



MACQUARIE DICTIONARY WORD OF THE YEAR 2022

(EMBARGOED 29 NOVEMBER 2022)

ARTS

clapter

noun applause from an audience to indicate agreement with a comedian's joke or statement, especially one of a social or political nature. [CLAP¹ + (LAUGH)TER]

hyperpop

noun a heightened, exaggerated style of electronic pop music, prominently featuring synthesiser, bass and distortion.

neo-western

noun a film of the western genre, set in the modern day and with modern attitudes. Also, **neo-Western**.

vinyl bar

noun a bar, cafe, restaurant, etc., which features music played on vinyl records, especially using high quality sound equipment. Also, **listening bar**, **audiophile bar**.

webtoon

noun a comic published online with a layout suited to computers and smartphones. [WEB² + (CAR)TOON]



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BUSINESS

digital nomad visa

noun a temporary visa which allows the holder to stay in a country for a period of time while working remotely from their country of employment.

mortgage prison

noun a situation in which a mortgagee is charged a higher interest rate at the expiry of an introductory interest-rate period, and is unable to change their loan to one at a lower interest rate due to new affordability criteria imposed by the lending institution.

–**mortgage prisoner**, *noun*

non-promotable task

noun any of various tasks which are of benefit to an organisation but which are not likely to contribute to an employee's prospects of career advancement. *Abbrev.*: NPT

quiet quitting

noun the practice of strictly limiting oneself to performing the tasks within one's job description, and working only the hours for which one is contracted. –**quiet quitter**, *noun*

TWAT

noun *Colloquial* a full-time office employee who works from home on Mondays and Fridays, and in the office on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Also, **TWaT**. [*T(uesday) W(ednesday) a(nd) T(hursday)*]



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COLLOQUIAL

brain worm

noun Colloquial a notional worm that infects the brain, negatively affecting one's intellect, emotional state, etc.

flop era

noun Colloquial a period marked by failure and lack of achievement.

goblin mode

noun Colloquial a pattern of behaviour characterised by an embrace of indolence and slovenliness. [from the grotesqueness ascribed to the appearance of a GOBLIN]

nepo baby

noun Colloquial (sometimes derogatory) a celebrity, often in the entertainment industry, who has a famous parent. Also, **nepotism baby**. [from the insinuation that they have attained a high profile as a result of their parent's fame or connections]

no cap

interjection Colloquial (an expression used to indicate that something is genuine or true.) Also, **no cappin'**. [originally Black English]

passenger princess

noun Colloquial (sometimes derogatory) someone who is old enough to hold a driver's licence but who always travels as a passenger in a car rather than driving.

swerve

verb Colloquial to avoid or ignore (someone or something).



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COVID-19

COVID virgin

noun Colloquial a person who has not contracted COVID-19.

flurona

noun Colloquial influenza and COVID-19 experienced at the same time.

[(IN)FLU(ENZA) + (CO)RONA(VIRUS)]

Omicron

noun a variant (B.1.351) of the coronavirus SARS-CoV-2, which causes COVID-19.

Also, **Omicron variant**. [from the fifteenth letter of the Greek alphabet, following a naming policy for variants of SARS-CoV-2 instigated to avoid the possible stigma involved in naming them after the place where they were first reported]

pandemic brain

noun Colloquial (humorous) the perceived diminished mental capacity, as characterised by forgetfulness, loss of concentration, etc., thought to be due to living with the stresses and restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic. [modelled on BABY BRAIN]

spicy cough

noun **the**, *Colloquial* COVID-19.



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EATING AND DRINKING

bachelor's handbag

noun Colloquial (humorous) a takeaway roast chicken.

