty-eight days' fight in Manchester's Piccadilly Station.
EVERSCREECH (n.)
The look given by a group of polite, angry people to a rude, calm queue-barger.
EWELME (n.)
The smile bestowed on you by an air hostess.
EXETER (n.)

All light household and electrical goods contain a number of vital components plus at least one exeter. If





FRADDAM (n.)

The small awkward-shaped piece of cheese which remains after grating a large regular-shaped piece of cheese and enables you to cut your fingers.

FRAMLINGHAM (n.)

A kind of burglar alarm usage. It is cunningly designed so that it can ring at full volume in the street without apparently disturbing anyone. Other types of framlingams are burglar alarms fitted to business premises in residential areas, which go off as a matter of regular routine at 5.31 p.m. on a Friday evening and do not get turned off til 9.20 a.m. on Monday morning.

FRANT (n.)

Measure. The legal minimum distance between two trains on the District and Circle line of the London Underground. A frant, which must be not less than 122 chains (or 8 leagues) long, is not connected in any way with the adjective 'frantic' which comes to us by a completely different route (as indeed do the trains).

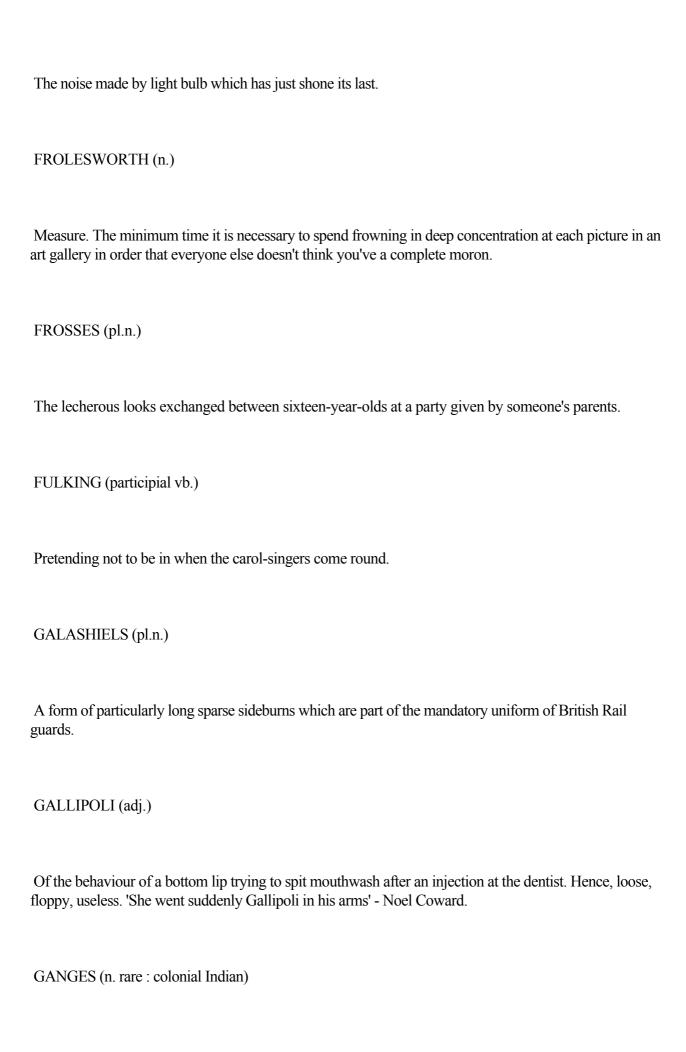
FRATING GREEN (adj.)

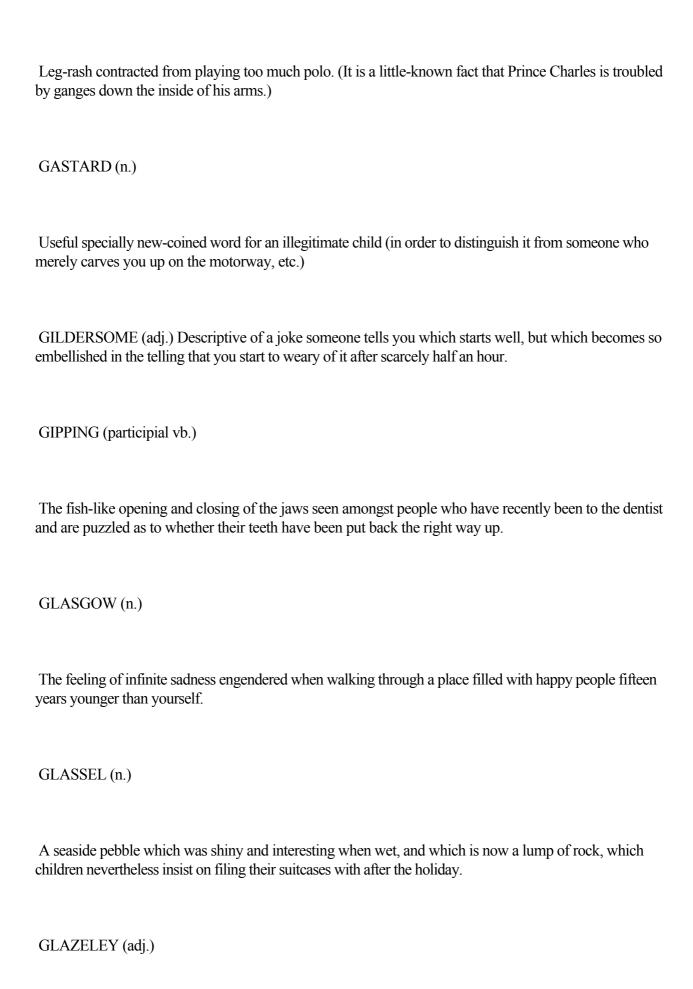
The shade of green which is supposed to make you feel comfortable in hospitals, industrious in schools and uneasy in police stations.

FRIMLEY (n.)

Exaggerated carefree saunter adopted by Norman Wisdom as an immediate prelude to dropping down an open manhole.

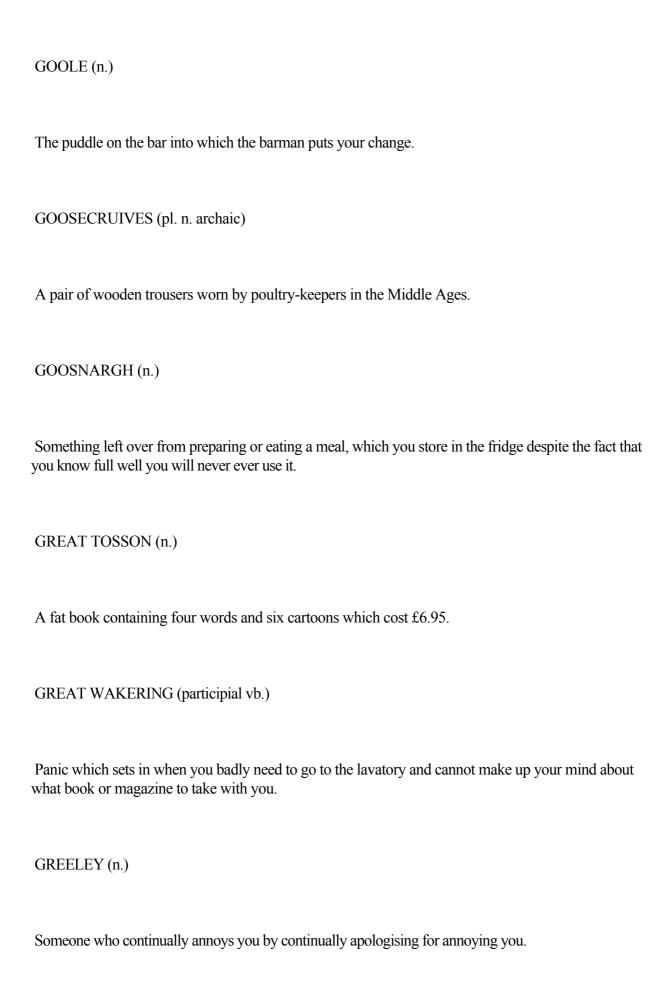
FRING (n.)





The state of a barrister's flat greasy hair after wearing a wig all day.
GLEMENUILT (n.)
The kind of guilt which you'd completely forgotten about which comes roaring back on discovering an old letter in a cupboard.
GLENTAGGART (n.)
A particular kind of tartan hold-all, made exclusive under licence for British Airways. When waiting to collect your luggage from an airport conveyor belt, you will notice that on the next conveyor belt a solitary bag is going round and round uncollected. This is a glentaggart, which has been placed there by the baggage-handling staff to take your mind off the fact that your own luggage will shortly be landing in Murmansk.
GLENTIES (pl.n.)
Series of small steps by which someone who has made a serious tactical error in a conversion or argument moves from complete disagreement to wholehearted agreement.
GLENWHILLY (n. Scots)
A small tartan pouch worn beneath the kilt during the thistle-harvest.
GLINSK (n.)
A hat which politicians but to go to Russia in.

GLORORUM (n.)
One who takes pleasure in informing others about their bowel movements.
GLOSSOP (n.)
A rouge blob of food. Glossops, which are generally streaming hot and highly adhesive invariably fall off your spoon and on to the surface of your host's highly polished antique-rosewood dining table. If this has not, or may not have, been noticed by the company present, swanage (q.v.) may be employed.
GLUTT LODGE (n.)
The place where food can be stored after having a tooth extracted. Some Arabs can go without sustenance for up to six weeks on a full glutt lodge, hence the expression 'the shit of the dessert'.
GLOADBY MARWOOD (n.)
Someone who stops Jon Cleese on the street and demands that he does a funny walk.
GODALMING (n.)
Wonderful rush of relief on discovering that the ely (q.v.) and the wembley (q.v.) were in fact false alarms.
GOLANT (adj.)
Blank, sly and faintly embarrassed. Pertaining to the expression seen on the face of someone who has clearly forgotten your name.



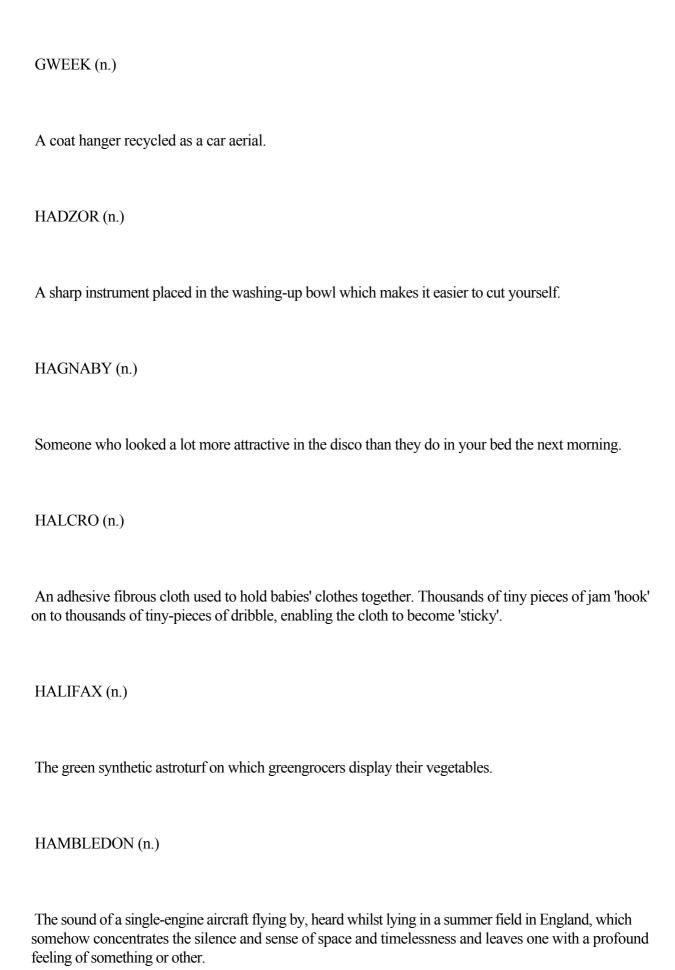
GRETNA GREEN (adj.)
A shade of green which cartoon characters dangle over the edge of a cliff.
GRIMMET (n.)
A small bush from which cartoon characters dangle over the edge of a cliff.
GRIMSBY (n.)
A lump of something gristly and foultasting concealed in a mouthful of stew or pie. Grimsbies are sometimes merely the result of careless cookery, but more often they are placed there deliberately by Freemasons. Grimbies can be purchased in bulk from any respectable Masonic butcher on giving him th secret Masonic handbag. One is then placed correct masonic method of dealing with it. If the guest is not a Mason, the host may find it entertaining to watch how he handles the obnoxious object. It may be (a) manfully swallowed, invariably bringing tears to the eyes. (b) chewed with resolution for up to twenty minutes before eventually resorting to method (a) (c) choked on fatally. The Masonic handshake is easily recognised by another Mason incidentally, for by it a used grimsby is passed from hand to hand. The secret Masonic method for dealing with a grimsby is as follows: remove it carefully with the silver tongs provided, using the left hand. Cross the room to your host, hopping on one leg, and ram the grimsby firmly up his nose, shouting, 'Take that, you smug Masonic bastard.'

