**Cool and Obscure Words**

- **absquatulate**: to leave hurriedly, suddenly, or secretly.
- **acyrology**: poor choice of words, poor diction
- **adiaphoristic**: theologically indifferent.
- **adscititious** (ad-si-TISH-uhs) *adjective* Derived from outside; external; additional.
- **agastopia**: admiration of a particular part of someone's body
- **agnogenic**: of unknown cause
- **agogilt**: sickening or sudden fear
- **aleatory** (AY-lee-uh-tor-ee, -tohr-ee) *adjective* 1. Dependent on chance, luck, or an uncertain outcome. 2. Of or characterized by gambling. 3. Also aleatoric. Music. Using or consisting of sounds to be chosen by the performer or left to chance; indeterminate.
- **anacoluthon**: a switch from one syntactical construction left incomplete, to another in the same sentence (e.g.: "I can't believe that you -- oh, forget it!")
- **anoesis**: in psychology, mere reception of impressions without intellectual effort
- **antistatis**: the defense of an action that claims the action prevented something worse from happening
- **antonomasia** (an-toh-noh-MAY-zhuh) *noun* 1. The substitution of a title or epithet for a proper name, as in calling a sovereign "Your Majesty." 2. The substitution of a personal name for a common noun to designate a member of a group or class, as in calling a traitor a "Benedict Arnold."
- **apophasis**: affirming something by denying it
- **aporia** (uh-POR-ee-uh) *noun* 1. An expression of doubt. 2. Contradiction, paradox, or confusion posed by the presence of conflicting propositions.
- **aristology**: luncheon (or dinner) talk
- **arriviste** (a-ree-VEEST) *noun* 1. A person who has recently attained high position or great power without due effort or merit; an upstart. 2. An unscrupulous, vulgar social climber; a bounder.
- **aver**: 1 a : to verify or prove to be true in pleading a cause b : to allege or assert in pleading 2 : to declare positively
- **bever**: a between-meal snack
- **biduous**: lasting two days
- **bloviate**: to orate verbosely and windily

- **borborygmus** (bor-buh-RIG-muhs) *noun*. A rumbling noise produced by the movement of gas through the intestines.

- **cavil** ('ka-v&l) - *verb*. intransitive senses : to raise trivial and frivolous objection; transitive senses : to raise trivial objections to

- **chaetophorous**: in need of a shave

- **commensal**: taking meals together; one individual or group benefitting from and not competing with another

- **compaathy**: the sharing of feelings with others

- **contesseration**: the act of making friends

- **convive**: a dinner guest or companion

- **coruscation**: a brilliant flash of wit

- **cynosure**: a person or thing that is a center of attention

- **deipnosohist**: someone skilled in making dinner-table conversation

- **diaphorous**: neutral; neither right nor wrong; neither deleterious nor salubrious.

- **distrait** (di-STRAY) Inattentive or preoccupied, especially because of anxiety.

- **endogamy**: Marriage within a particular group in accordance with custom or law.

- **enormity** (i-NOR-mi-tee) *noun* 1. The quality of passing all moral bounds; excessive wickedness or outrageousness. 2. A monstrous offense or evil; an outrage. 3. (Usage Problem) Great size; immensity. [French enormite, from Old French, from Latin enormitas, from enormis, unusual, enormous.]

- **epiplexis**: the use of the claim that a person must surely see the truth; the use of a question to chastise someone, as in "How could you do something so stupid?"

- **epuration** (ep-yuh-RAY-shun) *noun*. Purification, especially removal of officials or politicians believed to be disloyal; purge. [From French epuration, epurer, to purify + ation.]

- **eristic**: enjoying argument for its own sake

- **erotesis**: a rhetorical question

- **evert**: to turn inside out

- **exigency**: 'ek-s&-j&n(t)-sE, ig-'zi-j&n(t)- 1 : that which is required in a particular situation -- usually used in plural 2a: the quality or state of being exigent b : a state of
affairs that makes urgent demands

- **expostulate**: objection in the form of earnest reasoning; to reason earnestly with someone in an effort to dissuade or correct.