[from the fact that such a chicken requires no further preparation before consumption, so is seen as an easy meal favoured by a single person, and is often packaged in a small plastic bag with a handle, resembling a *handbag*]

beertail

noun a mixed alcoholic drink based on beer. [BEER + (COCK)TAIL¹]

butter board

noun a board on which a thick layer of softened butter is spread, often seasoned and topped with various ingredients, and served with bread, toast, etc.

croffle

noun a flaky pastry made by cooking croissant dough in a waffle iron. [CRO(ISSANT) + (WA)FFLE¹]

merroir

(say mer'wah)

noun the natural environment of a particular seafood, especially oysters, including factors such as climate, salinity, tides, currents, food sources, etc. [French *mer* sea; modelled on TERROIR]



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ENVIRONMENT

gigafire

noun a fire which burns through more than 100 000 ha.

Compare **megafire**, **terafire**. [GIGA- + FIRE]

parklet

noun a moveable arrangement of seating and greenery situated within the space of an on-street parking bay, intended for public use. Also, **mobile parklet**.

priority species

noun a plant or animal species which has been classified as requiring particular conservation measures, according to varying criteria.

spillback

noun (in epidemiology) an instance of a virus affecting humans becoming transmissible from humans to an animal species. Also, **reverse zoonosis**.

wishcycling

noun the practice of placing an item in a recycling receptacle without checking that it is suitable for recycling, or, if it is recyclable, that it is going into the correct receptacle.

[WISH(FUL) + (RE)CYCL(E) + -ING¹]



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FASHION

Barbiecore

noun a fashion characterised by an all-pink colour palette, especially bright pink.
[trademark for a popular female doll *Barbie* + -CORE]

drip

noun Colloquial a stylish bearing: *exuding drip*.

fauxgan

(say 'fohguhnh)

noun Colloquial (often derogatory) a person who, while not a genuine bogan, presents themselves as one by affecting the fashion or mannerisms considered characteristic of bogans. [FAUX + (BO)GAN]

lewk

(say look or loohk)

noun Colloquial a particularly distinctive and glamorous outfit or fashion style. [respelling and play on pronunciation of LOOK]

prejuvenation

noun the use of cosmetic treatments to forestall the visible effects of aging.



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GENERAL

bike shedding

noun *Colloquial* the tendency to spend a disproportionate amount of time on trivial matters or decisions, rather than on the item of central importance. Also, **bikeshedding**.

[from *Parkinson's Law* (1957), by Cyril Northcote Parkinson, 1909–93, UK naval historian and author, in which it is argued that people within organisations typically give disproportionate weight to trivial issues, Parkinson's example being a fictional committee whose job is to approve the plans for a nuclear power plant but who spend the majority of their time deciding on the building materials for the staff bicycle shed at the proposed power plant]

inoculation theory

noun the practice of exposing someone to examples and methods of misinformation and disinformation, with the aim of improving that person's ability to identify it as such in the future.

[from the notion of INOCULATION, whereby exposure to a small amount of a virus ensures protection against it]

manifest

verb to bring about by sheer desire, belief, etc.

prebunking

noun the practice of challenging the veracity of misinformation or disinformation, and the authority of its source, before such information is disseminated. [modelled on DEBUNK + -ING¹]

skin hunger

noun desire for loving or friendly physical contact with another. Also, **touch hunger**.

urge surfing

noun the practice of using mindfulness to experience one's cravings without succumbing to them. [from the idea that one notionally surfs the waves of the urge]



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HEALTH

leisure sickness

noun an illness which occurs during a holiday or on a weekend, typically thought to be suffered by one who works intensely and for long hours. [coined in 2001 by Dutch researcher Ad Vingerhoets]

orthosomnia

noun insomnia thought to be caused by preoccupation with obtaining the amount and quality of sleep recommended by a wearable sleep-tracking device, often resulting in anxiety, which can in turn adversely affect sleep quality and the ability to fall asleep. [ORTHO- + (IN)SOMNIA]

phone bone

noun Colloquial a bone spur on the back of the skull caused by the posture associated with phone use.

toolbox talk

noun an informal meeting in a workplace, especially in a manufacturing or manual labour industry, in which matters of health and safety are discussed.