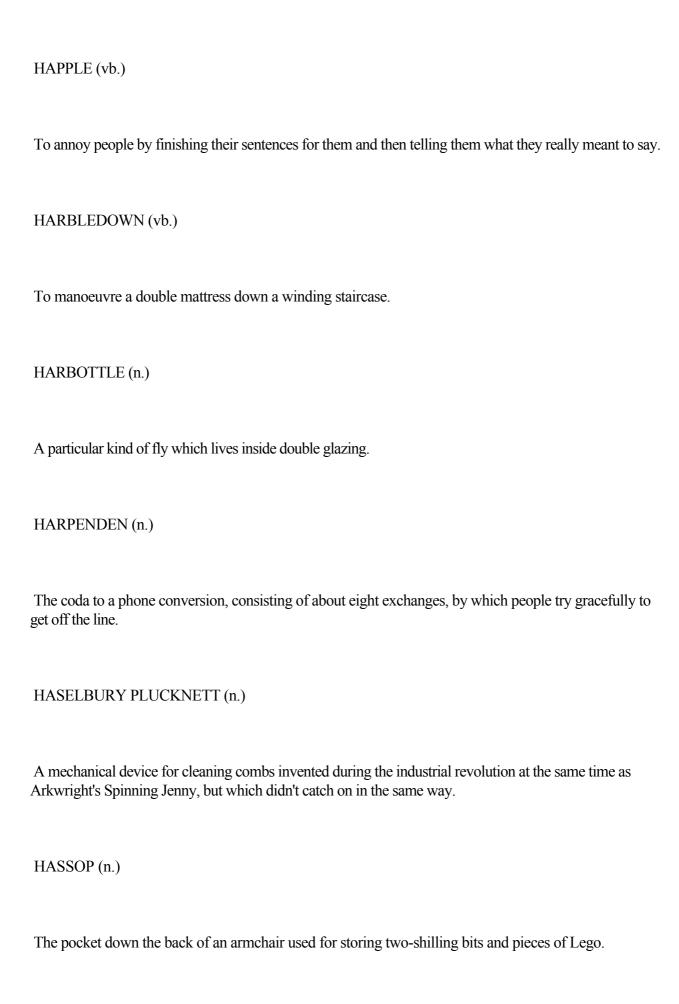
GRINSTEAD (n.)

The state of a lady's clothing after she has been to powder her nose and has hitched up her tights over her skirt at the back, thus exposing her bottom, and has walked out without noticing it.

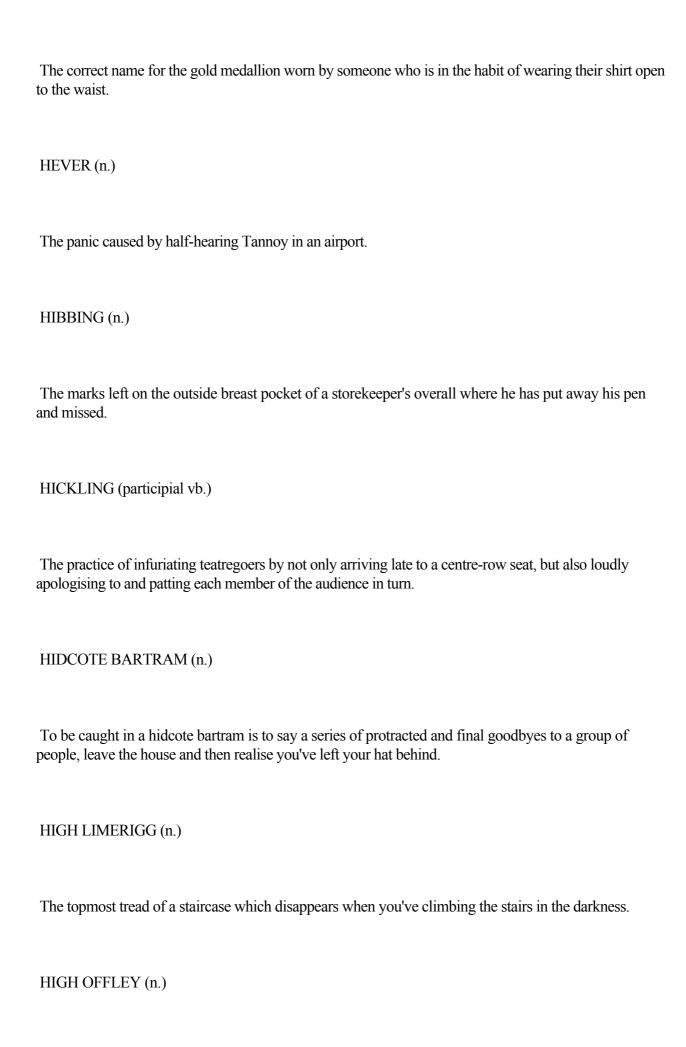
GUERNSEY (adj.)

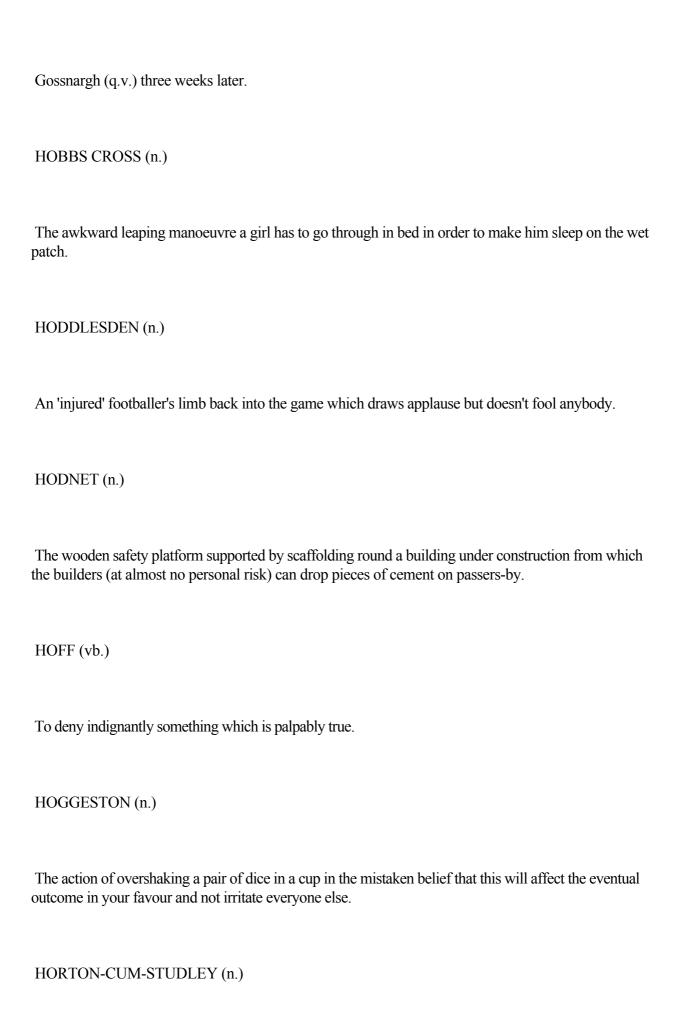
Queasy but umbowed. The kind of feeling one gets when discovering a plastic compartment in a fridge in which thing are growing.

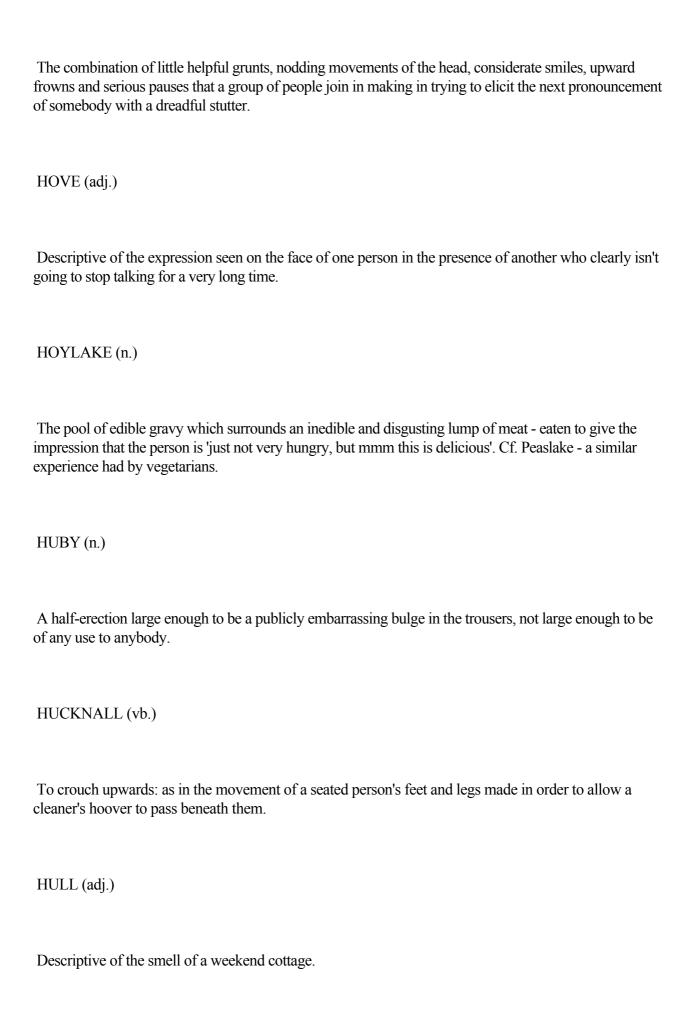


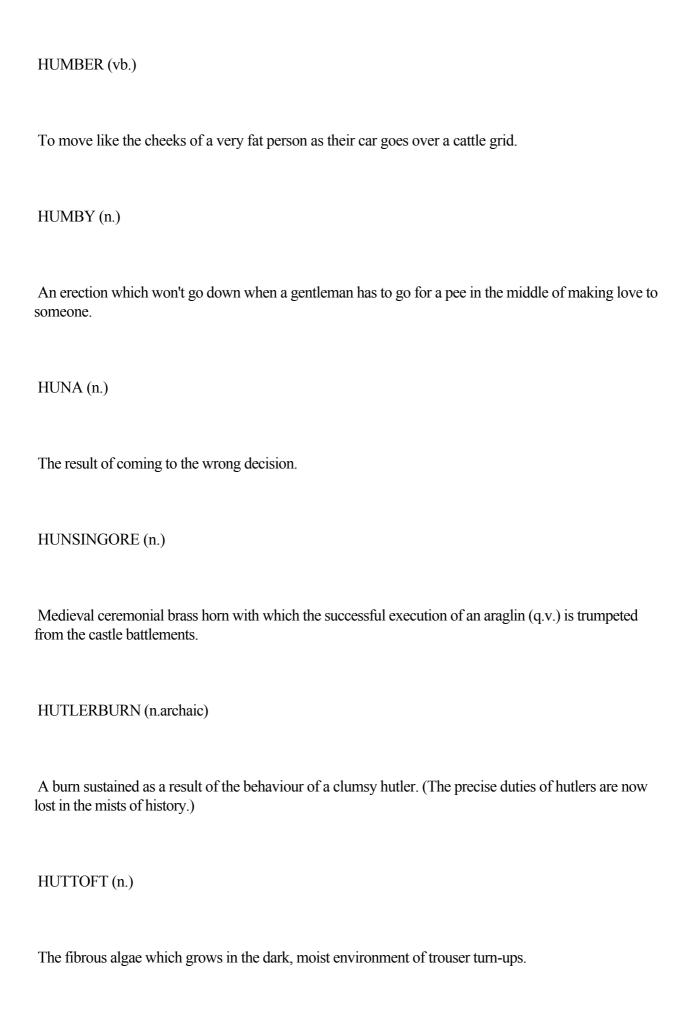


HASTINGS (pl.n.)	
Things said on the spur of the moment to explain to someone who comes into a room unexpectedly precisely what it is you are doing.	
HATHERSAGE (n.)	
The tiny snippets of beard which coat the inside of a washbasin after shaving in it.	
HAUGHAM (n.)	
One who loudly informs other diners in a restaurant what kind of man he is by calling for the chef by he christian name from the lobby.	his
HAXBY (n.)	
Any garden implement found in a potating shed whose exact purpose is unclear.	
HEATON PUNCHARDON (n.) A violent argument which breaks out in the car on the way home for a party between a couple who have had to be polite to each other in company all evening.	rom
HENSTRIDGE (n.)	
The dried yellow substance found between the prongs of forks in restaurants.	
HERSTMONCEUX (n.)	