- **extradictionary**: consisting in deeds, not words

- **factitious** Pronunciation: fak-’ti-sh&s Function: adjective 1 : produced by humans rather than by natural forces 2 a : formed by or adapted to an artificial or conventional standard b : produced by special effort : SHAM - factitiously adverb - factitiousness noun

- **fantod** (FAN-tod) *noun* 1. A state of nervous anxiety, irritability, the willies, the fidgets. 2. A fit or emotional outburst.

- **filipendulous**: hanging by a thread

- **fillip**: to flick something with a sudden jerk of a forefinger from the thumb

- **fugacious** (fyoo-GAY-shuhs) *adjective* 1. Passing away quickly; evanescent. 2. Botany. Withering or dropping off early.

- **fugleman**: one who sets an example

- **fulsome** (ful-sum) *adjective* 1. Offensively flattering or insincere. 2. Offensive to the taste or sensibilities. 3. (Usage Problem) Copious or abundant. [Middle English fulsom, abundant, well-fed, arousing disgust : ful, full + -som, adjective suff.]

- **funicular**: worked by or hanging from a rope or cable

- **gargalesthesia**: the sensation caused by tickling

- **gelastic**: pertaining to laughter

- **gelogenic**: tending to produce laughter

- **grig** (grig) *noun* A lively, bright person.

- **hebdomadal**: happening every seven days

- **hesternal** (he-STER-nuhl) *adjective* Of yesterday.

- **hierofastidia**: dislike of holy things

- **hodiernal**: Of today.

- **holophrasis, pholophrase, pholophrasm**: a whole phrase or idea expressed in one word (e.g. thanks, more, ouch)

- **homo unius libri**: one whose knowledge of a subject is gained from only one book or one point of view
• **hypermimia**: excessive gesticulating while talking

• **hypobulia**: difficulty in making decisions

• **hypocorism**: adult imitation of baby talk; the use of nicknames

• **hypophora**: the posing of questions to oneself and the answering of them, or a reasoning aloud

• **hypoprosexia**: inability to concentrate for more than short periods

• **hypotyposis**: an unusually vivid description

• **ideomania**: obsession with an idea

• **idoneous** (*i*-DO-nee-uhs) *adjective, also idonaeous* Appropriate, suitable, fit.

• **indolent** (*IN-duh-lehnt*) *adjective* 1. Disinclined to exert oneself; habitually lazy. Conductive to inactivity or laziness; lethargic. 2. Causing little or no pain. Slow to heal, grow, or develop; inactive.

• **inenubilable**: incapable of being made clear

• **inexorable**: Etymology: Latin inexorabilis, from *in-* + exorabilis pliant, from exorare to prevail upon, from *ex-* + orare to speak -- more at ORATION : not to be persuaded or moved by entreaty : RELENTLESS

• **inquorate** (*in-KWA-rayt*) *adjective*. A meeting attended by too few people to form a quorum (the minimum number of members required to be present for valid transaction of business). [From Latin *quorum*, literally `of whom,' from the wording of the commission issued to designate members of a body.]

• **insouciant** (*in-SOO-see-uhnt*) *adjective*. Happily unconcerned; carefree; nonchalant.

• **introjection**: throwing oneself into one's work

• **invidious** (*in-VID-ee-uhs*) *adjective* Unjust, offensive, or hateful, and likely to arouse resentment, ill will, anger, etc.

• **ipse dixit** (*IP-see DIK-sit*) *noun* An assertion without supporting proof.