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INTERNET

brigading

noun the organisation of a concerted effort by a large number of people to effect a particular action or change, as by online voting or reviewing.

millennial pause

noun a short hesitation made by the subject of a video or audio recording before beginning to speak or move after the recording starts, to allow for the expected delay in the equipment, as experienced in older devices but not actually present in newer ones; attributed to members of Generation Y.

review bomb

verb *Internet* to target (a movie, product, service, etc.) by engaging in a practice whereby large numbers of users post negative reviews, especially as an attempt to affect sales. Also, **review-bomb**. –**review bombing**, *noun*

yassify

verb to apply multiple filters and edits to an image or digital photograph, in order to transform the original image to one which is glamorous and beautiful. [from YAS QUEEN; popularised in 2021 by a Twitter account which posts such images] –**yassification**, *noun*



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POLITICS

crumb maiden

noun Colloquial (derogatory) a person who acts to support existing power structures which may be detrimental to their reputation or harmful to their community, in order to receive some small personal benefit or reward, used especially of women in politics.

pink recession

noun a recession or economic downturn in which women are more adversely affected than men, especially with regard to employment. Also, **pink-collar recession**, **she-cession**.

[*pink* from the association of the colour with the female gender + RECESSION¹]

reflexive control

noun the practice of influencing or manipulating another, especially an opponent, to act in a manner that suits one's own interests, often through disinformation. *Abbrev.*: RC

teal

noun (also upper case) Politics an independent political candidate who holds generally ideologically moderate views, but who supports strong action regarding environmental and climate action policies, and the prioritising of integrity in politics. [so called as many of the candidates use the colour *teal* in their electoral material]

truth-telling

noun the act of relating the facts of a situation, exclusive of any embellishment or dilution applied as justification for past actions.



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SOCIAL INTEREST

beige flag

noun Colloquial (especially on dating sites or apps) a description, profile, behaviour, etc., of a person which indicates that they may be boring or of little interest to another.

[humorous play on RED FLAG]

free bleeding

noun the practice of menstruating without the use of products such as tampons, sanitary napkins, or menstrual cups to absorb or hold menstrual blood.

–**free bleeder**, *noun*

hardballing

noun Colloquial the practice, on a first date, of making clear the type of relationship one is seeking, a second date only considered if both parties are in agreement.

hidden homeless

phrase **the**, people with no home who stay temporarily with friends, family members, etc., and who do not access homeless support services during this period.

limb difference

noun a condition in which one's limb is partially or completely absent, congenitally or through surgery or trauma, or is malformed. –**limb different**, *adjective*



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SPORT

gym candy

noun *Colloquial* anabolic steroids or other performance-enhancing drugs.

magnet fishing

noun the sport or activity of searching for and removing metal objects from a body of water, by use of a strong magnet attached to the end of a rope. Also, **magnetic fishing**.

–**magnet fisher**, *noun*

padel

(say 'padl or puh'del)

noun a sport similar to doubles tennis, played with solid racquets on an enclosed court of about one third the size of a tennis court. Also, **padel tennis**. [Spanish *pádel*]

pirate trail

noun a trail which has been established or constructed without the required permission, used for mountain biking.



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TECHNOLOGY

bossware

noun Computers Colloquial software installed on an employee's computer which allows their employer to remotely monitor and measure activity and productivity, as by logging keystrokes and mouse movement, taking screenshots, etc.

e-change

noun a move from a city environment to a rural location, made possible by the facility of being able to, and being permitted to, conduct one's work remotely from home. [E-² + (SEA) CHANGE]
–**e-changer**, *noun*

ghost gun

noun a firearm without a serial number, especially one assembled from purchased or homemade parts, as by a 3D printer. [so called because it cannot be traced or identified without a serial number]

mouse jiggler

noun Computers a device or software that simulates the movement of a mouse as by physically creating movement underneath the mouse, or by running a program which moves the cursor onscreen. Also, **mouse mover**.