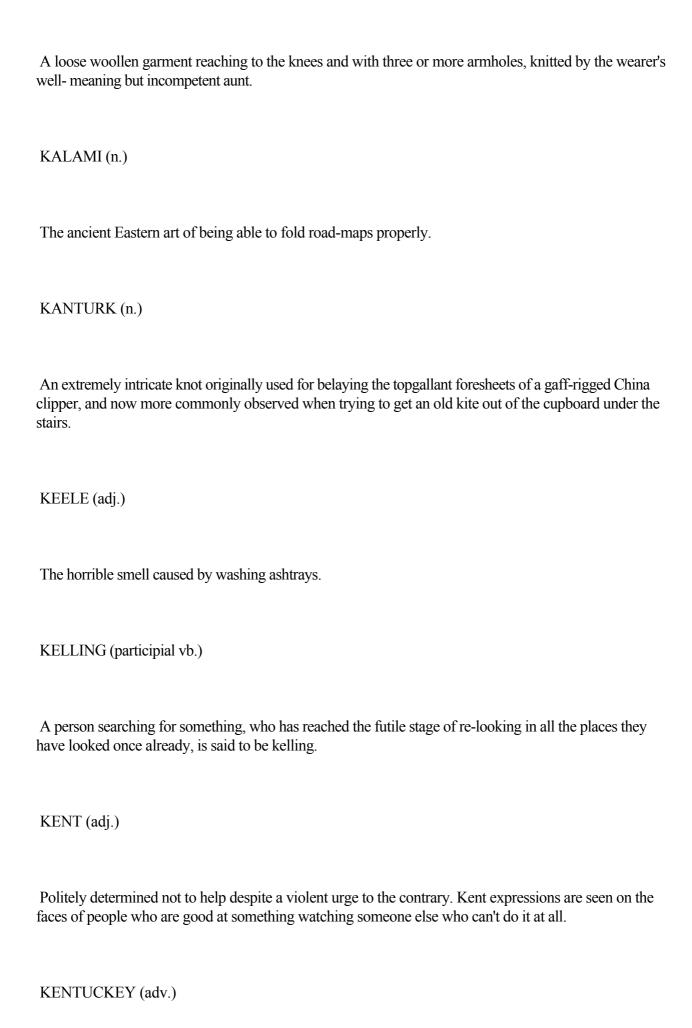
IBSTOCK (n.) Anything used to make a noise on a corrugated iron wall or clinker-built fence by dragging it along the surface while walking past it. 'Mr Bennett thoughtfully selected a stout ibstock and left the house.' - Jane Austen, Pride and Prejudice, II. IPING (participial vb.) The increasingly anxious shifting from leg to leg you go through when you are desperate to go to the lavatory and the person you are talking to keeps on remembering a few final things he want to mention. IPSWICH (n.) The sound at the other end of the telephone which tells you that the automatic exchange is working very hard but is intending not actually to connect you this time, merely to let you know how difficult it is. JARROW (adj.)

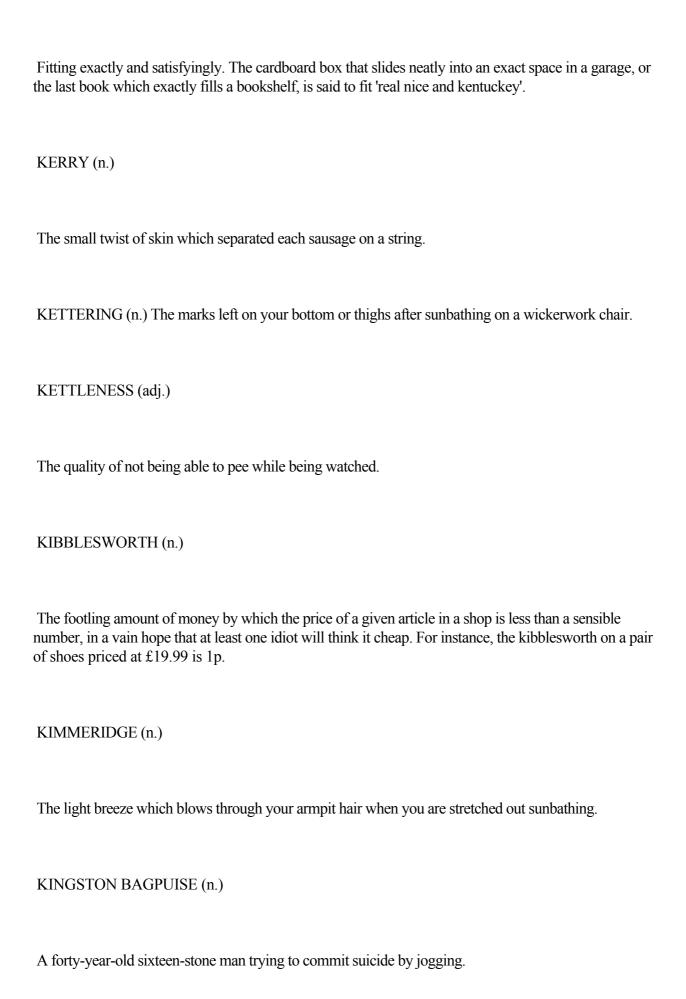
An agricultural device which, when towed behind a tractor, enables the farmer to spread his dung evenly across the width of the road.

JAWCRAIG (n. medical)

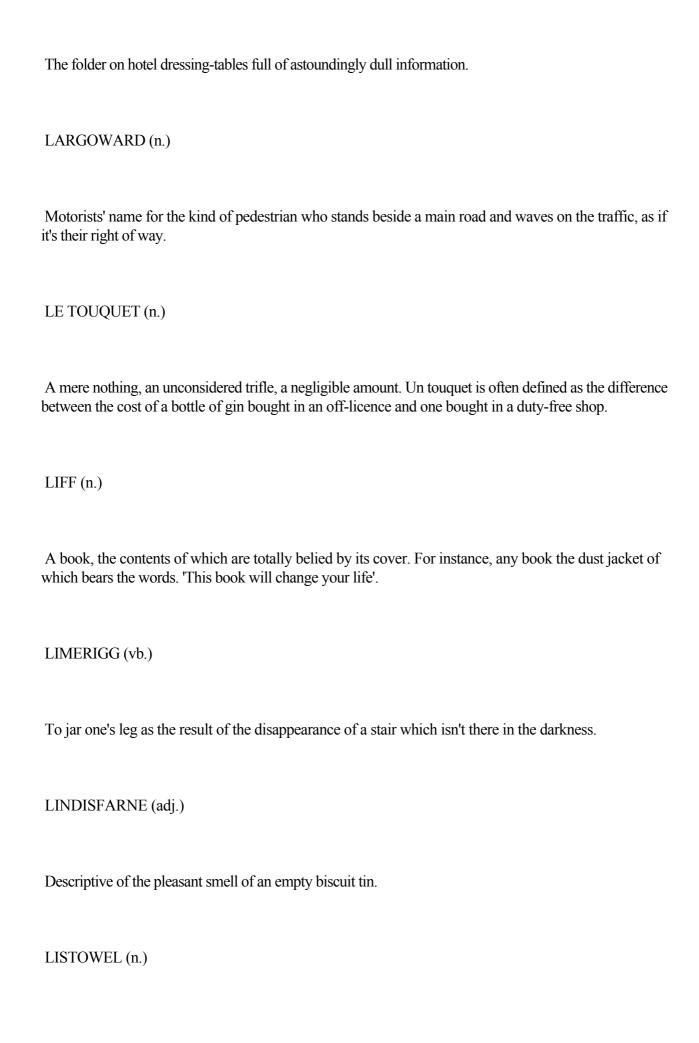
A massive facial spasm which is brought on by being told a really astounding piece of news. A mysterious attack of jawcraig affected 40,000 sheep in Whales in 1952.

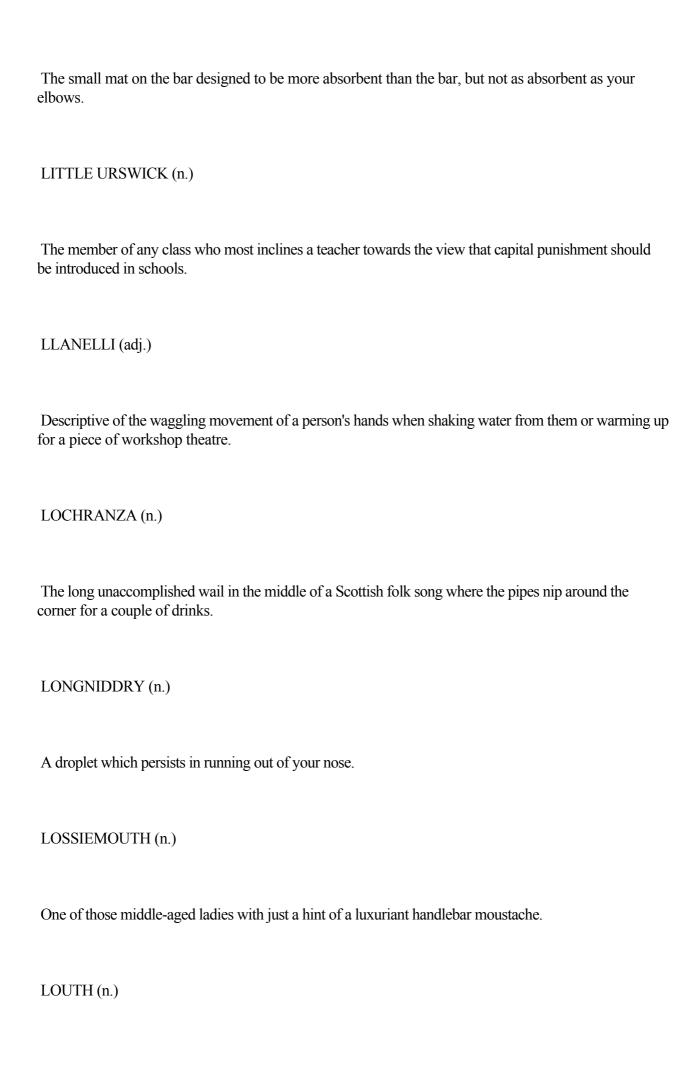
JURBY (n.)

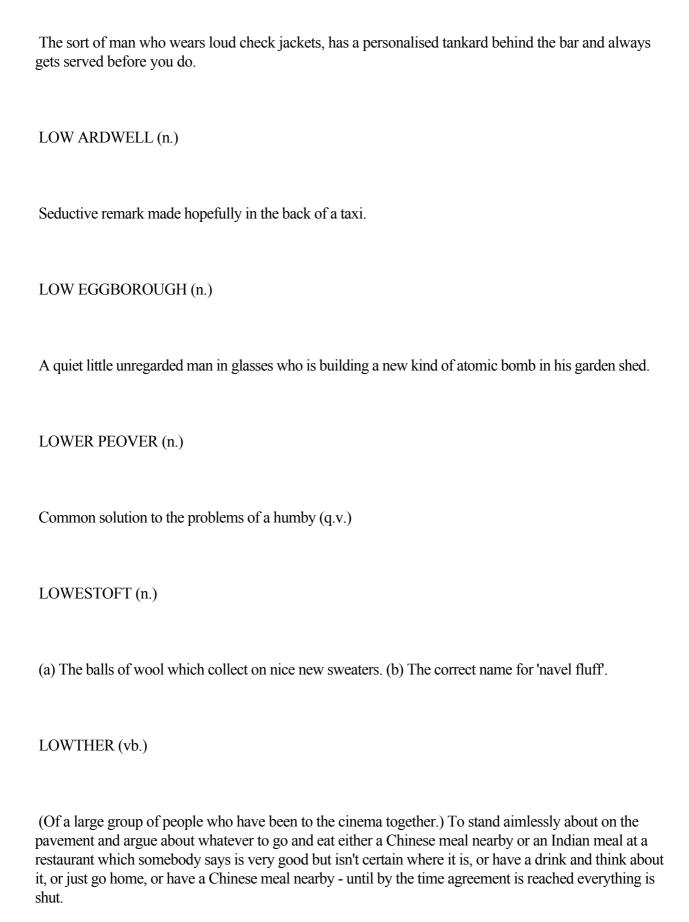




KIRBY (n.)
Small but repulsive piece of food prominently attached to a person's face or clothing. See also CHIPPING ONGAR.
KIRBY MISPERTON (n.)
One who kindly attempts to wipe an apparent kirby (q.v.) off another's face with a napkin, and then discovers it to be a wart or other permanent fixture, is said to have committed a 'kirby misperton'.
KITMURVY (n.)
Man who owns all the latest sporting gadgetry and clothing (gold trolley, tee cosies, ventilated shoes, Gary Player- autographed tracksuit top, American navy cap, mirror sunglasses) but is still only on his second gold lesson.
KNOPTOFT (n.)
The mysterious fluff placed in your pockets by dry-cleaning firms.
KURDISTAN (n.)
Hard stare given by a husband to his wife when he notices a sharp increase in the number of times he answers the phone to be told, 'Sorry, wrong number.'
LAMLASH (n.)

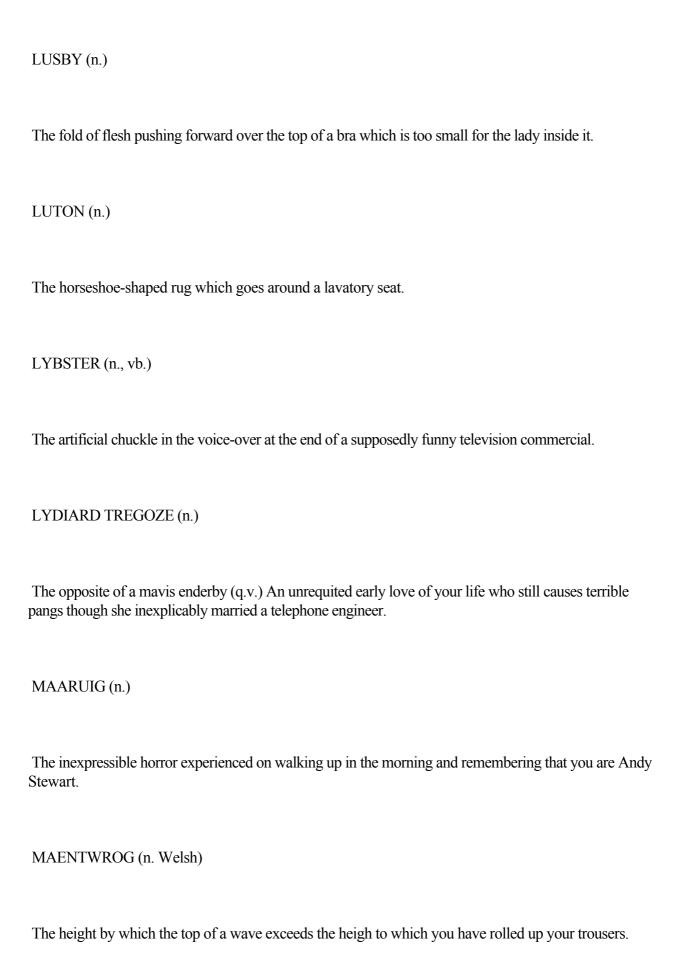






LUBCROY (n.)
The telltale little lump in the top of your swimming trunks which tells you you are going to have to spend half an hour with a safety pin trying to pull the drawstring out again.
LUDLOW (n.)
A wad of newspaper, folded tablenapkin or lump of cardboard put under a wobbly table or chair to make it stand-up straight. It is perhaps not widely known that air-ace Sir Douglas Bader used to get about on an enormous pair of ludlows before he had his artificial legs fitted.
LUFFENHAM (n.)
Feeling you get when the pubs aren't going to be open for another fortyfive minutes and the luffness in beginning to wear a bit thin.
LUFFNESS (n.)
Hearty feeling that comes from walking on the moors with gumboots and cold ears.
LULWORTH (n.)
Measure of conversation. A lulworth defines the amount of the length, loudness and embarrassment of a statement you make when everyone else in the room unaccountably stops talking at the same time.
LUPPITT (n.)