• **irrefragable** (adjective) 1 : impossible to refute 2 : impossible to break or alter

• **isochronal**: occupying or happening in an equal amount of time

• **kalopsia**: condition where things appear more beautiful than they really are

• **kedogenous**: produced by worry

• **kerdomeletia, plutomania**: preoccupation with material wealth
• **lection**: reading of Scripture
• **lethologica**: the temporary inability to recall a word or name
• **lethonomia**: a tendency to forget names
• **lexicomane**: a lover of dictionaries
• **loganamnosis**: a mania for trying to recall forgotten words
• **logastellus**: a person whose enthusiasm for words outstrips his knowledge of them
• **logodaedalus**: one who is cunning in the use of words
• **logodaedaly**: the ability to coin new words, verbal legerdemain
• **logofascinated**: fascinated by words
• **logomachy**: a dispute about words and their meanings; a quibbling over semantics that gets away from the subject
• **logomonomania**: loquacity in manic proportions
• **logorrhea**: incoherent or excessible babble
• **longiloquence**: long-windedness
• **luculent** (LOO-kyoo-luhnt) **adjective**. Easily understood; clear or lucid.
• **macarism**: the practice of making others happy by praising them
• **maieutic**: of the Socratic method of questioning to elicit and clarify others' ideas
• **malingering** (muh-LING-gehr-uhr) **noun**. One who feigns illness or other incapacity in order to avoid duty or work.
• **medela**: apology for another's behavior or faults
• **mentimutation**: a change of mind
• **metagrobolize**: to mystify
• **misoneism**: Hatred or fear of change or innovation. (mis-uh-NEE-izm)
• **monology**: the habit of talking to oneself
• **mot juste**: the perfect word or phrase; precisely apt expression; an expression or word that conveys precisely the right shade of meaning
• **mumpsimus** (MUMP-suh-muhs) **noun** 1. Adherence to or persistence in an erroneous use of language, memorization, practice, belief, etc., out of habit or obstinacy. 2. A
person who persists in a mistaken expression or practice.

- **musculade**: to mutter under one's breath

- **nikhedonia**: pleasure derived from anticipating success

- **nisus** (NI-suhs) *noun, plural nisus*. An effort or endeavor to realize an aim.

- **nostrificate**: to accept as one's own

- **nonplus** (non-PLUS, NON-plus) *verb tr.* To put at a loss for what to do, think, or say; perplex. *noun* A state of perplexity or bewilderment.

- **noumenon**: an object implied by "intuition" rather than evidence, opposite of phenomenon

- **nudiustertian, pridian**: pertaining to the day before yesterday

- **nullibicity**: non-existent

- **nutation**: involuntary nodding of the head

- **nychthemeron**: a twenty-four-hour period [nychthemeral, adj.]

- **obambulate**: to walk around or wander

- **obdormition**: numbness caused by pressure on a nerve; when a limb is "asleep"

- **obganiate**: to irritate with reiteration

- **obvolve**: to wrap up

- **officious** (o-fish-uhs) *adjective* 1. Marked by excessive eagerness in offering unwanted services or advice to others. 2. Informal; unofficial. 3. Archaic. Eager to render services or help others. [Latin officiosus, obliging, dutiful, from officium, duty.]

- **oikonisus**: the urge to start a family

- **oofle**: the attempt to find the name of a person whose name you should know but cannot remember

- **omnifarious**: pertaining to all kinds

- **orthoepy**: correct pronunciation of words

- **otiose** (OH-Shee-ohs): 1 : being at leisure or ease : IDLE, UNEMPLOYED 2 : without profit : STERILE, FUTILE 3 : lacking use or effect : FUNCTIONLESS 4 of a deity : remote and aloof : not concerned with the details of the world

- **panchreston**: an oversimple thesis that is too broad to cover adequately its subject
• Pandect: a book covering an entire subject, such as the laws of a country

• Pandiculation: yawning and stretching at the same time

• Paralogize: to draw illogical conclusions from a set of facts

• Paramnesia (par-am-NEE-zhuh) noun 1. A distortion of memory in which fact and fantasy are confused. 2. The inability to recall the correct meaning of a word.

• Parapraxis: a faulty action, memory block, or speech error (e.g. a slip of the tongue)

• Perendinate: to postpone until the next day; to postpone indefinitely

• Perfervid (puhr-FUHR-vid) adjective Extremely or excessively passionate.

