



MACQUARIE DICTIONARY

WORD OF THE YEAR 2019

Embargoed 2 December 2019

Macquarie Dictionary Word of the Year 2019 Shortlist

anecdata

noun information which is presented as if it were based on systematic research, but is actually based on personal observation or experience.

[blend of ANECDOTAL + DATA]

big minutes

noun a period of time spent by a player on the field, court, etc., during which they maximise their impact, having a substantial effect on the game: *playing big minutes despite a knee injury*.

cancel culture

noun the attitudes within a community which call for or bring about the withdrawal of support from a public figure, such as cancellation of an acting role, a ban on playing an artist's music, removal from social media, etc., usually in response to an accusation of a socially unacceptable action or comment.

Also, **call-out culture**, **outrage culture**

cheese slaw

noun **1.** coleslaw to which grated cheese has been added.

2. *Broken Hill* a salad of grated carrot, grated cheese, and mayonnaise.

Also, **cheeseslaw**. [modelled on COLESLAW]

cleanskin

noun *Colloquial* someone without any tattoos.

drought lot

noun a type of sacrifice paddock in which livestock are kept with provisions of water and feed, the confinement allowing the stock to maintain their condition while pasture paddocks can recover more quickly, and erosion damage can be minimised in periods of drought.

eco-anxiety

noun feelings of distress and fear brought on by the effects of climate change.

flight shaming

noun criticism or ridicule directed at someone travelling by air because of the carbon emissions and consequent environmental damage produced by such travel.



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healthwashing

noun the marketing practice of presenting a food brand or product as being more nutritious or wholesome than it actually is, usually by ignoring or understating the less healthy aspects of the product.

[HEALTH + (WHITE)WASH + -ING]

hedonometer

noun an algorithm using language data to analyse levels of happiness, especially data from the social media platform Twitter.

mukbang

/mʊk¹bʌŋ/ (say mook'bung)

noun a broadcast streamed online in which someone films themselves eating, often a large amount, and speaking to their audience.

[blend of Korean *meok-da* eat and *bangsong* broadcast]

ngangkari

/¹ŋʌŋgəri/ (say 'ngungguhree)

noun an Indigenous practitioner of bush medicine; healer.

[Pitjantjatjara: literally, traditional healer]

robodebt

noun a debt owed to the government by a welfare recipient, arising from an overpayment of benefits calculated by an automated process which compares the recipient's income as stated by them to the government with their income as recorded by the Australian Taxation Office, a debt recovery notice being automatically generated and sent to the welfare recipient.

Also, **robo-debt**. [ROBO- + DEBT]

silkpunk

noun a subgenre of science fiction which draws on Asian history and culture for setting and aesthetic.

[SILK (in reference to the SILK ROAD) + PUNK, modelled on CYBERPUNK]

thicc

adjective *Colloquial* curvaceous; voluptuous.

[originally Black English, early 2000s, a respelling of thick]

whataboutism

noun a technique used in responding to an accusation, criticism or difficult question, in which an opposing accusation or criticism is raised.

[so-called from the common response to such a situation, *What about ...?*]