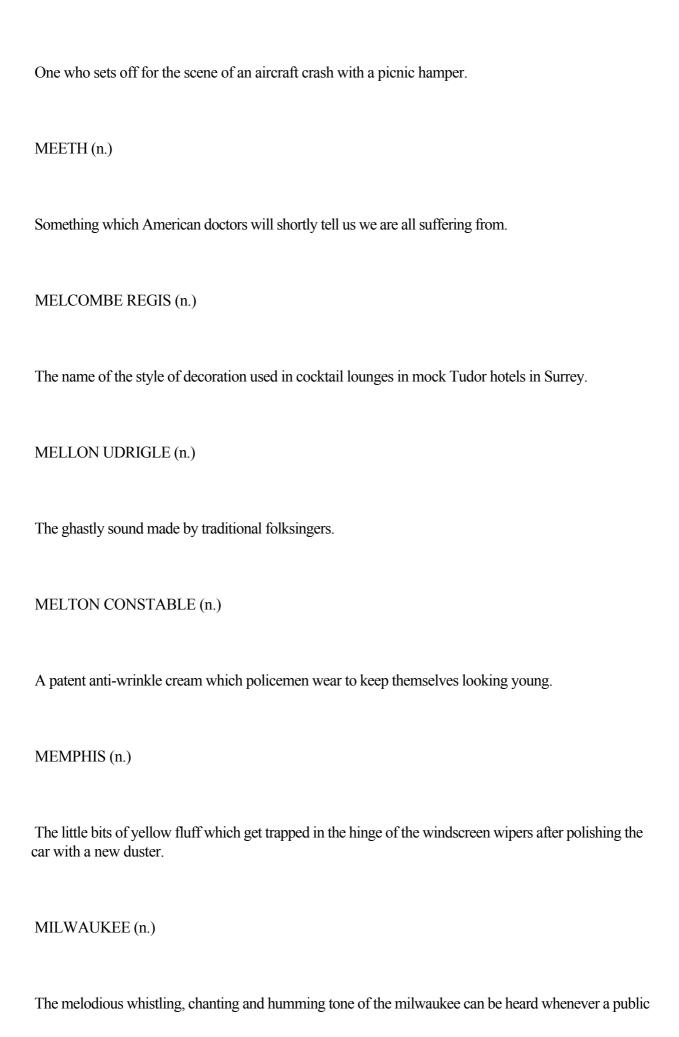
The piece of leather which hangs off the bottom of your shoe before you can be bothered to get it mended.

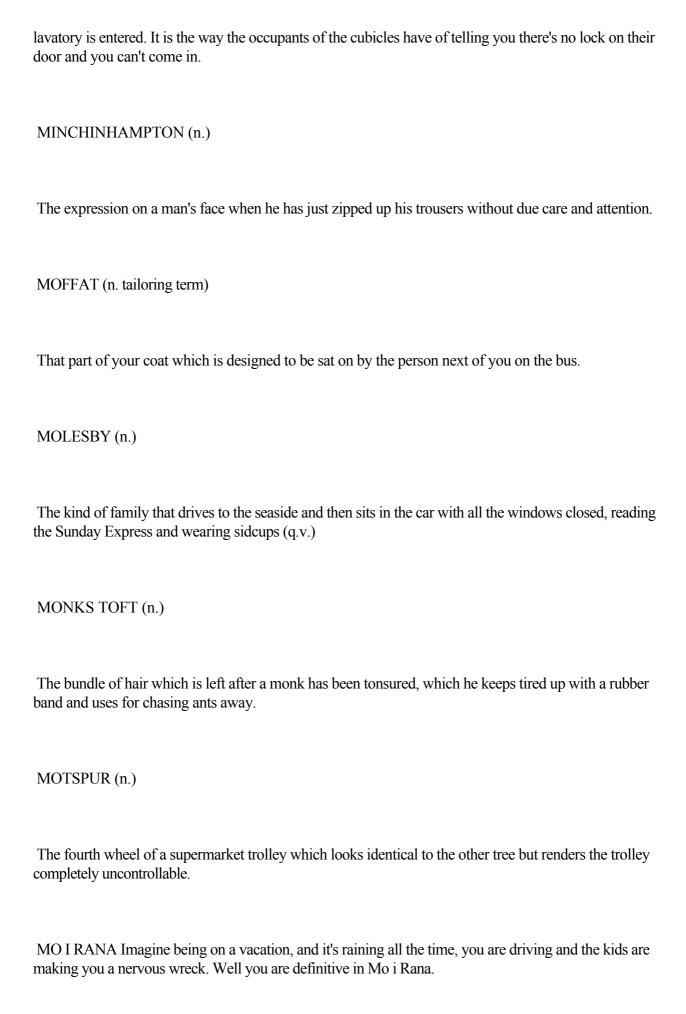


MALIBU (n.)
The height by which the top of a wave exceeds the height to which you have rolled up your trousers.
MANKINHOLES (pl.n.)
The small holes in a loaf of bread which give rise to the momentary suspicion that something may have made its home within.
MAPLEDURHAM (n.)
A hideous piece of chipboard veneer furniture bought in a suburban high street furniture store and designed to hold exactly a year's supply of Sunday colour supplements.
MARGATE (n.)
A margate is a particular kind of commissionaire who sees you every day and is on cheerful Christian-name terms with you, then one day refuses to let you in because you've forgotten your identify card.
MARKET DEEPING (participial vb.)
Stealing one piece of fruit from a street fruit-and- vegetable stall.
MARLOW (n.)
The bottom drawer in the kitchen your mother keeps her paper bags in.

MARYTAVY (n.)
A person to whom, under dire injunctions of silence, you tell a secret which you wish to be fare more widely known.
MASSACHUSETTS (pl.n.)
Those items and particles which people who, after blowing their noses, are searching for when they look into their hankies.
MATCHING GREEN (adj.)
(Of neckties.) Any colour which Nigel Rees rejects as unsuitable for his trousers or jacket.
MAVIS ENDERBY (n.)
The almost-completely-forgotten girlfriend from your distant past for whom your wife has a completely irrational jealousy and hatred.
MEATH (adj.)
Warm and very slightly clammy. Descriptive of the texture of your hands after the automatic drying machine has turned itself off, just damp enough to make it embarrassing if you have to shake hands with someone immediately afterwards.

MEATHOP (n.)



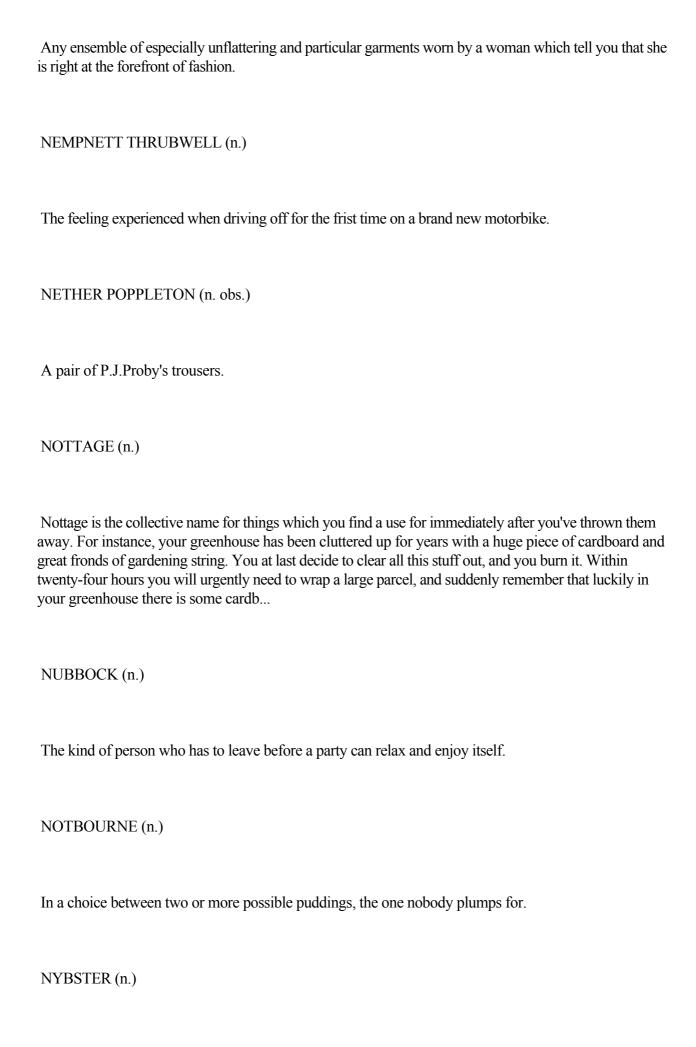


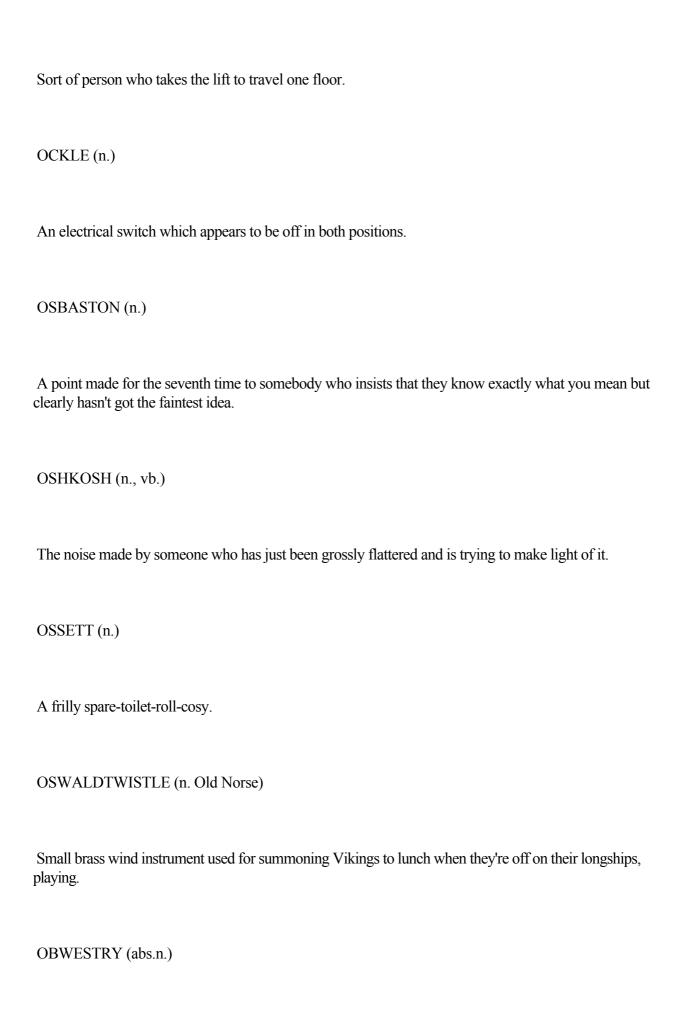
MUGEARY (n. medical)
The substance from which the unpleasant little yellow globules in the corners of a sleepy person's eyes are made.
MUNDERFIELD (n.) A meadow selected, whilst driving past, as being ideal for a picnic which, from a sitting position, turns out to be full of stubble, dust and cowpats, and almost impossible to enjoy yourself in.
NAAS (n.)
The winemaking region of Albania where most of the wine that people take to bottle-parties comes from.
NACTION (n.)
The 'n' with which cheap advertising copywriters replace the word 'and' (as in 'fish 'n' chips', 'mix 'n' match', 'assault 'n' battery'), in the mistaken belief that this is in some way chummy or endearing.
NAD (n.)
Measure defined as the distance between a driver's outstretched fingertips and the ticket machine in an automatic car-park. $1 \text{ nad} = 18.4 \text{ cm}$.