• Pertinacious (pur-tn-AY-shuhs) adjective 1. Holding resolutely to a purpose, belief or opinion. 2. Stubbornly unyielding.

• Philophronesis: the use of gentle speech or humble submission to calm someone who is angry

• Philoprogenitive, Polyphiloprogentive, Proletaneous: being fond of one's children or of children in general; having many children

• Philoxenist: a lover of hospitality to strangers

• Phronesis: wisdom in choosing aims and in the ways of achieving these aims

• Pococurante (po-ko-koo-RAN-tee, -kyoo-) adjective Indifferent, apathetic, nonchalant.

• Polyhistor (pol-ee-HIS-tuhr) noun. A person with broad knowledge.

• Polylemma: a situation in which there are three or more unpleasant alternatives

• Polysemy: a variety of meanings or senses

• Previse (pri-VYZ) verb tr. 1. To know in advance; foresee. 2. To notify in advance; forewarn.

• Punctilius (pungk-TIL-ee-uhs) adjective 1. Extremely attentive to minute details of action of behavior.

• Reductive fallacy: the fallacy of reducing a complex issue or problem to one oversimple thing or aspect

• Rhinorrhea: runny nose

• Risibility: the inclination to laugh

• Salubrious: wholesome, healthy, and beneficial
- **sciolism**: superficial show of knowledge
- **sedulous** Pronunciation: 'se-j&-l&s Function: adjective Etymology: Latin sedulus, from sedulo sincerely, diligently, from se without + dolus guile -- more at SUICIDE Date: 1540 1 : involving or accomplished with careful perseverance 2 : diligent in application or pursuit synonym see BUSY - sedulously adverb - sedulousness noun
- **serendipitous**: pertaining to the accidental discovery of pleasant things not sought
- **sesquipedalian** (adjective) 1 : having many syllables : LONG 2 : given to or characterized by the use of long words
- **sinistrodextral**: moving from left to right
- **sisyphean**: endless, unavailing, and fruitless labor
- **skein**: circumstances or undertakings easily twisted or mixed up
- **slurvian**: American language marked by carelessly slurred pronunciations such as "gimme", "c'mon", and "d'ju"
- **solecism** (SOL-i-siz-ehm, SOA-li-) noun 1. A nonstandard usage or grammatical construction. 2. A violation of etiquette. 3. An impropriety, a mistake, or an incongruity.
- **soteria**: possessions that give a sense of peace and security
- **Sprachgefühl** (SHPRAKH-guh-fyool) noun. A feeling for language or a sensitivity for what is correct language.
- **steatopygia**: (stee-at-uh-pij-ee-uh) An extreme accumulation of fat on the buttocks.
- **sternutation**: noise produced by sneezing
- **stillatitious**: falling in drops
- **stomatic**: pertaining to the mouth
- **suggestio falsi**: an intentionally misleading comment; a statement that easily leads the reader or listening to a false inference
- **swivet** (SWIV-it) noun. A state of anxiety, discomposure or agitation. (Usually used in the phrase "in a swivet").
- **tacenda**: things better left unsaid
- **tachydidaxy**: fast teaching
- **tachyphagia**: extremely fast eating
- **telepheme**: a telephone message
- **telic** (TEL-ik, TEE-lik) *adjective.* Tending toward a goal; expressing purpose.
- **thestreen**: last night
- **tintiddle**: a witty retort you wish you had made but thought of too late
- **tranont**: to shift one's position, especially rapidly and stealthily
- **transpicuous**: Easily understood or seen through.
- **tropophobia**: fear of making changes
- **tu quoque**: a retort claiming that one's opponent is doing the very thing he or she criticizes in others
- **tyro** also tiro (TIE-ro) *noun.* A beginner in learning something.
- **unasinous**: equally stupid
- **unigeniture**: being the only child
- **verbigeration**: the habit of frequently repeating favorite words or phrases