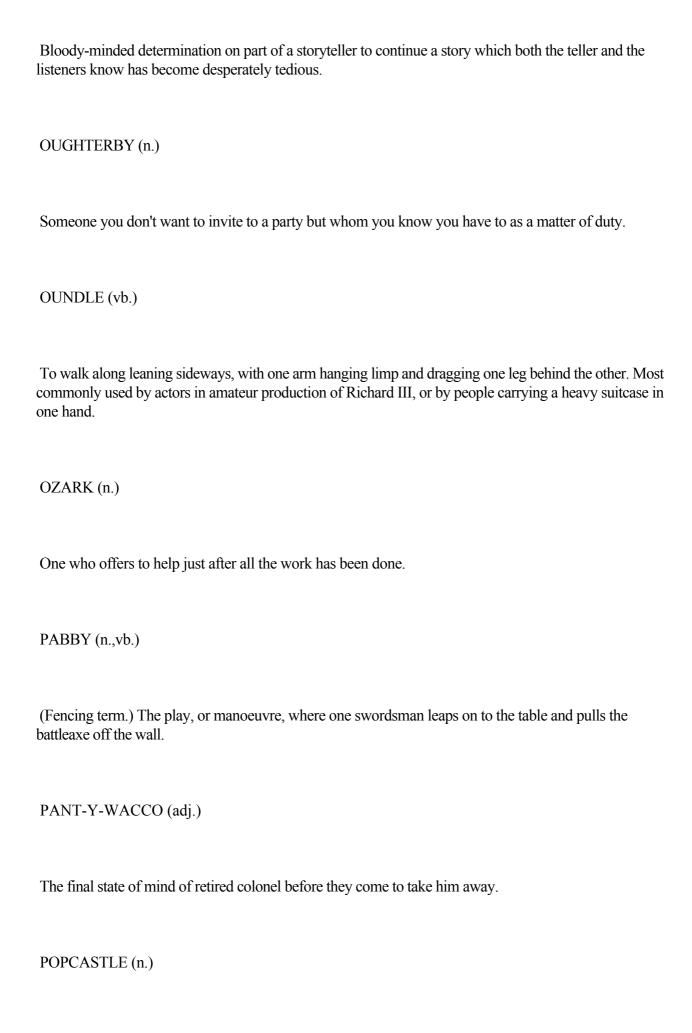
A tiny valve concealed in the inner ear which enables a deaf grandmother to converse quite normally when she feels like it, but which excludes completely anything that sounds like a request to help with laying the table.

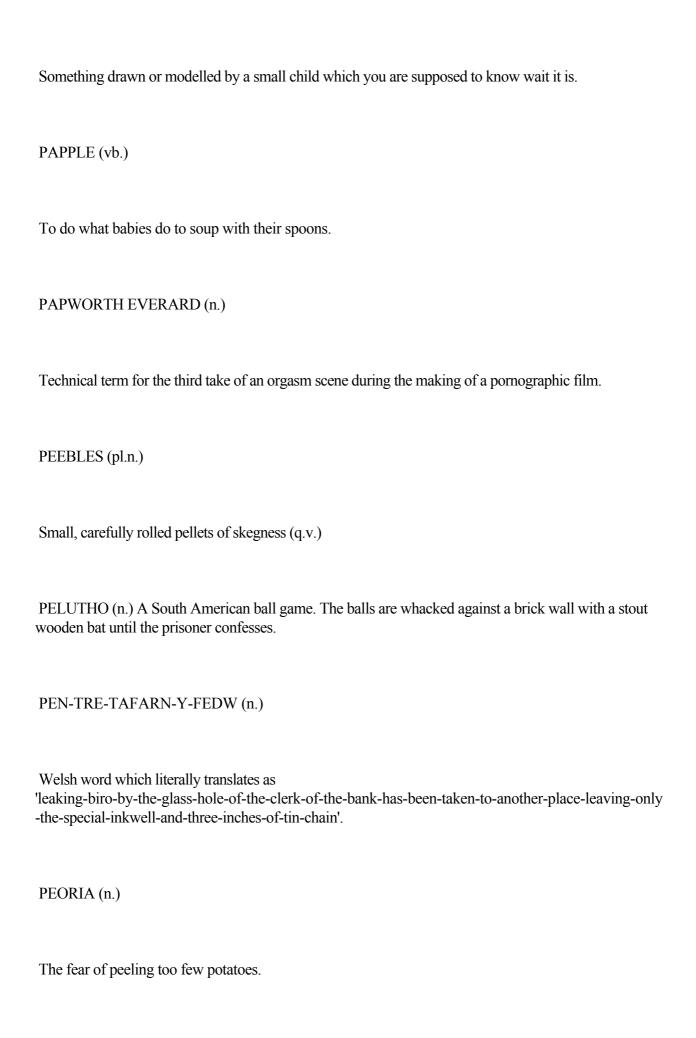
NANHORON (n. medical)

NANTWICH (n.)
A late-night snack, invented by the Earl of Nantwich, which consists of the dampest thing in the fridge, pressed between two of the driest things in the fridge. The Earl, who lived in a flat in Clapham, invented the nantwich to avoid having to go shopping.
NAPLES (pl.n.)
The tiny depression in a piece of Ryvita.
NASEBY (n.)
The stout metal instrument used for clipping labels on to exhibits at flower shows.
NAUGATUCK (n.)
A plastic sachet containing shampoo, polyfilla, etc., which is impossible to open except by off the corners.
NAZEING (participial vb.)
The rather unconvincing noises of pretended interest which an adult has to make when brought a small dull object for admiration by a child.
NEEN SOLLARS (pl.n.)





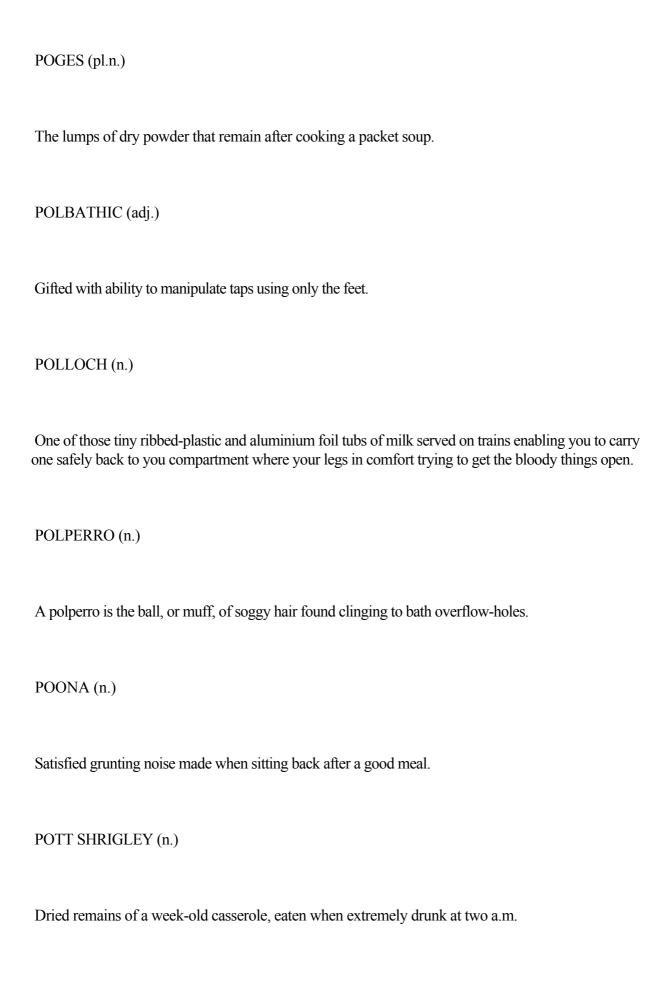




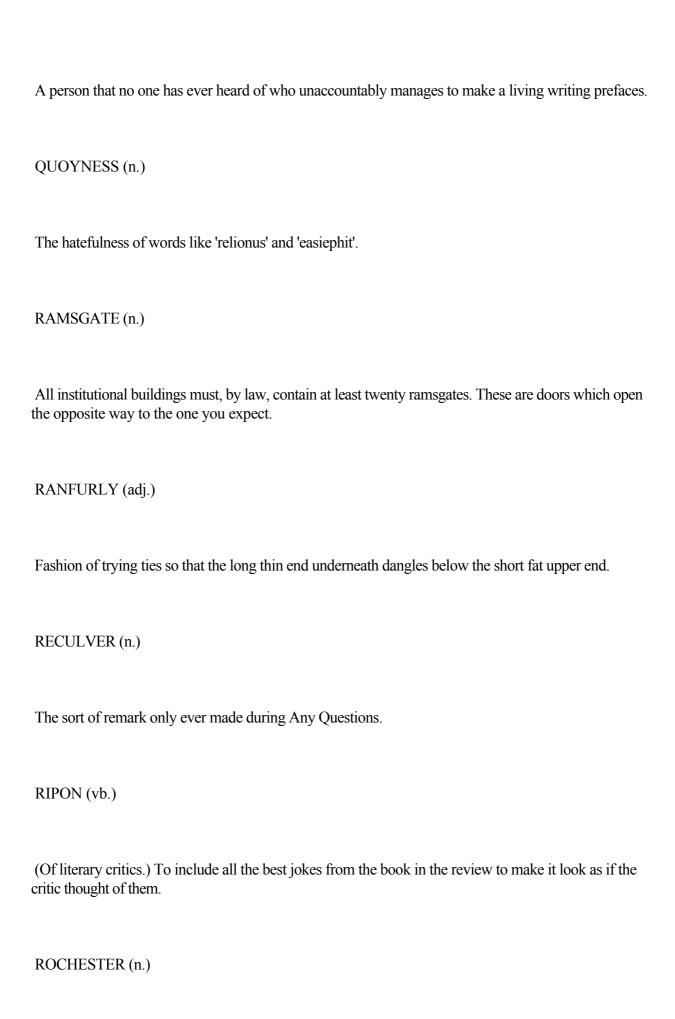
PERCYHORNER (n.)
(English public-school slang). A prefect whose duty it is to surprise new boys at the urinal humiliate them in a manner of his choosing.
PERRANZABULOE (n.)
One of those spray things used to wet ironing with.
PEVENSEY (n. archaic)
The right to collect shingle from the king's foreshore.
PIDDLETRENTHIDE (n.)
A trouser stain caused by a wimbledon (q.v.). Not to be confused with a botley (q.v.)
PIMLICO (n.)
Small odd-shaped piece of plastic or curious metal component found in the bottom of kitchen rummage-drawer when spring-cleaning or looking for Sellotape.
PIMPERNE (n.)
One of those rubber nodules found on the underneath side of a lavatory seat.

The background gurgling noise heard in Wimby Bars caused by people trying to get the last bubbles out of their milkshakes by slurping loudly through their straws.
PITSLIGO (n.)
Part of traditional mating rite. During the first hot day of spring, all the men in the tube start giving up their seats to ladies and staphanging. The purpose of pitsligo is for them to demonstrate their manhood by displaying the wet patches under their arms.
PLEELEY (adj.)
Descriptive of a drunk person's attempt to be endearing.
PLYMOUTH (vb.)
To relate an amusing story to someone without remembering that it was they who told it to you in the first place.
PLYMPTON (n.)
The (pointless) knob on top of a war memorial.
PODE HOLE (n.)
A hole drilled in chipboard lavatory walls by homosexuals for any one of a number of purposes.

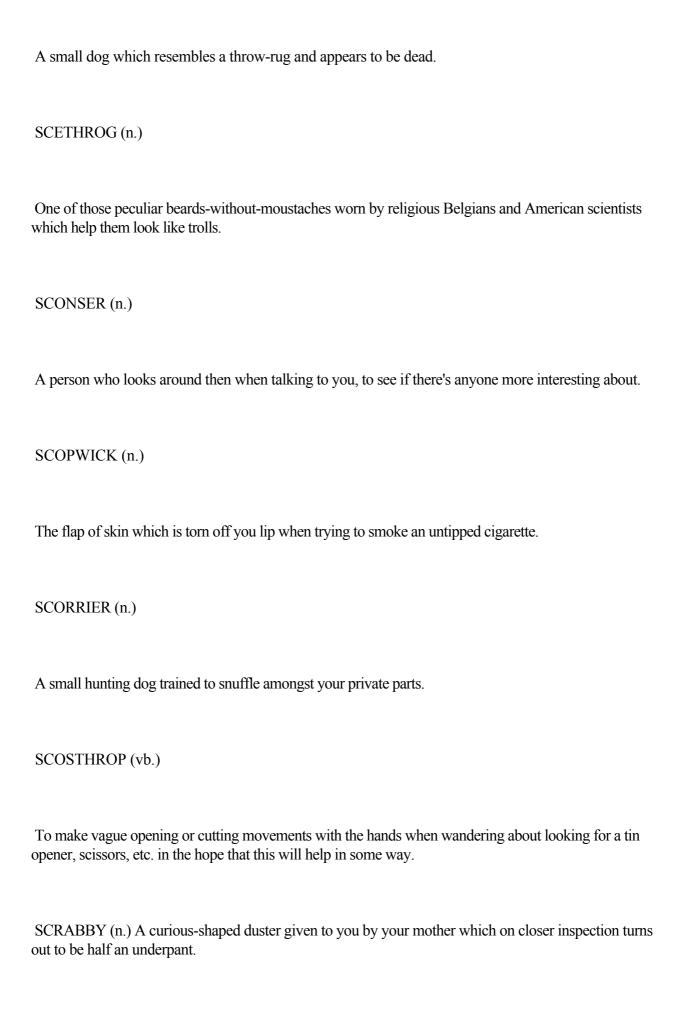
PITLOCHRY (n.)

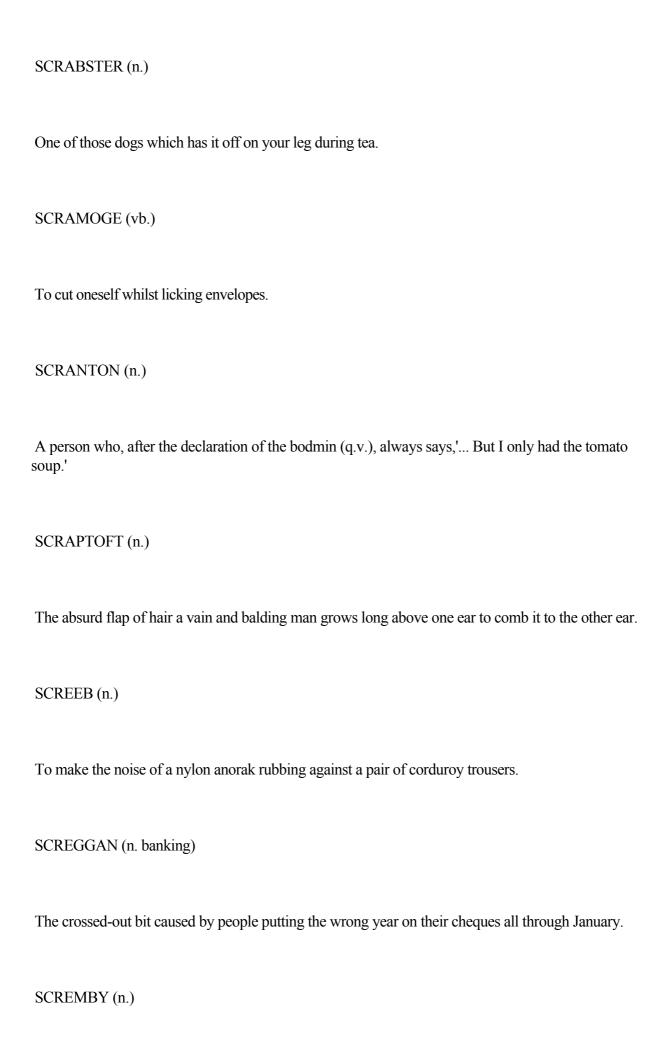


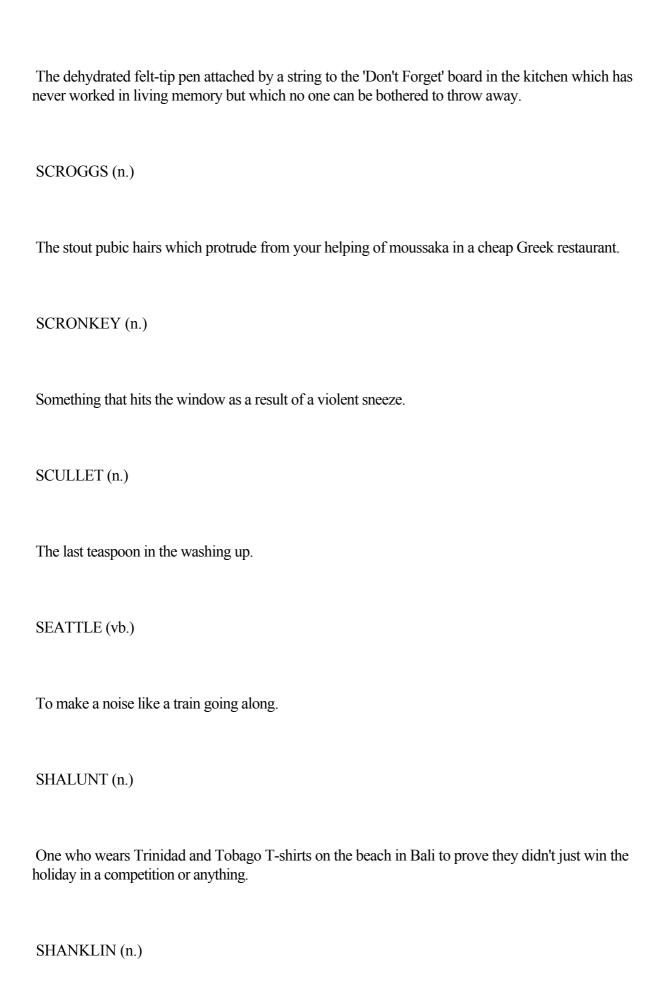
PUDSEY (n.)
The curious-shaped flat wads of dough left on a kitchen table after someone has been cutting scones out of it.
QUABBS (pl.n.)
The substances which emerge when you squeeze a blackhead.
QUALL (vb.)
To speak with the voice of one who requires another to do something for them.
QUEDGELEY (n.)
A rabidly left-wing politician who can afford to be that way because he married a millionairess.
QUEENZIEBURN (n.)
Something that happens when people make it up after an agglethorpe (q.v.)
QUENBY (n.)
A stubborn spot on a window which you spend twenty minutes trying to clean off before discovering it's on the other side of the glass.
OUERRIN (n)

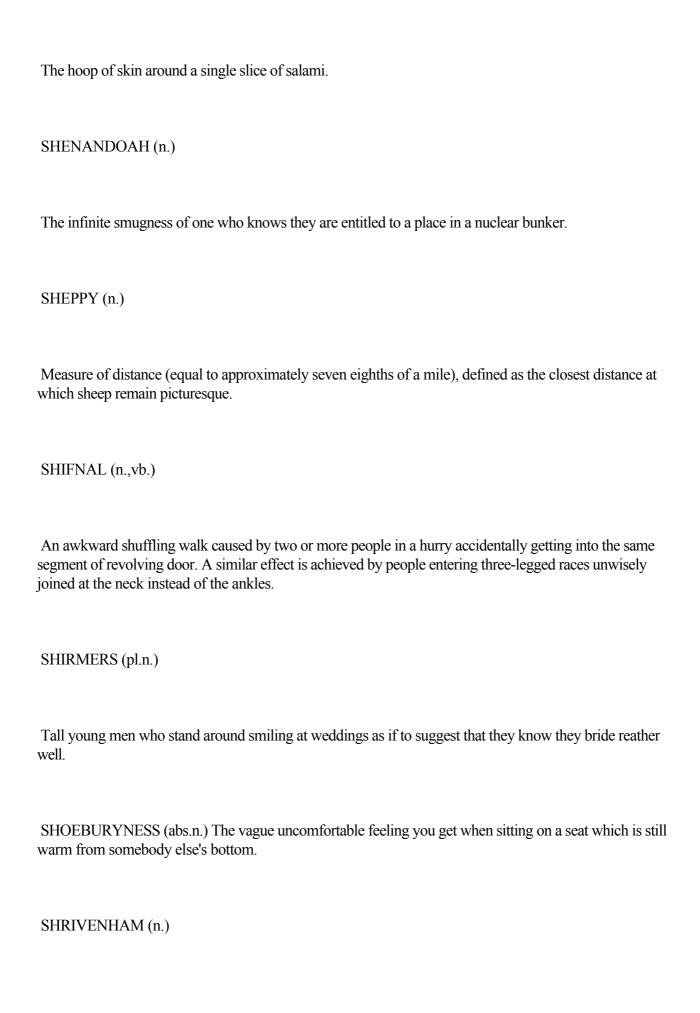


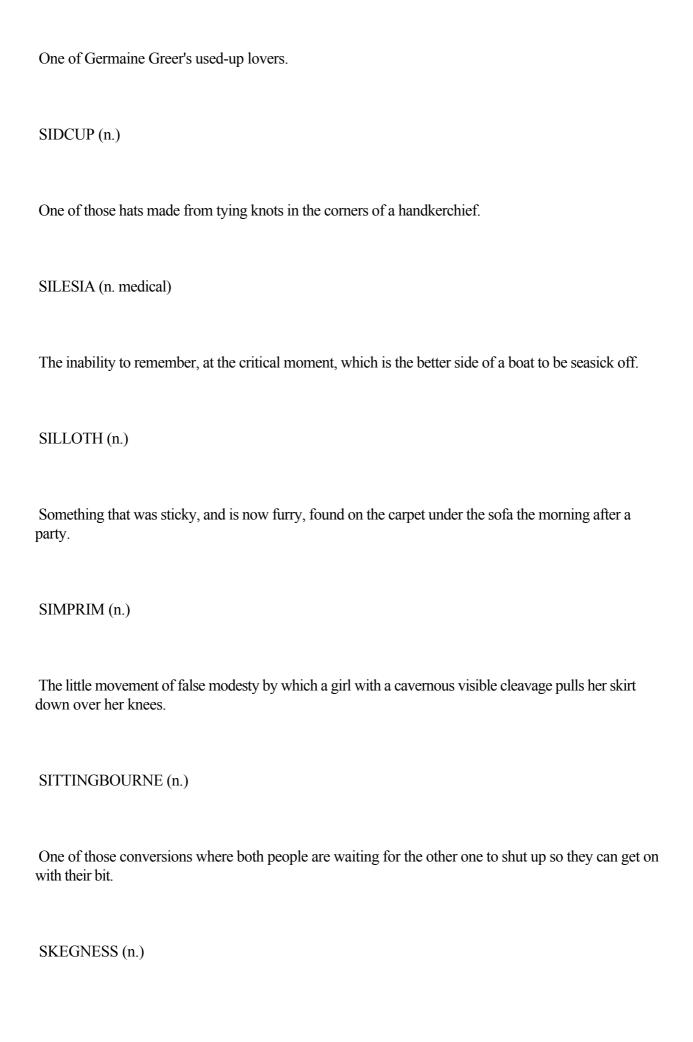


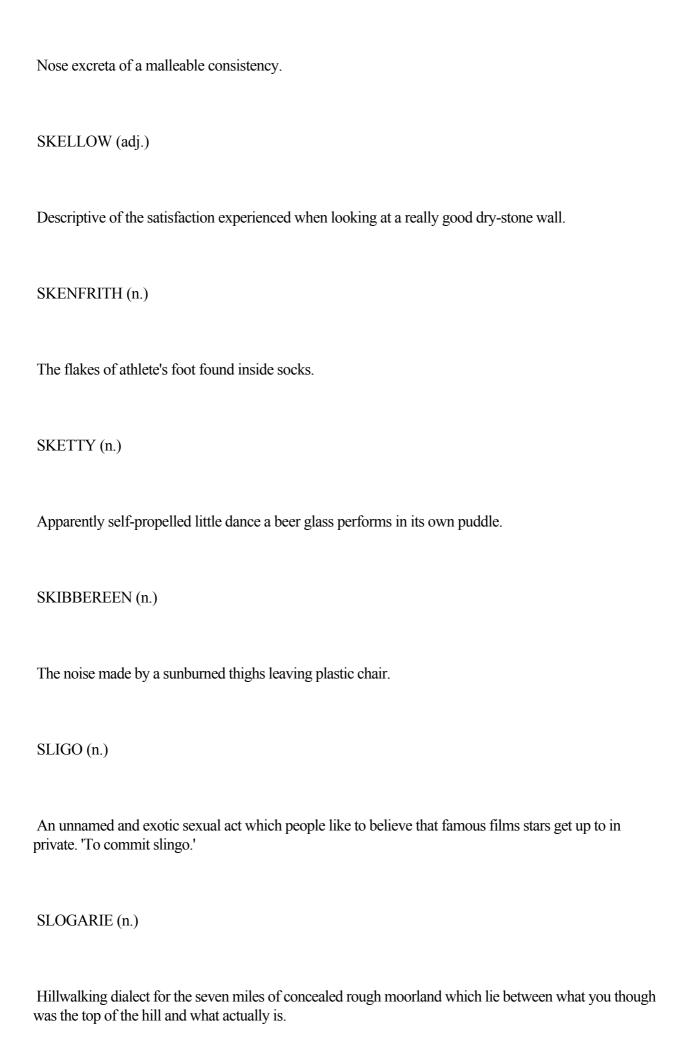












SLUBBERY (n.) The gooey drips of wax that dribble down the sides of a candle so beloved by Italian restaurants with Chianti bottles instead of wallpaper. SLUGGAN (n.) A lurid facial bruise which everyone politely omits to mention because it's obvious that you had a punch-up with your spouse last night - but which into a door. It is useless to volunteer the true explanation because nobody will believe it. SLUMBAY (n.) The cigarette end someone discovers in the mouthful of lager they have just swigged from a can at the end of party. SMARDEN (vb.) To keep your mouth shut by smiling determinedly through you teeth. Smardening is largely used by people trying to give the impression that they're enjoying a story they've heard at least six times before. SMEARISARY (n.) The correct name for a junior apprentice greengrocer whose main duty is to arrange the fruit so that the

bad side is underneath. From the name of a character not in Dickens.

SNEEM (n.,vb.)

Particular kind of frozen smile bestowed on a small child by a parent in mixed company when question, 'Mummy, what's this?' appears to require the answer,' Erit's a rubber johnny, darling'.
SNITTER (n.)
One of the rather unfunny newspaper clippings pinned to an office wall, the humour of which is supposed to derive from the fact that the headline contains a name similar to that of one of the occupants to the office.
SNITTERBY (n.)
Someone who pins snitters $(q.v.)$ on to snitterfields $(q.v.)$ and is also suspected of being responsible for the extinction of virginstows $(q.v.)$
SNITTERFIELD (n.)
Office noticeboard on which snitters (q.v.), cards saying 'You don't have to be mad to work here, but if you are it helps !!!' and slightly smutty postcards from Ibiza get pinned up by snitterbies (q.v.)
SOLENT (adj.)
Descriptive of the state of serene self-knowledge reached through drink.
SOTTERLEY (n,)
Uncovered bit between two shops with awnings, which you have to cross when it's raining.

SPITTAL OF GLENSHEE (n.) That which has to be cleaned off castle floors in the morning after a bagpipe contest or vampire attack. SPOFFORTH (vb.) To tidy up a room before the cleaning lady arrives. SPROSTON GREEN (n.) The violent colour of one of Nigel Rees's jackets, worn when he thinks he's being elegant. STEBBING (n.) The erection you cannot conceal because you're not wearing a jacket. STOKE POGES (n.) The tapping moments of an index finger on glass made by a person futilely attempting to communicate with either a tropical fish or a post office clerk. STURRY (n.,vb.) A token run. Pedestrians who have chosen to cross a road immediately in front of an approaching vehicle generally give a little wave and break into a sturry. This gives the impression of hurrying without

having any practical effect on their speed whatsoever.

SUTTON and CHEAM (nouns)

Sutton and cheam are the kinds of dirt into which all dirt is divided. 'Sutton' is the dark sort that always gets on to light-coloured things, 'cheam' the light-coloured sort that clings to dark items. Anyone who has ever found Marmite stains on a dress-shirt or seagull goo on a dinner jacket (a) knows all about sutton and cheam, and (b) is going to tome very curious dinner parties.

SWANAGE (pl.n.)

Swanage is the series of diversionary tactics used when trying to cover up the existence of a glossop (q.v.) and may include (a) uttering a high-pitched laugh and pointing out of the window (NB. this doesn't work more that twice); (b) sneezing as loudly as possible and wiping the glossop off the table in the same movement as whipping out your handkerchief; (c) saying 'Christ! I seen to have dropped some shit on your table' (very unwise); (d) saying 'Christ, who did that?' (better) (e) pressing your elbow on the glossop itself and working your arms slowly to the edge of the table; (f) leaving the glossop where it is but moving a plate over it and putting up with sitting at an uncomfortable angle the rest of the meal; or, if the glossop is in too exposed a position, (g) leaving it there unremarked except for the occasional humorous glance.

SWANIBOST (adj.)

Complete shagged out after a hard day having income tax explained to you.

SYMOND'S YAT (n.)

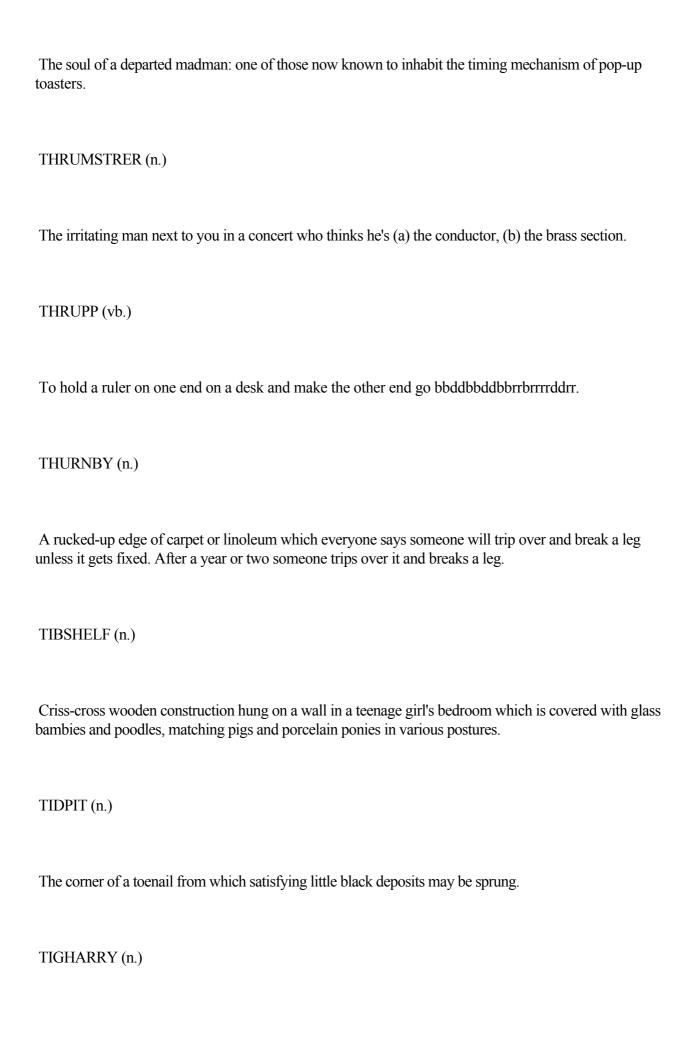
The little spoonful inside the lid of a recently opened boiled egg.

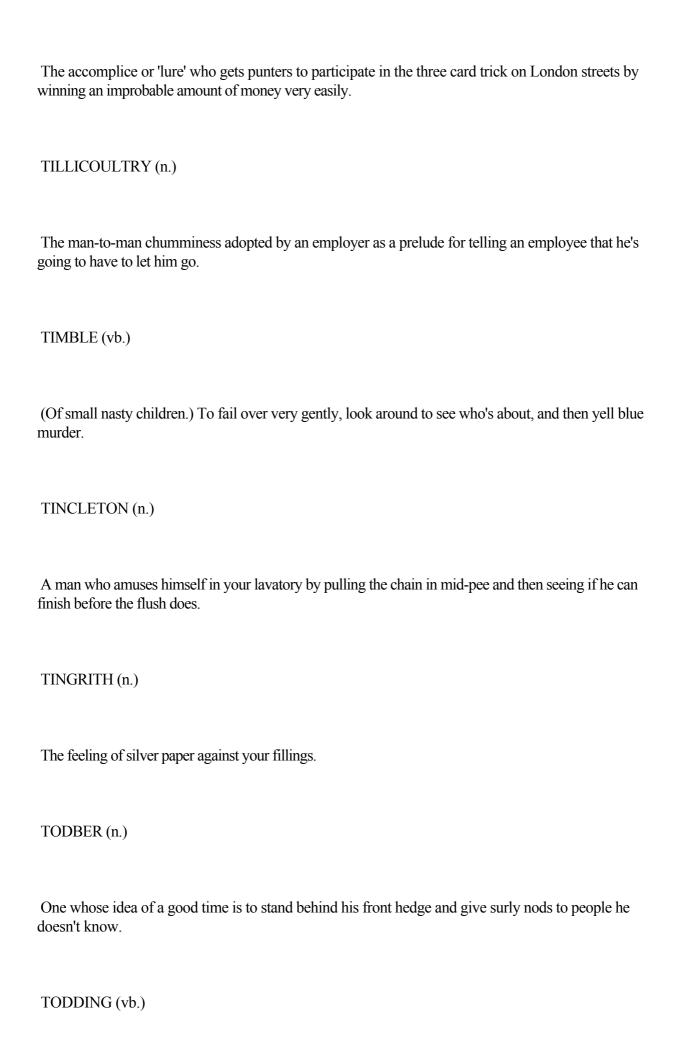
TABLEY SUPERIOR (n.)

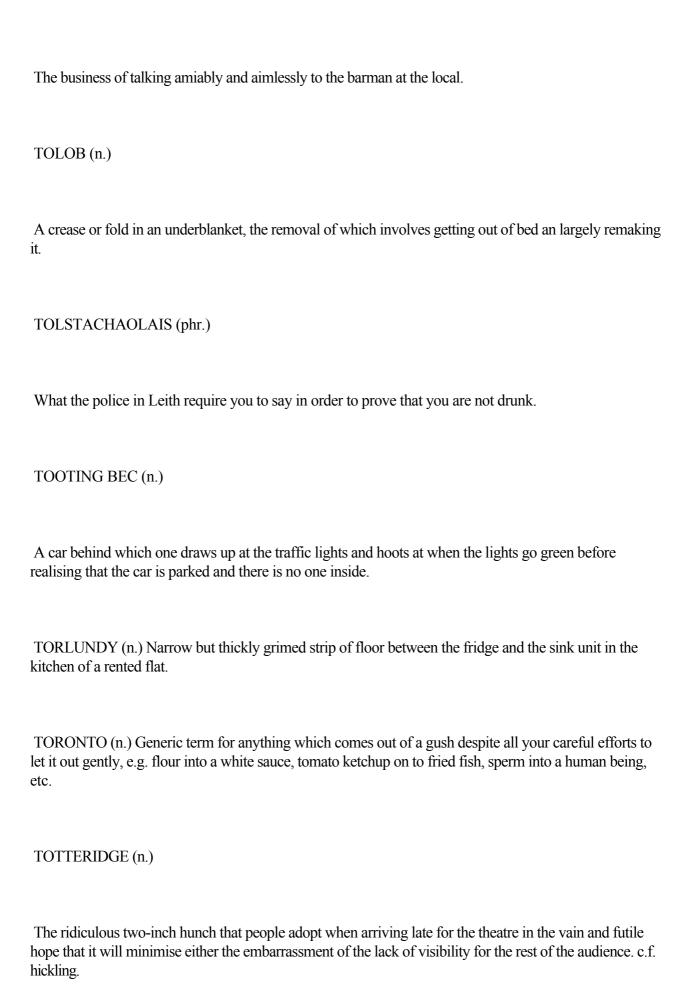
The look directed at you in a theatre bar in the interval by people who've already got their drinks.

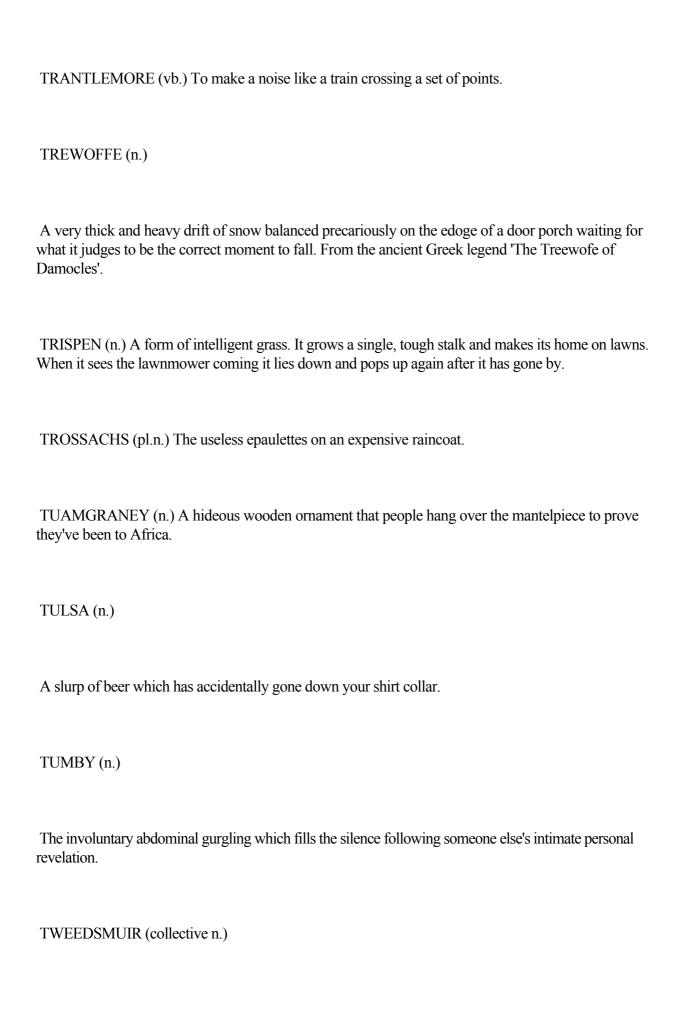
TAMPA (n.)
The sound of a rubber eraser coming to rest after dropping off a desk in a very quiet room.
TAROOM (vb.)
To make loud noises during the night to let the burglars know you are in.
TEGUCIGALPA (n.)
An embarrassing mistake arising out of confusing the shape of something rather rude with something perfectly ordinary when groping for it in the darkness. A common example of a tegucigalpa is when a woman pulls a packet of Tampax out of her bag and offers them around under the impression that it is a carton of cigarettes.
THEAKSTONE (n.)
Ancient mad tramp who jabbers to himself and swears loudly and obscenely on station platforms and traffic islands.
THROCKING (participial vb.)
The action of continually pushing down the lever on a pop-up toaster in the hope that you will thereby get it to understand that you want it to toast something. Also: a style of drum-playing favoured by Nigel Olsson of the Elton John Band, reminiscent of the sound of someone slapping a frankfurter against a bucket. An excellent example of this is to be heard on 'Someone Save My Life Tonight' from the album Captain Fantastic and the Brown Dirt Cowboy.

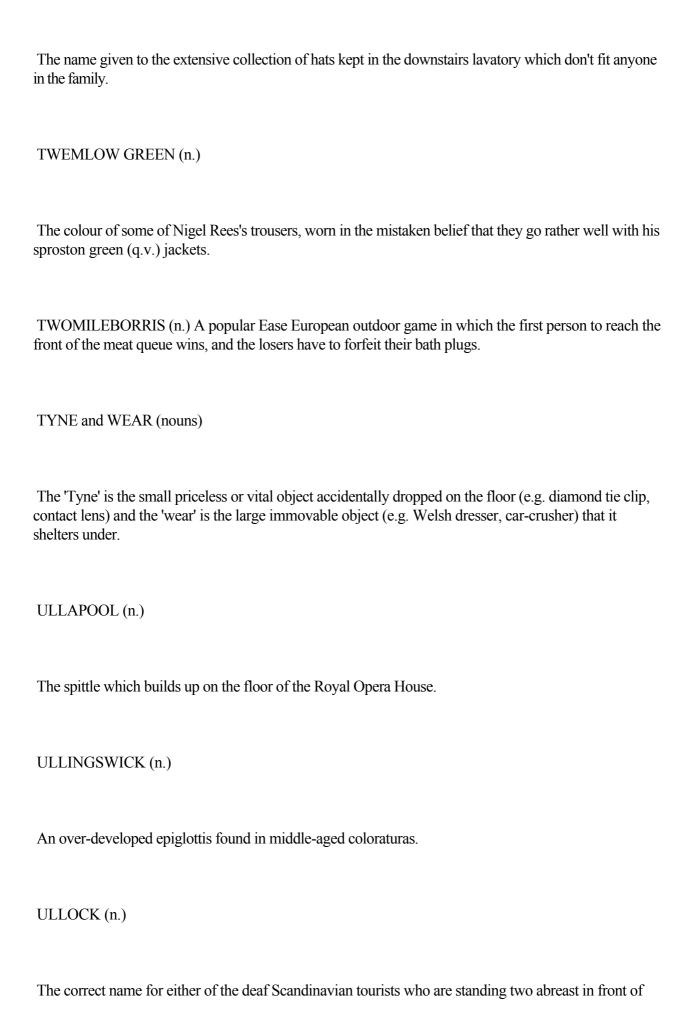
THROUCKMORTON (n.)



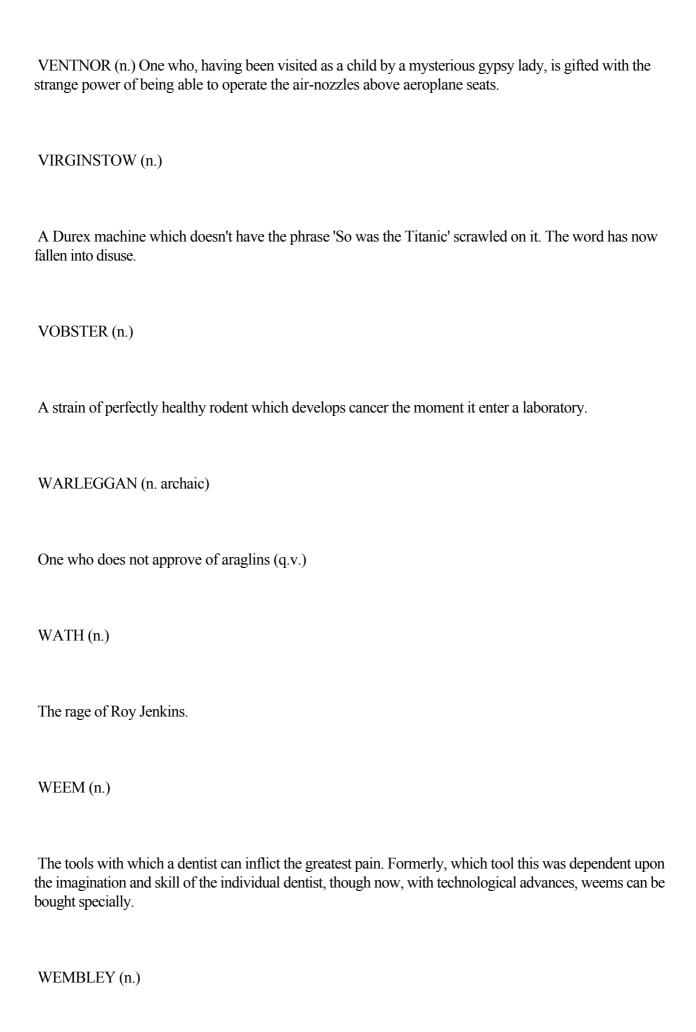




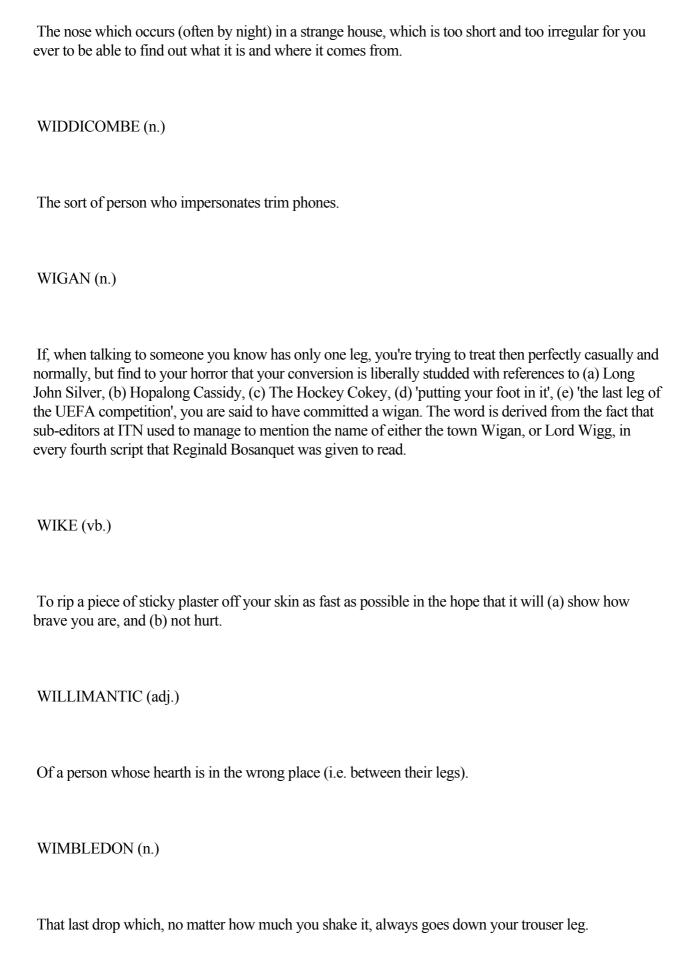




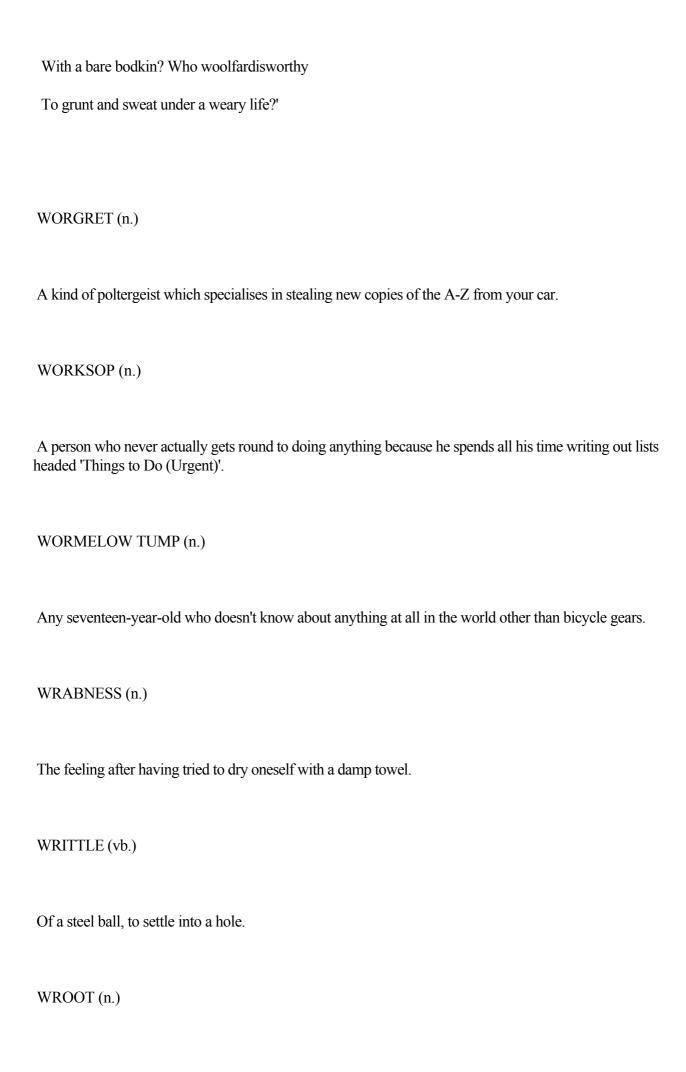
you on the escalator.
UMBERLEIGH (n.)
The awful moment which follows a dorchester (q.v.) when a speaker weighs up whether to repeat an amusing remark after nobody laughed the last time. To be on the horns of an umberleigh is to wonder whether people didn't hear the remark, or whether they did hear it and just didn't think it was funny, which was why somebody coughed.
UPOTTERY (n.)
That part of a kitchen cupboard which contains an unnecessarily large number of milk jugs.
UTTOXETER (n.)
A small but immensely complex mechanical device which is essentially the 'brain' of a modern coffee vending machine, and which enables the machine to take its own decisions.
VALLETTA (n.)
On ornate head-dress or loose garment worn by a person in the belief that it renders then invisibly native and not like a tourist at all. People who don huge colonial straw collie hats with 'I Luv Lagos' on them in Nigeria, or fat solicitors from Tonbridge on holiday in Malaya who insist on appearing in the hotel lobby wearing a sarong know what we're on about.
VANCOUVER (n.)
The technical name for one of those huge trucks with whirling brushes on the bottom used to clean streets.

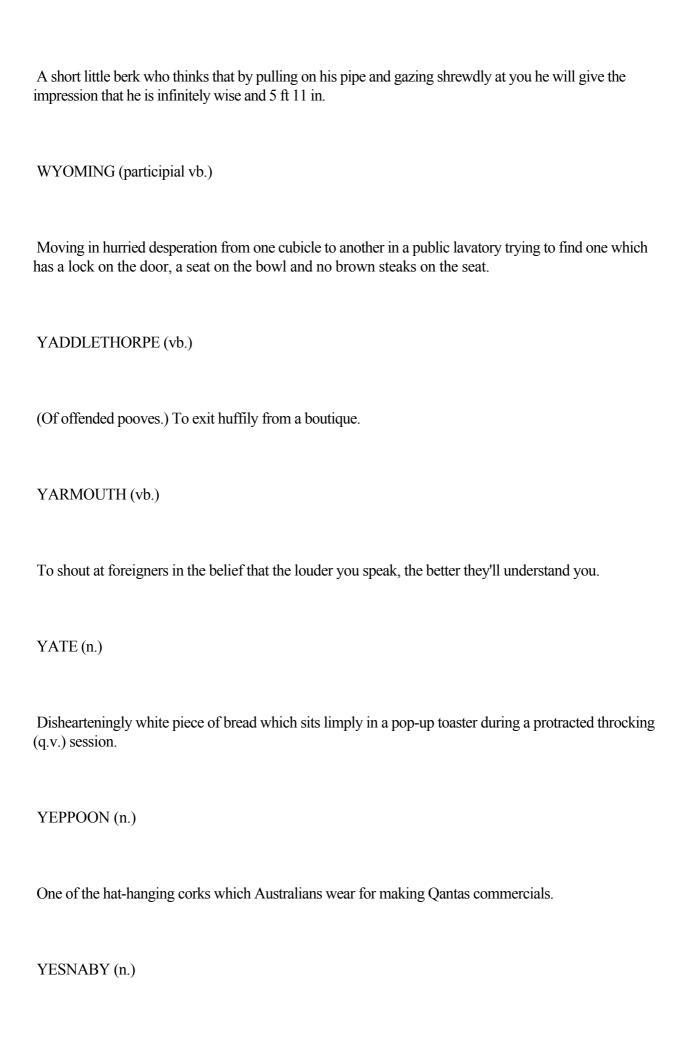


The hideous moment of confirmation that the disaster presaged in the ely (q.v.) has actually struck.
WENDENS AMBO (n.)
(Veterinary term.) The operation to trace an object swallowed by a cow through all its seven stomachs. Hence, also (1) en expedition to discover where the exits are in the Barican Centre, and (2) a search through the complete works of Chaucer for all the rude bits.
WEST WITTERING (participial vb.)
The uncontrollable twitching which breaks out when you're trying to get away from the most boring person at a party.
WETWANG (n.)
A moist penis.
WHAPLODE DROVE (n.)
A homicidal golf stroke.
WHASSET (n.)
A business car in you wallet belonging to someone whom you have no recollection of meeting.
WHISSENDINE (n.)



WINKLEY (n.)
A lost object which turns up immediately you've gone and bought a replacement for it.
WINSTON-SALEM (n.)
A person in a restaurant who suggest to their companions that they should split the cost of the meal equally, and then orders two packets of cigarettes on the bill.
WIVENHOE (n.)
The cry of alacrity with which a sprightly eighty-year-old breaks the ice on the lake when going for a swim on Christmas Eve.
WOKING (participial vb.)
Standing in the kitchen wondering what you came in here for.
WOOLFARDISHWORTHY (n.)
A mumbled, mispronounced or misheard word in a song, speech or play. Derived from the well-known mumbles passage in Hamlet:
'and the spurns,
That patient merit of the unworthy takes
When he himself might his quietus make





A 'yes, maybe' which means 'no'.
YONDER BOGINE (n.)
The kind of restaurant advertised as 'just three minutes from this cinema' which clearly nobody ever goes to and, even if they had ever contemplated it, have certainly changed their mind since seeing the advert.
YONKERS (n.)
(Rare.) The combined thrill of pain and shame when being caught in public plucking your nostril-hairs and stuffing them into your side-pocket.
YORK (vb.)
To shift the position of the shoulder straps on a heavy bag or rucksack in a vain attempt to make it seem lighter. Hence: to laugh falsely and heartily at an unfunny remark. 'Jasmine yorked politely, loathing him to the depths of her being' - Virginia Woolf.
ZEAL MONACHORUM (n.)
(Skiing term.) To ski with 'zeal monachorum' is to descend the top three quarters of the mountain in a quivering blue funk, but on arriving at the gentle bit just in front of the restaurant to whizz to a stop like a victorious slalom-champion.